

# Political Science 1020E, 200 & 201: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE 2023-2024

## Course Description: What is this Course about?

What is politics?  
Who has political power and why?  
Who gets to speak and what happens when they are not heard?  
What are different ways to set up political systems and government?  
What is democracy and is it the best political system?  
What do ideas like capitalism, socialism, equality or freedom mean in politics?  
How must politics transform to address reconciliation, racism, gender, sexualities, ableism, settler colonialism, and fundamentalism and their impact on everyday life?  
Why do people and states fight each other?  
Should international rules govern the Internet, pandemic responses, refugee policies, or Indigenous-settler treaties?  
Should the environment be a political priority and why is it not?

Together, we will consider what is politics, worldviews which explain our political world, the different political systems and institutions, and important global issues.

We provide an exciting opportunity to understand and challenge political ideas; discuss varied and critical political issues; learn reading, discussion & writing skills; and understand our world.

We look forward to having YOU in our class and tutorials, and pursuing a journey of learning!

## Course Objectives: What will you learn in this Course?



- (1) In the first term, we start with learning about some key concepts. From there, we focus primarily on global politics, including discussion about war, international economies, issues related to the environment and pandemics. In the second term, we will consider ideas, arguments, theories, and ideologies produced in the history of political thought in the West, including power, democracy, freedom, justice, liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, and ecologism.

(2) In both terms, students will develop the capacity to think about politics analytically and critically. In particular, they will acquire and strengthen their abilities to: understand and analyze arguments in political texts; connect and assess them in light of current political debates; and, defend clear positions on potentially controversial political issues, such as the obligation to obey the law, the nature of justice, the legitimacy of democracy, the nature of a free society, the



status of the dominant ideologies of our time, the value of political participation, and the role of global organization in the modern world.



Students will achieve objectives for (1) by engaging in lecture-class discussions, watching video lectures, and doing readings from the textbook and for their tutorials. Students will achieve objective (2) by completing a research and outline assignment for the essay, writing an argumentative essay, participating in tutorial discussions, and completing four exams throughout the year. The discussions and writing assignments, along with your reading and lecture attendance, will provide the practice needed to succeed in the exams.

**Course Texts:  
What must you read?**

Note: UWO Bookstore sells physical and electronic copies. We have provided the publishers' online ordering systems as well.

**TERM 1:**

Brodie, M. Janine, Sandra Rein, and Malinda S. Smith. 2022. *Critical Concepts : an Introduction to Politics*. Sixth edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

**TERM 2:**

Heywood, Andrew. *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021. E-book ISBN: 9781352011845

Heywood, Andrew. *Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. E-book ISBN: 9781352005462

For any non-textbook lecture readings, readings will be posted on the class OWL site.

For tutorials, readings and video links/URLs will be posted on the class OWL site.

**Learning Outcomes:  
What is this Course teaching you?**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>
Tutorial Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize the importance of engaging colleagues' ideas</li> <li>• Communicate verbally in an analytic and clear fashion</li> <li>• An awareness of the extent and limits of one's own knowledge, informed by exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience</li> </ul>
Essays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence</li> <li>• Well-developed research skills, such as those articulated by the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries</li> <li>• Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion</li> <li>• Situate knowledge historically and contextually</li> <li>• Assess evidence critically</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethical dimensions of problem identification and methodology</li> </ul>
Lectures & Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of diverse theories and approaches</li> <li>• Understanding of methods; knowledge of epistemological approaches and ontological diversity</li> <li>• Communicate in written format in an analytic and clear fashion</li> <li>• Situate knowledge historically and contextually</li> <li>• Assess evidence critically</li> <li>• How power, culture, and history condition knowledge formation</li> <li>• Understand the ambiguity, uncertainty, ubiquitous and controversial nature of politics</li> </ul>

**Course Requirements:  
How are you graded?**

Your grade will be evaluated as follows:

Term 1 Mid-Term Exam	10%	
Term 1 Essay Bibliography & Outline	10%	
Term 1 Tutorial	5%	
Term 1 Final Exam	<u>20%</u>	45%
Term 2 Mid-Term Exam	10%	
Term 2 Essay	20%	
Term 2 Tutorial	5%	
Term 2 Final Exam	<u>20%</u>	55%
		100%

**OWL Website:  
Why should I check this regularly?**

To enter our OWL website, go to <http://owl.uwo.ca> to look for your “POLISCI 1020E” tab. On this website, you will find information about the class, grades, tutorial information, links to other resources, and more. In particular, Lecture Videos will be posted on the OWL site and Tutorial readings and videos will be posted there. All course announcements, etc., will come from the OWL site. Please do check the OWL site regularly and constantly.



**Blended Class:  
What does this look like?**

As our class is designated Blended, the course is organized as follows:

- 1) Lecture videos will be posted online on the OWL site *before lectures*, so you should view Lectures videos in advance of lectures so the lecture discussions, debates, activities, etc., will be more helpful and useful, and you are welcome to pull ahead in the readings and lecture videos, and complimentarily, you can catch up on the core materials if you miss a lecture but do attend lectures!

2) In-person attendance in our lecture room will follow a 'flipped class' model: we will have questions-and-answers, discussions, activities, debates, etc. *based on the lecture videos* and current events. Importantly: if you are unwell for any reason, please don't come to the lecture hall at all, focus on getting healthy, and you can always watch the lecture videos while you are getting better or after. Note: exams are based on lectures, lecture videos, tutorial videos, and all readings.

3) Tutorials are *in-person* BUT check the OWL site for times and locations as *we will be needing to make adjustments*. Each tutorial is led by a Teaching Assistant and will be based on readings and/or videos provided here and/or on the OWL site. You will attend tutorial every other week, so you will be placed in either Group A or B for your tutorial, and you'll be able to see and confirm this via our OWL site. Note: no accommodations are provided for missed tutorials as you are attending 5 tutorials out of 13 weeks of classes (which is around 40% of each Term); accommodation will only be provided if directed by Academic Counselling and considered warranted.

### Schedule of Lectures and Tutorials:

**What questions are we covering? What do we read? What are the Learning Outcomes?**

## TERM 1: September – December

### Week 0: Sep 7

- ❖ Intro to the Course
- ❖ No tutorials this week

### Week 1: Sep 11 – 15

(Note: Section 201/Wednesday nights: we will also cover Week 0 Intro this week, too)

- ❖ Lecture: Governing Ideas and Enduring Ideas
  - Reading: Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 1 - Governing Ideas **and** Chapter 2 – Enduring Ideas
- ❖ No Tutorials this week

### Week 2: Sep 18 – 22

- ❖ Lecture: Democratic Ideas and Radical Ideas (Part 1)
  - Reading: Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 3 - Democratic Ideas **and** Chapter 4 - Radical Ideas (we will continue with Chapter 4 next week)
- ❖ Tutorial 1A: Who are you? What is the Essay Research and Bibliography Assignment?

### Week 3: Sep 25 – 29

- ❖ Lecture: Radical Ideas (Part 2) and Non-Western Ideas
  - Reading: Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 4 -Radical Ideas (continued from last week) **and** Chapter 5 - Non-Western Ideas
- ❖ Tutorial 1B: Who are you? What is the Essay Research and Bibliography Assignment?

### Week 4: Oct 2 – 6

- ❖ Lecture: Indigenous peoples, Land and the UNDRIP
  - Reading: Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 6 - Indigenous peoples, land and the UNDRIP
- ❖ Tutorial 2A: COVID19 and inequality

### Week 5: Oct 9 – 13

- ❖ Lecture: The Politics of Race
  - Reading: Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 7 - The Politics of Race
- ❖ No Tutorials this week due to Holiday Monday

**Fri Oct 13 11:55pm: Essay Bibliography and Outline assignment due via OWL site**

### Week 6: Oct 16 – 20

- ❖ Lecture: Genders and sexualities
  - Reading: Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 8 - Genders and sexualities
- ❖ Tutorial 2B: COVID19 and inequality

**Sat Oct 21 5pm-6pm Term 1 Mid-Term Exam via OWL site**

→ ONLY covers Weeks 1-3 of Lectures and NO Tutorial materials

### Week 7: Oct 23 – 27

- ❖ Lecture: Ableism and Disability: A Peculiar Politics
  - Reading:
    - Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 9 - Disability - A peculiar politics
- ❖ Tutorial 3A: Mobility & Restrictions

## **READING WEEK Oct 30 – Nov 5**

### Week 8: Nov 6 - 10

- ❖ Lecture: Citizenship and Borders
  - Reading: Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 10 - Citizenship and borders & Shacknove, Andrew E. "Who is a Refugee?" Ethics 95.2 (1985): 274-284
- ❖ Tutorial 3B: Mobility & Restrictions

### Week 9: Nov 13 – 17

- ❖ Lecture: Digital Technology and Democracy
  - Reading:
    - Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 14: 'it's kinda complicated': Digital technology and democracy
- ❖ Tutorial 4A: Does Canada deserve a Security Council seat?

### Week 10: Nov 20 - 24

- ❖ Lecture: International Relations
  - Reading:
    - Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 16 - International Relations
- ❖ Tutorial 4B: Does Canada deserve a Security Council seat?

### Week 11: Nov 27 - Dec 1

- ❖ Lecture: Political Ecology
  - Reading:
    - Brodie, Rein, Smith, *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 6e* - Chapter 19: Political Ecology
- ❖ Tutorial 5A: Global Energy Transition

### Week 12: Dec 4 – 7

- ❖ Lecture: Nuclear Order
  - Reading:
    - Kenneth Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 91, No. 4 (July/August 2012), pp. 2-5.
    - Schalk, Owen. "Nuclear colonialism and the Marshall Islands." *Canadian Dimension*, 2 April 2021, <https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/nuclear-colonialism-and-the-marshall-islands>
- ❖ Tutorial 5B: Global Energy Transition

### **Term 1 Final Exam: 2-hours, Date & Time set by Registrar, during Exam Period**

→ ONLY covers Weeks 4-12 Lectures & Tutorials 2-5

---

## **TERM 2: January – April**

### Week 14: Jan 8 – 12

- ❖ Lecture: Justice & Property
  - Reading: see OWL site
- ❖ No tutorials this week

### Week 15: Jan 15 – 19

- ❖ Lecture: Nationalism
  - Reading: Heywood *Politics* Chapter 6
- ❖ Tutorial 6A: Essay Assignment

### Week 16: Jan 22 – 26

- ❖ Lecture: Indigenous Politics
  - Reading: see OWL site
- ❖ Tutorial 6B: Essay Assignment

### Week 17: Jan 29 – Feb 3

- ❖ Lecture: Ideologies and Liberalism
  - Reading: Heywood *Political Ideologies* Chapter 1 & 2
- ❖ Tutorial 7A: Indigenous issues

### **Sat Feb 3 5pm-6pm Term 2 Mid-Term Exam via OWL site**

→ ONLY covers Weeks 14-16 of Lectures and NO Tutorial materials

### Week 18: Feb 5 – 9

- ❖ Lecture: Conservatism and Marxism
    - Reading: Heywood *Political Ideologies* Chapter 3 & 4
-

- ❖ Tutorial 7B: Indigenous issues

#### Week 19: Feb 12 – 16

- ❖ Lecture: Fascism and Feminism
  - Reading: Heywood *Political Ideologies* Chapter 7 & 8
- ❖ Tutorial 8A: Are liberal democracies the best form of government?

#### **READING WEEK Feb 17 – 25**

#### Week 20: Feb 26 – Mar 1

- ❖ Lecture: Environmentalism, Multiculturalism and Radical Political Islamism
  - Reading: Heywood *Political Ideologies* Chapter 9 & 10 & 11
- ❖ Tutorial 8B: Are liberal democracies the best form of government?

#### **Fri Mar 2 11:55pm: Essay assignment due via OWL site**

#### Week 21: Mar 4 – 8

- ❖ Lecture: Political Regimes, Governments, and Constitutions
  - Reading: Heywood *Politics* Chapter 5 and Chapter 13 292-304
- ❖ Tutorial 9A: Why are people voting for populist parties? Are populist parties a threat to democracy?

#### Week 22: Mar 11 – 15

- ❖ Lecture: Electoral Systems and Political Parties
  - Reading: Heywood *Politics* Chapter 10 and 11
- ❖ Tutorial 9B: Why are people voting for populist parties? Are populist parties a threat to democracy?

#### Week 23: Mar 18 – 22

- ❖ Lecture: Executive and Bureaucracy
  - Reading: Heywood *Politics* Chapters 14 and 16
- ❖ Tutorial 10A: Why are young people not participating in formal politics?

#### Week 24: Mar 25 – 29

- ❖ What are Assemblies? What is the Judiciary?
  - Reading: Heywood *Politics* Chapters 15 and 13, 307-313
- ❖ Tutorial 10B: Why are young people not participating in formal politics?

#### Week 25: Apr 1 – 5

- ❖ What is a Political Culture? What is the relationship between Media and Politics? What is a 'post-truth' politics?
  - Reading: Heywood *Politics* Chapter 9
- ❖ No tutorials this week

#### **Term 2 Final Exam: 2-hours, Date & Time set by Registrar, during Exam Period**

→ ONLY covers Weeks 17-25 Lectures & Tutorials 7-10

## Important Information & Rules About the Course: What are some general rules governing this course?

1. Necessary conditions for passing this course: you must **submit the Essay** for the course (not necessarily earn a passing grade on the Essay, but your Essay must be assessed as minimally acceptable effort to complete a proper essay). If you do not meet the aforementioned conditions, then *you will receive a failing grade for the course*. You should contact Nig Narain ([nnarain@uwo.ca](mailto:nnarain@uwo.ca)) **immediately** to sort out these matters
  
2. Pre-requisites and Anti-Requisites:  
*Prerequisites*: none  
*Anti-requisites*: the former Politics 020E and 021F-026G, Politics 1020E 002, Politics 1020E 003, Politics 1020E 200, Politics 1020E 201, Politics 1021F/G-1026F/G  
Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite 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.” – *Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science*
  
3. USE your UWO/Western email account: Send and receive emails by the UWO email system so that your information is confidential and secure. Also, your non-UWO email may get caught in spam, etc., and may not get a response or review.
  
4. For assignments worth less than 10%: “For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, the instructor is empowered to grant academic considerations without referring the student to their academic counsellors. If an instructor chooses to do so, the mechanism for dealing with missed work (e.g., an extension, make-up opportunity, or reweighting) must be specified on the course outline to ensure fair treatment for all students. Note that for assignments that are worth 10% and more documentation (medical or otherwise) is required, it can only be collected by the student’s Dean’s Office Academic Counselling unit.” No accommodations are provided for missed tutorial as you are attending 5 tutorials out of 13 weeks of classes (~40% of each Term); accommodation will only be provided if directed by Academic Counselling.
  
5. For assignments worth 10% or more: Students should check out the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>) and other matters, e.g passing in the family, major accident, etc. Documentation must be submitted by the student directly to *their* appropriate Faculty Dean’s office and not to the Instructor or TA, and the Dean’s office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.
  
6. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices: NO electronics devices are allowed during tests and examinations unless specified differently.
  
7. Statement on 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:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)



8. Concerning Turnitin: “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>).”

Also check:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

9. Multiple-Choice Exam format checking software: “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.”

Also check:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>



10. Exams are not reviewable. If you have a query about a question during the exam, you can email your query and we will review the matter and update you accordingly. However, individual exams cannot be individually reviewed.

11. Support Services:

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: Academic Counselling - Western University (uwo.ca).

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Please contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>. Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

12. Respectful conduct and engagement: Note conduct should accord with the University of Western Ontario Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed as a PDF from: [http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/student\\_experience/studentconduct.html](http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/student_experience/studentconduct.html).

In general, please be respectful of and courteous to yourself, me, our TAs, your class colleagues, and others during discussions and other course engagements.

13. **Acceptable and Unacceptable Use of AI:** The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, other LLMs, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities: Brainstorming and refining your ideas; Fine tuning your research questions; Finding information on your topic; Drafting a preliminary outline to organize your thoughts; and Checking grammar and style. The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities: Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts assigned to you or content that you put into an online assignment; Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool; Writing a draft of a writing assignment; Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments. Note: You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on [scholastic offenses](#). For example, any use of LLMs must be documented as outlined here: [APA guidance](#), other [citation formats](#). Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways can result in: a failure to receive full grades, the need to resubmit the assignment, need to orally present the assignment in office hours, or a failure to complete the requirements of the course. When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.
14. *Please also read the Appendices also provided.*
15. NOTE: if changes to the Course Outline are necessitated, we work to let you know as soon as possible, so please check the OWL site and your emails regularly
16. **Enjoy the Course!**

*Approach us with your questions or concerns:  
we want to help YOU  
learn, improve & do your best. 😊*

