

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

Type: Distance Studies (Essay) May 8 to July 28/23 (exams July 28 to Aug. 3)

Place: Online/Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson

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

Office Hours: no in person; Zoom office hours by email appointment (within limits)

Required Reading: (hopefully available at U.W.O. bookstore)

1/ Andrew Heywood. Politics. 5th Edition. (MacMillan, U.K.: 2019.)

NOTE: You may use used copies. Please try to order a physical or e-copy of the text.

- 1020e 650
 - [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=B2023&courses%5B0%5D=650 UW/POL1020E](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=B2023&courses%5B0%5D=650%20UW/POL1020E)

Delivery: The course is asynchronous, which means no formal class times (i.e. no in person or Zoom classes). Materials will be posted to OWL that you will need. There are still strict due dates on certain items, but the point is to learn the material at the rate that suits you. The weekly breakdown of topics, lectures and readings below is only suggested – you may wish to go faster or slower through the materials. Please note that asynchronous learning may not be ideal for everyone. Please respect the fact that 650 Distance level online courses are meant to offer maximum flexibility for learning, especially for those in different parts of the world or who have jobs etc. during certain hours of the day.

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

Objectives: (1) 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. As well, 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 (5th ed.) are given below. **In OWL Resources – Lectures, there are corresponding lecture topics which you should watch. However, as**

stated above, there are suggested weekly breakdowns – it is up to you how you learn the material.

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 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.3,5,6)

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

Basic Concepts: Law, Constitutionalism, Democracy (Chs.4,13)

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)

Friday, June 2 – **Assignment due**

Week 5: June 5-9

Ideology: Conservatism; Fascism (Ch.2)

Ideology: Socialism, Marxism (Ch.2)

Week 6: June 12-16

International Relations: War and Terrorism, Globalization and Human Rights (Chs.6, 18)

Forms of Gov't: Liberal Democracy, Types (Ch.5)

Week 7: June 19-23

Forms of Gov't: Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism (Ch.5)
Forms of Gov't: Parliamentary and Presidential Systems (Chs.14,15)

Week 8: June 26-30 (July 1 – holiday)

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

Week 9: July 3-7

The Political Process: Political Culture; The Media (Ch.9)

Friday, July 7 – **Essay due**

Week 10: July 10-14

The Political Process: Interest Groups; Political Parties (Chs.11,12)

Week 11: July 17-21

The Political Process: Elections and Electoral Systems (Ch.10)

Week 12: July 24-28

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

Final Exam: during exam period (TBA)
- essay format: *online, take home, open book 24 hours*

Grade Breakdown:

Final Exam: 30% (TBA)

Essay: 50% (8-10 pages, double-spaced; due Friday, July 7/23 online submission by 11.59pm)

Assignment: 15% (3-5 pages, double-spaced; due Friday, June 2/23 online submission by 11.59pm)

On-line forum questions and responses: 5% in total (1% for each of 5)

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

Late Penalty for Essay: 2% per working day (not including weekends); after 2 weeks late (including weekends), the paper gets a zero; late penalty goes by e-file submission time; computer breakdown is not an excuse; you must keep a backup copy of your paper (e-file); essays will be put into Turnitin

POL.SCI. 1020E ESSAY

Length: 8-10 pages double-spaced minimum

Due date: Friday, July 7/23 11.59pm – to be put into OWL – Assignments – Essay (do not wait until the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline)

Files: the e-files must be in Word or PDF format and must have your last name as the start of the file name

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

Bibliography: You must include a bibliography.

Citations and other items: See Essay Guidelines 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/ In the J.S. Mill work On Liberty, one of the strongest arguments for free speech is given.
- 3/ The Russian Federation is an example of an authoritarian regime.
- 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/ Nigeria should change its electoral system at the federal level to another system.
- 7/ Marxist-Leninism was a radical departure from the ideas of Karl Marx.
- 8/ Recent Canadian Prime Ministers, of both major parties, have tended to be authoritarian in relation to their party members in the House of Commons.

NOTE: You must do one of the above.

IMPORTANT: SEE ESSAY GUIDELINES DOCUMENT ON OWL FOR MORE INFO

1020E ASSIGNMENT

Length: 3-5 pages double-spaced minimum

Due date: Friday, June 2/32 11.59pm– to be put into OWL – Assignments – personal ideology (do not wait to the last minute – lates will be strictly enforced; if you submit the wrong file, you must e-mail me the correct one before the deadline)

Lost Assignments: It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper (e-file)

Bibliography: not needed

Citations: not needed

You are simply to outline your political ideology – how you see the political world in terms of its actual operation and ideally, what the best possible world would be. *You must identify your ideology in terms of one of the existing ones (see course notes for this).* If you do not have a firm ideology yet, you can make this known – but this exercise is for you to start to develop this. Make sure your ideas are logically consistent.

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

2/ However, write in complete sentences and paragraphs.

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

4/ This assignment is pass/fail: if you do the above properly, you will get 15/15. If it is not done correctly, you will get 0/15. **I will not return these assignments but I will let you know if there are any serious concerns.** I will post the grades to OWL by early June. If it is late, it gets 8/15 (if done properly). The final date for late submission is July 28/23 by 11.59pm

1020E ON-LINE FORUM QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On **OWL – Forums** – you will be answering 5 questions in over the 12 weeks which you will access by going to OWL- Forums.

The questions will be straightforward and short and are given in OWL-Resources – Forum Questions. You must then post an answer in Forums close to 1 double-spaced (0.5 single-spaced) page long (you may go over this, but try to keep it near the page requirement). These are opinion questions, so no formal research is required. *It is your post, not a response to another post that counts.* If I cannot see your post, it is not valid. Make sure you have posted it correctly.

DO NOT COMMENT ON THE OTHER STUDENT POSTS OR POST LINKS OR CUT AND PASTE OTHER WRITINGS

The questions are based on 5 videos posted in OWL-Resources-Forum Post Videos which you must watch.

Due date: The end of the of the course, July 28/23 by 11.59pm for all 5. **Do not wait until the last minute – even one minute late means I will delete your answer. No answers will be accepted past this time, unless you have the approval of Academic Counselling. You may do all 5 at any time in the course, but a suggestion would be 1 answer done every 2 weeks.**

Marks: 5% of total grades (1% for each of 5). You must do the task (it is a full point to do it and zero to not) and is not formally graded. I will let you know if your answer is inadequate but because these are your opinions, I will not agree or disagree with them.

Regrets: If a topic is very sensitive to you and you do not want to have others see your posts, you may e-mail the replies to me by the due date. But I hope you have the courage.to do the forum posts most, if not all, times.

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 6pm. I will endeavour to answer your e-mails within several hours during the above period (from 6pm 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/ **Course Notes:** These are on OWL in Resources. They 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/ **Lecture files:** These audio/visual files will be posted in OWL –Resources and are like my usual in class lectures (mainly spontaneous, unscripted) and are relatively long. How you go about learning them is up to you, but the outline is suggesting a certain weekly topic breakdown. They help explain the course notes.

5/ **Shorter lecture files:** These short audio files, also posted in OWL-Resources, are read from scripts and may help you as well but are not as detailed as the lecture files.

6/ **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

7/ **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 go up, stay the same or go down (I would give then you an average of the old grade and the new grade). Your grade 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.

8/ 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.

9/ 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. **I must have the clear approval of Academic Counselling for any extension which requires this office.** 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.

10/ 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.*

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/ NOTE: the following updated policy has been in effect for all reference requests since August 1, 2021 for past or current students

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 3 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 85% 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 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.**

