

Political Science 1020E Section 650
The University of Western Ontario
Introduction to Political Science
Course Outline

Type: Distance Studies (Essay) May 8 to July 28/17

Place: Online

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson Office: SSC 4141

E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca (please e-mail anytime)

Office Hours: no normal hours but I will be in my Huron office V125 Thursdays 12.30-1.30pm May 18-June 22 if you want to meet

Required Readings: (available at U.W.O. bookstore)

1/ Andrew Heywood. Politics. 4th Edition. (Palgrave, New York: 2013.)

2/ Jonathan Wolff. Ethics and Public Policy. (Routledge, Abingdon: 2011.)

NOTE: You may use used copies. You must use the current editions.

Structure: Political Science 1020E is an introductory course in the field of politics.

Objectives: (1) In the first half, students will learn some of the most important ideas, arguments, theories and ideologies produced in the history of political thought in the West, including power, democracy, the state, liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism and environmentalism. In the second half, students will focus primarily on political institutions and the political processes associated with them. The topics to be covered include the following: international relations, liberal democracy, authoritarianism/totalitarianism, parliamentary and presidential systems, political economy, political participation, political institutions and multilevel politics. (2) Students will develop the capacity to think critically about politics. In particular, students will acquire and strengthen their abilities to understand and analyze arguments on controversial political issues, such as the obligation to obey the law, the nature of justice and the good, the legitimacy of democracy, the nature of freedom, the status of dominant ideologies, the value of political participation and the workings of key political systems and institutions.

Topics: Readings from the Heywood textbook are given below.

OWL: This course uses Western OWL as a learning tool on a regular basis.

Login to OWL by going to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> and entering your user ID and password. Check that you have access to the course.

Please be aware, students will NOT receive any materials from Distance Studies. Instead, they will receive an email advising them how to access the Distance Studies website at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/applying/distance_studies/accessing_your_courses.html. Here, they will find online instructions, examination schedules, instructor information, and links to their UWO email and OWL.

If you are experiencing problems with OWL, there are three ways of getting help. First, you can contact the ITS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800. Next, you can submit a question online here: <https://servlet.uwo.ca/vistahelpdesk/>. Finally, you can stop by the ITS help desk in

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person. Directions and hours are here: <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>. For hours and additional contact information please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/its/helpdesk/>. Additional OWL student help information can be found here: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>.

Week 1: May 8-12

Course outline and on-line information

How to write an essay (see Essay Instructions on OWL); What is political science? (Ch.1)

Basic Concepts: Society, Gov't, Power, The State of Nature (Ch.1)

Week 2: May 15-19

Basic Concepts: Authority, Obligation, Legitimacy, Sovereignty, The State, The Nation, Nation-State, (Chs.3,5)

Week 3: May 23-26 (May 22 is a holiday)

Basic Concepts: Law, Constitutionalism, Democracy (Chs.4,15)

Week 4: May 29-June 2

Ideology: What is Ideology?; The Origins of Liberalism – Classic and Modern (Ch.2)

Ideology: Liberalism: Freedom, Property, Rights (Ch.2)

Ideology: Conservatism; Fascism (Ch.2)

Friday, June 2 – **Assignment due**

Week 5: June 5-9

Ideology: Socialism, Marxism (Ch.2)

Ideology: Feminism; Environmentalism (Ch.2)

Week 6: June 12-16

International Relations: War and Terrorism, Globalization and Human Rights (Chs.6, 19)

Forms of Gov't: Liberal Democracy, Types (Ch.12)

Forms of Gov't: Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism (Ch.12)

Week 7: June 19-23

Forms of Gov't: Parliamentary and Presidential Systems (Ch.13,14)

Week 8: June 26-30

Forms of Gov't: Federalism and Multi-level Governance (Ch.17)

Friday, June 30 – **Essay due**

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Week 9: July 3-7

The Political Process: Political Culture; The Media (Ch.8)

Week 10: July 10-14

The Political Process: Interest Groups; Political Parties (Chs.10,11)

Week 11: July 17-21

The Political Process: Elections and Electoral Systems (Ch.9)
Political Economy (Ch.6)

Week 12: July 24-28

Representative Assemblies; The Executive (Chs.13, 14)
The Administration; The Judiciary (Chs.15,16)

Final Exam: (room and date TBA during July 31-Aug.3 period)
- essay format

Grade Breakdown:

Final Exam: 40% (3 hours; TBA) (you will be writing at UWO or a distance exam area)

Essay: 35% (8-10 pages, double-spaced; due Friday, June 30/17 online submission by 11.59pm)

Assignment: 15% (3-5 pages, double-spaced; due Friday, June 2/17 online submission by 11.59pm)

On-line questions and responses: 10% in total (1% for each of 10)

NOTE: All page requirements in the outline use the Times New Roman 12 standard.

Late Penalty for Essay: 15% flat rate penalty; after 2 weeks late (including weekends), the paper gets a zero; computer breakdown is not an excuse; you must keep a backup copy of your paper; assignment and essay will be put into Turnitin

POL.SCI. 1020E ESSAY

Length: 8-10 pages double-spaced minimum

Due date: Friday, June 30/17 11.59pm; put e-file into turnitin

Lost Assignments: It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper.

Bibliography: You must include a bibliography. Failure to do so will result in an "F" grade.

Citations: See Essay Instructions document on OWL.

Essay questions/ thesis statements

Choose one as the core argument of your paper (you may take the reverse of each).

1/ The European Union has mainly been a success as an international organization.

2/ Fascism is likely to return as a major ideology in the 21st century.

3/ The Russian Federation is an example of a fragile liberal democracy.

4/ Courts in Canada are too activist and are usurping the powers of elected legislatures in Canada.

5/ The Canadian Senate does not adequately carry out its functions and should be abolished.

6/ Canada should change its electoral system at the federal level to another system.

NOTE: You may do your own thesis statement/topic with permission.

IMPORTANT: SEE ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS DOCUMENT ON OWL FOR MORE INFO

1020E ASSIGNMENT

Length: 3-5 pages double-spaced minimum

Due date: Friday, June 2/17 11.59pm; put e-file into turnitin

Lost Assignments: It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper.

Bibliography: The only source needed is the Jonathan Wolff text in this outline

Citations: 10-15 minimum, only from the Wolff text

You are simply to outline one of Jonathan Wolff's topics in the Ethics and Public Policy text, as he presents it. Do not do the Introduction or Conclusion in the text.

1/ Briefly outline his main points about one of the issues in the text (i.e. gambling).

2/ In the last page or so, give your own opinion on the topic.

3/ This is not a formal essay, so you do not need a formal introduction and conclusion.

4/ However, write in complete sentences and paragraphs.

5/ The Essay Instructions document may give you some help here, so consult it, but remember this assignment is not an essay.

1020E ON-LINE QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On **OWL – Forums** – you will be getting weekly questions which you will access by going to Forums at the beginning of the week (it will be up late Monday morning). **NOTE:** there will be no questions in Week 1 and 12 and the question will be up Tuesday morning on Week 3.

The question will be straightforward and short. You must then post an answer in Forums close to 0.5 double-spaced pages long (you may go over this, but try to keep it under 1 page). These are opinion questions.

You may then choose to comment on other students posts, and I encourage you to do so, but keep a courteous environment at all times. However, you do not have to do this. In some weeks, though, the question may ask for your response to others' posts. I will not grade or comment on your posts. I will let you know if your submission is inadequate though; otherwise, assume you have earned the point.

Due date: The end of the week when the question was given – Sundays at 11.59pm

Marks: 10% of total grades (1% for each of 10). You must do the task (it is a full point to do it and zero to not) and is not graded.

Lates: If you miss one of the weeks (or more), you have the following option. You must e-mail me the answer but it then will be 3 pages doubled-spaced minimum for each answer. The final due date for these is July 28th at 11.59pm. After this, there is no way to make-up these grades.

COURSE PROCEDURES

1/ **E-Mail:** You may e-mail me at rjonasso@uwo.ca anytime. I will check e-mail several times a day Monday to Saturday (not including any holidays) – from 10am to 10pm. I will endeavour to answer your e-mails within several hours during the above period (from 10pm to 10am, you may e-mail, but I will take longer to respond). There may be some exceptions to the above, but I will try to stick to this schedule. Please always be courteous.

2/ **Questions:** Ask questions intelligently. Do not ask questions for the sake of asking them (i.e. to show ‘interest’, to ‘stick out’ etc.). Please ask specific questions about the topics; questions like ‘can you explain this topic to me?’ are too broad. I cannot tutor each student obviously. Questions about course material can usually be answered in this course outline or on other documents. Of course, ask away! I’m especially glad to answer thoughtful questions.

3/ **Lecture Notes:** These are on OWL in Resources. They are replacing my lectures and are now the most detailed ever. They are crucial to what I want you to know. The textbook is excellent but use it to illuminate the material in the notes (you must read it though!). Material in the textbook not covered in the notes will not be tested (even if I still hope you will read it!). If the notes and text disagree, go with me. Professor Heywood is not teaching this course. I have placed all the notes together by topics (in order). How you go about learning them is up to you, but the outline is suggesting a certain weekly breakdown.

4/ **Pictures:** These are on OWL in Resources. These are thematically arranged with the topic areas. These are to help you with the information, do not worry about studying them.

5/ **Grading:** All grade values in the course outline are ‘set in stone’. There will be no re-weighting or bell-curve. No extra assignments will be given. No items will be omitted from the final grade.

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

- A+ 90-100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- A 80-89% Superior work which is clearly above average
- B 70-79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C 60-69% Competent work, meeting requirements
- D 50-59% Fair work, minimally acceptable
- F below 50% Fail

6/ **Appeals:** You may ask me to revisit your grades, but be aware that I mark carefully! YOU MUST PUT ALL CONCERNS IN WRITING. I will only change a grade if you prove to me that I am in error about certain pieces of factual information in your assignment, paper or exam. Please remember that I do not give grades according to your personality - try not to be personally offended by what you consider a poor grade (indeed, it is difficult to get to know students in an on-line course in any case). An appeal must go to me first. Your grade may

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go up, stay the same or go down (I would give then you an average of the old grade and the new grade). You may go down if I discover critical things I missed the first time.

NOTE: Do not assume your past (eg. past grades, experience level, age) is the key to your future performance. Profs assume everyone wishes high grades. Please do not indicate to the prof that you need or expect a certain grade in the course.

7/ **Due dates:** All due dates (eg. essays, assignments, tests, exams) in the course outline are 'set in stone', unless they are moved to a later date by the instructor. Under no condition will due dates be made *earlier* than the dates indicated in the course outline.

8/ **Extensions:** As indicated in the policy of the dept., there are some legitimate excuses which may allow students to get limited extensions for essays, tests and exams. **ALL EXCUSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE** (eg. doctor's note) which is shown/sent to **Academic Counselling**. Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. The Instructor must be notified by **Academic Counselling** within 2 weeks of the missed essay or test. The permission must be produced immediately in the case of the final exam. If an extension is warranted, the prof and the student will negotiate a time frame for submission. This time frame cannot be just what the student wants.

9/ **Problems with OWL/Internet:** If OWL is officially down for all students generally for a period of more than 12 hours on the day something is due, I will permit an extension to all students – generally, the next day. However, short problems cannot justify this, even to the deadline itself. My advice is do not wait to submit work to 11.59pm on due days! *Personal computer/internet/OWL issues are not valid grounds for an excuse.*

10/ **Returning graded items:** The assignment and the essay (paper copies) will be returned at the final exam. I will post grades on OWL before this. If you are writing elsewhere, please e-mail me if you want the comments on your work.

Other items:

11/ If you are a student with a serious concern, whether valid or not, and you are unable to keep up with the course for a long period of time, the prof strongly advises that you drop the course. Students who get too far behind generally do not finish in any case or receive an uncharacteristically low grade. Sometimes unfortunate events occur in our lives; try to persevere, but if you cannot, it is no shame to reduce your course load in certain situations.

12/ Please do not ask the instructor for final grades (or final exam grades). These must be released by the Registrar's Office first.

13/ I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers' college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 2 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 80% or better (as an average in the courses). If students took 1020E with me, they may or may not factor the grade in this class into their average, but they will need 2 more classes (half or full).** However, good character is an important

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consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (eg. those who ask for higher grades without merit) or those with 'entitlement' attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks notice for any deadlines and always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a 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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html 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.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

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/academic_policies/index.html

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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.