



## Introduction to Politics and Government - POLI 100

### University Studies Program

### Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2003  
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2018  
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: April 2023

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#### GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to political science, assisting them to gain a foundational understanding of first, the discipline's key concepts and second, its practicalities.

In order to do so, study will start with the fundamental nature of politics; power in all its guises; political beliefs, attitudes, and values acquisition; and the theoretical bases/action plans of various ideologies.

Consideration will then turn to an exploration of peoples' efforts to create proper sized political units; set fundamental rules; lead and make decisions; debate and pass laws; offer advice for and put in place government programs; organize to achieve goals and aims; and devise electoral systems to make choices.

To clarify and solidify learning this information, students will work up case studies so they can develop better-informed political opinions and proceed to other political science courses.

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**Program Information:** This course is can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

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**Delivery:** This course is delivered face to face.

**COTR Credits:** 3

**Hours for this course:** 45 hours

#### Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
<b>Total</b>	45

#### Practicum Hours (if applicable):

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	N/A
Formal Work Experience	N/A
Other	N/A
<b>Total</b>	

**Course Outline Author or Contact:**

Marcel Dirk, BA, MA, PDPP

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Signature

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**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

Department Head  
Erin Aasland Hall  
E-mail: [aaslandhall@cotr.bc.ca](mailto:aaslandhall@cotr.bc.ca)

Dean of Business and University Studies  
Darrell Bethune  
E-mail: [bethune@cotr.bc.ca](mailto:bethune@cotr.bc.ca)

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Department Head Signature

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EDCO

Valid from: September 2018 – April 2023

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Education Council Approval Date

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**COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Co-requisites:** N/A

**Flexible Assessment (FA):**

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA

Yes  No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

**Transfer Credit:** For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

**Prior Course Number:** N/A

## **Textbooks and Required Resources:**

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

*Studying Politics, An Introduction to Political Science*. Fifth Edition Christopher G. Anderson and Rand Dyck, eds. Toronto: Nelson Education 2016.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator [http://www.cotr.bc.ca/bookstore/cotr\\_web.asp?IDNumber=164](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/bookstore/cotr_web.asp?IDNumber=164) for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

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## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to

- identify and describe key terms, core concepts, and practical fundamentals of political science;
  - formulate a critical understanding of the forces/processes leading to political developments and government actions in Canada and other countries;
  - comprehend their significance to political scientists;
  - articulate a thoughtful approach to the themes and nature of political science; and
  - assess findings from research sources and construct an academic argument to demonstrate multi-faceted understanding of a chosen political science term.
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## **COURSE TOPICS:**

- Politics
- Political Science
- Power
- State
- Forms of Government
- Political Culture
- Political Socialization
- Political Ideologies
- Constitutions
- Executive
- Legislatures
- Public Administration and Bureaucracy
- Political Parties
- Political Interest Groups
- Elections
- Voting Systems
- International Relations

*See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities, and assignments.*

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## EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT (Face to Face Delivery):

Assignments	% Of Total Grade
Class Participation	5%
Quizzes	5%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%
Issue of the Day Presentations/Discussions	25%
Research Findings Essay	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

*Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and use of electronic aids.*

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### EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

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### COURSE GRADE:

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

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### ACADEMIC POLICIES:

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

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**COURSE CHANGES:**

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment, and marketing needs. The instructor will endeavour to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.