

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science**

Course:	Political Science 1020E 650–Introduction to Political Science
Session:	Summer 2012
Lecturer:	Asim Ali
Office:	SSC 4134; Meeting Hours: By Appointment
Contact details:	Phone: 519.661.2111
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Course Description and Objectives: This introductory course is intended to give students a broad overview of the study of politics. We will study such essential questions as: What is the meaning of terms such as 'nation' and 'state'? Who holds political power, and why? How might individuals and groups participate in political activity? Why is conflict so prevalent in the world today? Why does inequality exist, and what factors influence the distribution of wealth in society? How does the role of the state differ across economies? What factors shape political attitudes? What roles do “old” and “new” media play in global politics? This course will introduce the key concepts and theories which provide insight into these and other questions. This course will also provide an opportunity to explore some *subfields* in Political Science such as: *political philosophy; international relations; international political economy; comparative politics (of the developing world); and economic development*. At the conclusion of this course students will be familiar with important concepts and methods of analysis within the discipline of politics; will be capable of understanding and critically evaluating political developments within society; and develop an enhanced theoretical understanding of the ideas and practices that inform politics.

Required Textbooks: There are two required textbooks for this course and they are available for purchase at the bookstore. (***You will be responsible for all weekly-required readings**)

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood. *Politics: An Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2010. (hereafter: ***MW**)

Rand Dyck, (editor). *Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*, 4th edition. Nelson Education, 2012. (hereafter: ***Dyck**)

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites: Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure

that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Western OWL (now powered by Sakai) is the new learning management system at Western. The course site is accessible at: <https://owltoo.uwo.ca>. For assistance accessing OWL (Sakai), contact the ITS Support Centre at 519-661-3800. For hours and additional information please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>.

Distance Studies Expectations: This course requires that the student and the instructor participate as a class, sharing ideas, concepts, and understanding of course materials. As such, it is expected that students maintain a high level of interaction and discussion. Students will be expected to contribute to the weekly discussions. Such participation is necessary for creating and maintaining interest and understanding across the wide array of weekly topics.

Communication: Communication between students and the Professor will generally occur via email (aali84@uwo.ca).

Student Code of Conduct: You must comport yourself as per the University of Western Ontario Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed at:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>.

Scholastic Offences: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/schooloff.pdf>” (university regulation)

Academic Accommodation - Medical and Non-Medical Absences: Please see the Student Service website (<http://www.studentservices.uwo.ca>) for the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and Student Medical Certificate.

Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office, and it will be the Dean’s office that will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Any medical absence should be documented using the Student Medical Certificate or as instructed by Student Services, Dean’s Office or your Academic Counsellor.

Student absences for reasons other than illness shall continue to be verified according to current practices. The entire UWO document can be accessed at:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

Course Evaluation:

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|----|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 1. | Discussion Board Participation: | 10% | |
| 2. | Critical Analysis: | 10% | (Due: Friday, June 4, 2012) |
| 3. | Mid-Term Exam: | 20% | TBA |
| 4. | Essay: | 25% | (Due: Friday, July 13, 2012) |
| 5. | Final Exam: | 35% | |

(Written during the final exam period, between August 2-5, 2012).

1. Discussion Board Participation

As a regular feature of the course the Instructor will pose questions or problems requiring short written answers. These questions will facilitate a form of “classroom discussion” and an exchange of ideas on key issues and topics. The discussion board is worth 10% of your total grade. **You will be expected to contribute one discussion board post each week.**

2. Critical Analysis

Students are required to submit a 3-4 page analysis of an assigned reading. Your analysis should not ‘repackage’ or ‘reword’ what the readings state. Rather, it should answer a series of questions that will allow you to further understand the point of the reading and identify any shortcomings in the presented arguments. Your analysis should also present your own opinion on the topic. Additional details will be posted on OWL (Sakai).

- The assignment must be no longer than 4 pages [excluding title page and bibliography] in length, Times New Roman size 12 font, 1” margins, and double-spaced. Anything exceeding these requirements will be disregarded in the evaluation of your paper.
- Extensions will be granted only for mitigating circumstances or medical reasons (for which written proof of substantial distress must be provided).
- **Late assignments will be penalized 10% points if they are not received by 11.30pm on Friday, June 4, 2012. Assignments will be assigned a mark of zero if they are not submitted by 11.30pm on Friday, June 9, 2012.**
- Technical problems, such as hard drive crashes, are not grounds for an extension - please ensure that you routinely ‘back-up’ your work.

3. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be based on material we cover from weeks 1-6. Additional details on the format of the midterm will be posted to OWL (Sakai).

4. Essay

The essay is due on Friday, July 13, 2012. Detailed instructions regarding the essay will be posted on OWL (Sakai). **You are required to write a research essay that uses a**

minimum of five academic sources. Essays will be graded based on the cogency and coherence of argument and the ability to incorporate and use supporting evidence. Grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and poor organization affect the professionalism of your essay and will result in a penalty.

- The essay must be 6-8 pages (excluding title page and bibliography) in length, Times New Roman size 12 font, 1" margins, and double-spaced. Anything exceeding these requirements will be disregarded in the evaluation of your paper.
- Extensions will be granted only on humanitarian grounds or on medical grounds (for which written proof of substantial distress must be provided).
- **Late essays will be penalized 15 percentage points if they are not received by 11.30pm on Friday, July 13, 2012. Essays will be assigned a mark of zero if they are not submitted by 11.30pm on Friday, July 20, 2012.**
- Technical problems, such as hard drive crashes, are not grounds for an extension - please ensure that you routinely 'back-up' your work.

5. Final Exam

The final examination will be held during the Examination Period (August 2-5, 2012). The final exam will cover material from the assigned readings, the instructor's posted notes, and student discussions on OWL (Sakai). Additional details on the format of the final exam will be posted to OWL (Sakai).

Schedule of Weekly Readings & Topics

Week 1 (May 7): Studying Politics: Political Concepts

MW: Chapters 1 & 2.

Dyck: Chapter 1.

Week 2 (May 14): Political Thought, Philosophy, and Ideology

MW: Chapter 3, pp. 47-78.

Dyck: Chapter 6, section on “Political Ideologies,” pp. 149-160.

Week 3 (May 21): Structure of the State (I): The Role of Government

MW: Chapter 4: pp. 82 – 105.

Dyck: Chapter 2: “Governments and States: Perpetual Works in Progress,” pp. 30-51.

Week 4 (May 28): Structure of the State (II): Branches of Government (The Political Executive; Legislature; and the Judiciary)

MW: Chapter 5: pp. 108- 131.

Dyck: Chapter 7: “Designing and Limiting Governments by Constitution,” pp. 164-185.

Week 5 (June 4): Political Participation: Elections and Parties

Assignment Due: Critical Analysis Papers (June 4)

MW: Chapter 7: pp. 161-182

Dyck: Chapter 11: “Democracy in Action: Elections, Political Participation, and Citizens’ Power,” pp. 282-307

Week 6 (June 11): “Agenda Setters & Influencers”: The Role of Social Media

MW: Chapter 8: pp. 185-209.

Dyck: Chapter 5: “Political Culture and Socialization: The Media and Other Mind Shapers,” pp. 102-128.

Week 7 (June 18): Nationalism and Identity

Mid-term Exam: Covering Weeks 1-6

Dyck: Chapter 3, “Cultural Pluralism, Nationalism, and Identity,” pp. 54-73.

Week 8 (June 25): Politics in Developed States

MW: Chapter 9, pp. 212- 241.

Week 9 (July 2): Foreign Policy (I): International Politics, Hegemony, and Global Governance

MW: Chapter 11: pp. 274-303.

Dyck: Chapter 15: “International Relations: Global Anarchy, Conflict, and Cooperation,” pp. 416-434.

Week 10 (July 9): Foreign Policy (II): International Security

Assignment Due: Essays (July 13)

MW: Chapter 12: 306- 325.

Dyck: Chapter 15: “Regime Change in an Era of Globalization,” pp. 390-412.

Week 11 (July 16): International Political Economy (I): States and Markets

MW: Chapter 13: pp. 328-353.

Dyck: Chapter 3: “States and Markets: Studying Political Economy in Political Science,” pp. 78-97.

Week 12 (July 23): International Political Economy of North-South Relations (II): Economic Development & Developing States

MW: Chapter 10: 244- 270.

Dyck: Chapter 14: “The Politics of Development and Underdevelopment,” pp. 358-386.

Week 13 (July 30): Conclusion

Final Exam

Good luck, enjoy the class and have an enjoyable summer term!

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western

Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.