



POLS 110A-001 and POLS 110A-002
Introduction to Politics & Government
First Term Outline, Fall 2012

POLS 110A-001 will meet in BIOSCI Auditorium (Rm 1101) Monday, 2:30 to 3:30 PM Thursday, 3:30 to 4:30 PM	POLS 110A-002 will meet in Dunning Auditorium Monday, 9:30 to 10:30 AM Thursday, 10:30 to 11:30 AM
Every Second Week: Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30	Every Second Week: Wednesday 8:30 to 9:30

Please do not switch sections

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Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://bit.ly/Q25xhg>) and from the instructor of this course.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Copyright of Course Materials:

This material is copyrighted and is for the use of students registered in POLS 110A. This material shall not be used for commercial purposes.

Grading Scheme:

Some components of this course will receive letter grades which, for purposes of calculating your course average, will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale:

Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

POLS 110 is intended as an introduction to politics and its approaches, institutions and processes. Political studies is an incredibly diverse field and we don't cover everything but this course seeks to uncover the main strands and themes of politics around the world and, indeed, through the ages. As such, the course is intended to provide a broad introduction to the debates and issues of importance in political studies in Canada and abroad.

The first term will be spent examining concepts of importance in political science and the ideological lenses that are used to think about political orientations. The second term will be an examination of the state and institutions of governance, and the way in which politics are practiced in political communities, from the local to the global. In both terms, the theme of 'politics in our backyard' will animate the course. In order to understand politics in Canada, the hemisphere and the rest of the world, we hope to demonstrate that the same kinds of issues of structure and power that we see elsewhere are evident in our neighbourhood.

Class Format:

The class will be comprised of either two or three 50 minute lectures each week followed by one 50 minute tutorial. The tutorial will be an opportunity to examine through case studies or current practices the issues we examine in the lectures. They will also provide an opportunity to ask questions about the lecture, but are not meant to be a substitute for lectures. The videos of all lectures in are posted on the course Moodle site accessible through <http://pols110.ca>.

Evaluation:

Each term is weighted equally. Your final grade will be based on 50% of your first term work and 50% of your second term work. Grading for this term will be an evaluation of your written work (an essay and four reading summaries) and one exam during the December exam period.

The assignment details can be found on the course site in Moodle.

First term evaluation:

Participation in tutorials	10%
'i>Clicker' participation	5%
Four reading summaries (peer reviewed)	10%
First term argumentative essay (due Friday, Nov. 10)	35%
December Exam (exam dates are Dec. 5-20)	40%
	100% or 50% of final POLS 110 grade

Tutorial Evaluation:

Participation in tutorials will be based on attendance as well as demonstrated evidence of how well you are prepared in class. Tutorials are an important component of the course, providing you with an opportunity to reflect on the readings, discuss lectures, and provide an opportunity to relate 'real life' political events (e.g., elections) to concepts we are discussing in class.

iClicker evaluation:

An iClicker is a tool we use to provide feedback to the instructor on questions I will ask in class. These questions can be tests of knowledge based from the readings, a sampling of attitudes on political issues or an opportunity to provide quick feedback on lecture comprehension.

The 5% iClicker participation will be based on how frequently you participate in these class polls. The following shows the response rate and your grade.

90-100% response rate = 100%

80-90% response rate = 80%

60-80% response rate = 70%

50-60% response rate = 55%

lower than 50% = 0%

Please note that your grades for clicker participation will not be based on correct answers merely participation.

Reading summaries (worth 10% of the term in total)

Four times during the first term you will submit a one page summary of a reading provided to you. The reading and your summary will be posted on the course Moodle site. Part of your grade will be based on having completed the work on time. Part of your grade will come from evaluating a peer's work. Your evaluation will be 'double blind', which means you will not know whose paper you are evaluating and they will not know who evaluated their paper. Distribution will be randomized.

Due dates for submission of reading summary (pick any four; if you do more than four, your best four will count):

September 24

October 29

October 1

November 12

October 15

November 26

Argumentative essay (due November 9: worth 35% of the term)

Your term paper will be between 1500-1750 words. It is designed to demonstrate your ability to develop an argument and make a compelling case on a political issue. The topics will be handed out in class and we will devote a class to discussing the elements of a persuasive essay. There will be opportunities for you to show the instructor or teaching assistant rough drafts and essay plans.

Essay format and late papers

The details of the format for the essay and reflective paper can be found on the Moodle course page. The Northey & McKibbin text, *Making Sense*, will be very helpful in answering your questions about planning and writing your paper.

Prior to submitting, be sure you are familiar with the code of Academic Integrity found here: <http://bit.ly/Q25xhg>. When in doubt, you should ask as violations of academic integrity are taken extremely seriously and may result in significant sanctions.

Papers are due on Friday at 4 PM in the Political Studies office (Macintosh Corry Hall C 321). Late papers are subject to a 5% per day penalty. Any paper received after 4 PM on Friday will be deemed to be received on Monday and therefore be subject to a 15% penalty. Papers submitted on Tuesday after the due date will receive 20% deduction, 25% for Wednesday and 5% per day (including weekends) for submissions after that. Extensions are sometimes

provided for extenuating circumstances e.g., medical reasons with documentation. Extensions are not given for family events, including trips, computer problems, or involvement in sports.

Percentages, and Letter Grades

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Evaluative Criteria
A+	90-100	Exceptional; significantly exceeds the highest expectation for the assignment
A	85-89	Outstanding; meets the highest standards for the assignment
A-	80-84	Excellent; meets very high standards for the assignment
B+	77-79	Very good; meets high standards for the assignment
B	73-76	Good; meets most standards for the assignment
B-	70-72	More than adequate; meets basic standards for the assignment
C+	67-69	Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment
C	63-66	Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment
C-	60-62	Acceptable; while falling short of meeting basic standards for the assignment
D+	57-59	Minimally acceptable;
D	53-56	Minimally acceptable; passing grade
D-	50-52	Marginally acceptable; lowest passing grade
F	0-49	Fail

In this course, you may be graded by letter grade (e.g., participation in tutorials) or percentage (e.g., final exam). Your transcript, both midterm and final, will show a grade point. The table above will give you a sense of how letter grades correspond to percentages for your essay.

Materials Required:

iClicker (a hand held portable response device).

Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand & Stephanie Lawson, *Introduction to Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009)

Margot Northey & Joan McKibbin, *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing* (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2009)

This book will be useful for your essay in both terms and throughout your undergraduate program.

Bundled together the above three cost \$92.81. These three will be all you require for both terms. You may also buy Garner et. al. & the iClicker for \$80.56 or the Garner et. al. and Northey/McKibbin for \$80.56.

All books are available in the Campus Bookstore.

Objectives of the Course:

Skills Objectives:

This course will help develop critical analysis skills in reading, writing and listening. It also seeks to encourage analytical abilities through tutorial and class participation and discussion.

Knowledge Objectives:

The course will provide a broad introduction to the main themes, pre-occupations and debates within political science and hopefully, a good foundation to pursue upper year politics courses. If this is your only political science course, we hope you leave a more critical and attentive citizen.

Week 1: Course objectives, evaluation, expectations of the student, expectations of the instructor
Sept. 10-14

THREE Readings:
LECTURES Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, & Stephanie Lawson, *Introduction to Politics*,
THIS WEEK Introduction, pp. 1-14 (hereafter referred to as Garner et. al)

In Thursday's class we will hear from the Writing Centre and Learning Strategies to give you tips on how to improve your writing.

Week 2: ***What is politics? What is its object of study?***
Sept. 17-21

THREE Readings:
LECTURES Garner et. al., 14-25 and chapter 2, "Political Power, Authority and the State",
THIS WEEK pp. 48-69

Part 1: Key concepts in political studies:

Week 3 ***A. Power, Legitimacy & Authority***
Sept 24- 28

Readings:
Steven Lukes, "Power" in *Contexts* 6:3, Summer 2007, pp. 59-61

Martin Spencer, "Weber on Legitimate Norms and Authority" *British Journal of Sociology*, 21:2 (June 1970) pp. 123-34

Readings not found in the text book can be found as a link on the Moodle course page.

Week 4:
October 1-5

B. Ideology and the lenses of politics

THREE
LECTURES
THIS WEEK

Readings:

Garner et. al., Ch. 5, "Traditional Ideologies" pp. 113-36.

Week 5:
Oct 8-12

C. Democracy and its variants

Readings:

Garner et. al., Ch. 3, "Democracy and Political Obligations, pp. 69-91

→ *Because of Thanksgiving Monday, there will be no classes on Monday but we will meet in the third slot (ie., Tues 1130 for 001 and Wed at 8:30 for 002)

Week 6:
Oct 15-19

D. Freedom, Liberty and Justice

Readings:

Garner et. al, Ch, 4, "Freedom & Justice", pp. 91-113

THREE
LECTURES
THIS WEEK

E. Political Culture: does it shape us or are we shaped by it?

Readings:

Garner et. al., Ch. 13, "Political Culture", pp. 298-323.

Week 7:
Oct 22-26

F. Political Participation: Why don't we seem to care?

Readings:

Jon Pammett & Lawrence LeDuc, "Confronting the Problem of Declining Voter Turnout Among Youth", in *Electoral Insight*, (Ottawa: Elections Canada) July 2003.

Rafael López Pinter and Maria Gratschew, *Voter Turnout Since 1945: A Global Report* (Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 2002) pp. 45-111.

Part 2: The Political Process:

Week 8:
Oct. 29-Nov 1

2. Electoral Systems: how do they work and what effect do they have?

Readings:

André Blais and Louis Massicotte, "Electoral Systems" in Lawrence Le Duc, Richard Neimi and Pippa Norris [eds.], *Comparing Democracies 2* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2002), pp. 40-69.

THREE
LECTURES
THIS WEEK

The third lecture this week will be devoted to tips on writing your essay

First Term Argumentative Paper Due
No later than November 9, 4 PM in Macintosh-Corry Hall, C 321
See Moodle website for assignment details

Week 9:
Nov. 5-9

2. Representation through Legislatures

Readings:

Garner et. al. Ch. 9, "Legislatures and Legislators", pp. 206-30

Week 10:
Nov. 12-16

3. Voting and Political Parties:

Readings:

Garner et. al., Ch. 11, "Votes, Election, Parties", pp. 251-75

THREE
CLASSES
THIS WEEK

Week 11:
Nov. 19-23

4. Institutions of Civil Society and their impact on politics

Readings:

Garner et. al., Ch. 12, "Civil Society, Interest Groups & the Media", pp. 275-98

Week 12:
Nov. 26-30

Prospects for Democracy

Readings:

Garner et. al., Ch. 6, "Challenges to the Dominant Ideologies", pp. 136-55.

This week will be a summary of the course themes that emerged and exam prep information.