



COURSE OUTLINE

POLI 201

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT

45 HOURS
3 CREDITS

PREPARED BY: _____
Michael Dougherty, Instructor

DATE: November 19, 2014

APPROVED BY: ALR
Dr. Andrew Richardson, Dean

DATE: _____

YUKON COLLEGE

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Course Outline prepared by Michael Dougherty November 19, 2014.

Yukon College
P.O. Box 2799
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 5K



APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
Introduction to Political Thought
3 Credit Course
Winter Semester, 2015

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT

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| INSTRUCTOR: Michael Dougherty, M.A. | OFFICE HOURS: TBA |
| OFFICE LOCATION: TBA | CLASSROOM: A2601 |
| E-MAIL: mdougherty@yukoncollege.yk.ca | TIME: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. |
| TELEPHONE: 633-6579 (message) or 668-8770 | DATES: Monday |

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the political ideas that are basic to modern democratic theory and manifested in the processes and institutions of the Canadian system of government. Students will study classical political theory and contemporary developments in Political Science. Students practice critical thinking through exercises such as direct political debate with their peers.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the ideas that are basic to modern political thought and manifested in the processes and institutions of the Canadian system of democratic governance. It will cover a wide range of ideas that will expose participants to classical political theory as well as contemporary developments in Political Science. The relevance of these concepts to current political issues is established through lectures and in student debates.

The course endeavors to develop students' critical thinking abilities. Guest speakers, a simulation exercise, a required debate and class discussion will offer opportunities for all to participate in the process of deepening their awareness and understanding of key concepts and thinkers that have influenced contemporary political thought.

Most universities offer courses that examine particular political philosophers and their works in greater depth. This course is a preparation for more advanced work in the field.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

None.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

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|---------------------|----------------------------|
| CAMO PSC 210(3) | CAPU POL 111(3) |
| KWAN POLI 1110(3) | SFU POLI 100 (3) - B - SOC |
| TRU POLI 1210(3) | TRU-OL POLI 240 2XX(3) |
| TWU POSC 101 (3) | UBC POLI 240 (3) |
| UFV POSC 100 (3) | UNBC POLS 2XX (3) |
| UVIC POLI 202 (1.5) | |

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- demonstrate an awareness of the historical development of political rights and responsibilities and their evolutionary direction
- recognize key political thinkers from Plato to Gramsci, and underlying philosophical concepts influencing contemporary political issues
- understand the importance of the cultural context in which political change occurs
- enhance their potential and desire for political engagement
- be prepared to pursue more advanced work in Political Science
- develop their critical thinking capacity, written communication and debating abilities.

DELIVERY METHODS

Classes will consist of lectures supplemented by audio-visual materials, guest lectures (in class or at an appropriate venue off campus), simulations if numbers allow, class discussions and student debates.

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance

Attendance is crucial. Discussion and participation are important. You are expected to attend regularly and punctually. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete any work assigned.

Assignments

Papers:

Each student will prepare their paper from their choice of the assigned topics. The paper must be between 2500 and 3000 words. The paper will account for 30% of the final grade. An assignment handed in after the due date will be considered a 'late' paper. 5% will be deducted for every late day up to a maximum of five late days after which time the assignment will not be accepted.

At the first class students may decide as a class whether they will write one 3000 word paper or four 750 word papers.

In all papers students will be expected to state their thesis, supported it by integrating appropriate assigned readings and class materials plus any outside sources they wish to draw upon in their argument. Their writing should demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and analysis of the key concepts covered in the course. Proper referencing and bibliographies are required.

Students should maintain a back-up copy of all assignments!

Debate

Debates will be conducted in a modified parliamentary debate format. Each team member will have a 5 minute statement followed in sequence with a 3 minute rebuttal. There are no cross-examinations in this format. Teams of 2 or 3 debaters (depending on class numbers) and pro or con position will be chosen by draw. Teams (pro and con together) will have the opportunity to select their debate topic. An orientation session will be held prior to the debates. Class debates will account for 15% of the final mark.

Examinations

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Both exams will consist of identifications, definitions, comparisons and essay questions. The final exam will be cumulative. Exams will be based on lectures, class discussions and assigned readings.

Final examinations are held at the end of the semester in the designated examination period. Once a final examination date and time have been published, it cannot be changed.

Students are expected to write their exams as scheduled unless there are serious extenuating circumstances such as serious illness, accident or other legitimate circumstances beyond their control. An extension must be approved by the Coordinator, Chair or Dean.

To change an exam, arrangements must be made with the Chair or Coordinator.

EVALUATION

The student's grades will be calculated as follows:

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|---------------|------|
| Mid-term exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 35% |
| Debates | 15% |
| Paper | 30% |
| Total | 100% |

NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

Class materials will be drawn from a wide variety of web accessible, copyright free or permission granted reprints.

These may be supplemented with hand-outs, web resources or articles from books held on reserve.

For more information about transferability please contact the School of Liberal Arts.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

WRITING CENTRE

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/writing_centre.

CLASS SYLLABUS

WEEK TOPICS AND READINGS

WEEK 1 - Course overview and context setting. Human emergence and social convergence. What is Political Science?

Readings: Plato *Republic* Book II (classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html)
Code of Hammurabi (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian_law)

WEEK 2 - Traditional societies to modern societies. Matriarchy to Patriarchy. Classical roots to contemporary forms. Sumeria to Greece, Guatemala to Peru, Egypt to China.

Readings: Aristotle *Politics* Book I and III (classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html), Confucius, *The Doctrine of the Mean* (classics.mit.edu/Confucius/doctmean.html)

WEEK 3 - From Augustine to Aquinas, what can you do about an unjust ruler or law? Divine right of kings to the Magna Carta.

Palestine 5 A.D. Rome 312 A.D.

Readings: Aquinas *On Kingship* selection (montgomerycollege.edu/~bsoderbe/aqnaskng.html)
Augustine *City of God* selections,
Driver, *How Christians Made Peace With War*, Ch.10,11, pages 71-84,
Dickerson and Flanagan, *An Introduction to Government and Politics* chapter 4

WEEK 4 - Dante to Machiavelli. Beginnings of Parliamentary System of Government. Presidential System of Government, Federal and Unitary Systems of Government.

Readings: Dante *De Monarchia* selections, Machiavelli *The Prince* selections, Mintz, Close, Croci, *Politics, Power and the Common Good* chapter 15

WEEK 5 - Reformation and foundations of the nation-state, Hobbes to Locke and

Readings: Thomas Hobbes *Leviathan* selections, Khan and McNiven, *Introduction to Political Science*. pages 356- 383, John Locke selections *Two Treatises of Government*.

WEEK 6 - Social contract and the emergence of modern democracy. Forms of power, sources of power.

Readings: Jean -Jacques Rousseau *Social Contract* selections, Alfredo Gonçalves *A history of democracy*, Jonathon Swift *A Modest Proposal*, Frei Betto *Democracy and Power*

WEEK 7 - State as economic enterprise from mercantilism to imperialism. Age of Empires from Ottoman to British. Slavery to the conference of Berlin and their consequences for Africa. The development of the liberal and conservative paradigms.

Readings: John Stuart Mills *On Liberty* selections, Edmund Burke *Reflections on the French Revolution* selections, *World Snapshot 1500, 1700, 1900, King Cotton, To Buy or Breed*, Jamie Griesmer *The Berlin*

Conference 1884, François Houtart *What is Imperialism?* Excerpt.

MID-TERM EXAM - One and a half hours

WEEK 8 - Revolutions, the first round. Rise of the socialism in response to the Industrial Revolution.

Readings: Marx and Engels *Communist Manifesto* selections, Robert Mullaly *Structural Social Work* pages 118-119, 132-133, Mikhail Bakunin *Where I Stand*, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon *What is Property?*

WEEK 9 - Reaction to end of slavery, anti-imperialism movements and socialism. Fascism to corporate state.

Readings: Benito Mussolini *The Doctrine of Fascism* (excerpts), W.W. Rostow *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*, Gabriel Almond *The Civic Culture* (excerpts).

WEEK 10 - Revolutions, round two. Mexico to Russia, India to China, Cuba to South Africa.

Readings: Noam Chomsky *Manufacturing Consent*, Antonio Gramsci *The Modern Prince* (excerpts), Vladimir Lenin *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* (excerpts)

WEEK 11 - Globalization, the political and economic reaction to change. GATT to ITO, NAFTA to FTAA.

Readings: José González Faus *Democracy is ill*, Franz Fanon *The Wretched of the Earth* (excerpts), Arundhati Roy *Tide? Or Ivory Snow?* (excerpt), *What is Civil Society?*

WEEK 12 - Civil Society, movements for change from civil rights to women's to environmental.

Readings: Jane Kelsey *How to Oppose Corporate Rule*, Sergio Ferrari *Democracy and the Millennium Objectives*, Leonardo Boff *Democracy and Ecology*, Paul Nadasdy *Hunters and Bureaucrats* Introduction, Conclusion, Michael Dougherty *Eyes on the World*,

WEEK 13 - Utopian dreams and future visions. Class review.

Readings: *Cooperative Model*

N.B. This reading list maybe supplemented to with additional readings or revised as the instructor deems appropriate.