

POLSC 101E: Introduction to Government and Politics

3 Credits, 3 hours

This is an introductory course in Political Science. Students are encouraged to think critically about how their lives and the world are shaped by power, ideas, interests, rules and laws. It is intended to provide students with general political awareness and insight, thus making them more informed about the world in which they live. The student will also develop an understanding of key political processes and institutions.

Instructor

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Office Hours

Wednesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Thursdays 11:00am – 12:00pm
Fridays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
(or by appointment)

Hours of Instruction

Mondays 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Required Resources

Mark O. Dickerson, Thomas Flanagan, and Brenda O'Neill, (2014) *An Introduction to Government and Politics: A Conceptual Approach, Ninth Edition*, (Scarborough, ON: Nelson).

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between the main political ideologies within the field of political science.
- Examine key political topics and concepts, such as authority, nation, state and the rule of law, important to the field of political science.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the concepts key political processes and institutions through exams, assignments and in-class discussion.
- Demonstrate the ability to write an argumentative term paper which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA or MLA referencing.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the completion of four assignments. These assignments include: a term exam, on-line discussions, term paper and a final exam. Below is a brief description of each assignment. More detailed descriptions of each assignment will occur as we approach these assignments throughout the term.

On-line Discussions	TBA	15%
Term Exam	12 February	30%
Term Paper	26 March	20%
Final Exam	TBA	35%
Total		100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

First Exam

The first exam will cover material considered up to a week before the exam is scheduled. The exam will include multiple choice questions, true or false questions and short-answer questions. The short answer questions will be provided before the exam. A review of the material will also occur before the exam, and students will be given a specific outline of the exam, including mark distribution, a week before the exam occurs. The value of this assignment is 30% of the total grade.

On-Line Discussions

At five points throughout the term I will post discussion topics for students to comment on. The total value of the assignment is 15%, and therefore 3% for every post. Your response does not have to be lengthy – between 100-300 words - but must exhibit understanding, clarity, accuracy, good reflections and focus only on relevant material. Each topic will be available for only week and late submissions will not be accepted.

Term Paper

The term paper should be between 5-7 pages (or 1500-2100 words), contain at least two sources – the textbook and one additional source. A topics list will be provided for the term paper. Students must pick their term paper topic from this list or otherwise suffer a significant penalty. With the term paper students will first engage some topic covered in the class, and try to expand on that topic with some research. A basic format for the term paper, that also indicates the method evaluation, will be provided early in the term. The additional source for the term paper must be a peer-reviewed academic publication. The value of this assignment is 20% of the total grade.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover material considered after the first exam. The exam will include multiple choice, true or false, short answer and one essay questions. More details will offered concerning this exam as it approaches. The value of this assignment is 35% of the total grade.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	

	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor Minimum Pass	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

I Basics Concepts:

1. Government and Politics, pp.3-12.
2. Power Legitimacy, and Authority, pp.13-26.
3. Sovereignty, State, and Citizenship, pp.27-38.
4. The Nation, pp.39-48.
5. Political Culture and Socialism, pp.49-59.
6. Law, pp.60-67.
7. Constitutionalism, pp.68-82.
8. Cooperation under Anarchy, pp.83-96.

II Ideology:

9. Ideology, pp.99-111.
10. Liberalism, pp.112-130.
11. Conservatism, pp.131-143.
12. Socialism and Communism, pp.144-162.
13. Nationalism, pp.163-176.
14. Feminism, pp.177-194.
15. Environmentalism, pp.195-205.

III Forms of Government:

16. Classification of Political Systems, pp.209-215.
17. Liberal Democracy, pp.216-239.
18. Transitions to Democracy, pp.240-257.
19. Autocratic Systems of Government, pp.258-273.
20. Parliamentary and Presidential Systems, pp.274-301.
21. Unitary and Federal Systems, pp.302-317.

IV The Political Process:

22. The Political Process, pp.321-328.
23. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Social Movements: The Organization of Interests, pp.329-357.
24. Communications Media, pp.358-371.
25. Elections and Electoral Systems, pp.372-390.
26. Representative Assemblies, pp.391-407.
27. The Political Executive, pp.408-419.

28. The Administration, pp.420-430.
29. The Judiciary, pp.431-446.

Performance Requirements

A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the instructor to hand in the assignment. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

Counselling and Accessibility Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.