

**University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science
Introduction to Politics
Political Science 1020E 650
Summer 2013 Online**

Instructor: Dr. Pauline Beange

Email: pbeange@uwo.ca

Course website: OWL

Online discussion forum: I will be online daily, Monday-Friday. I will respond to individual questions within 48 hours of an email. Students are expected to post in the discussion forum at least weekly (Details/expectations will be posted online).

Technology: OWL is the 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/>.

Course Description:

Politics and policy impact us all, whether or not we pay attention to politics and elections.

Politics has been defined in various ways from those definitions which focus on conflict to those which focus on how individuals organize to achieve collective goals like peace, order and good government, the foundational ideas of Canada's constitution.

This course is intended to introduce you to some of the more important ideas, practices and ways to think about politics. We will use some current news to inform our discussion and to apply our readings but our main goals will be to understand and analyze political phenomena, to learn to critique readings and ideas and to become more reflective citizens.

Prerequisite(s):

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.

As an online course:

This may be your first online course. Don't worry! I will be coaching you through the processes and new learning techniques.

You, other students and I, as the instructor, will be interacting differently than if we were in a classroom together. **In particular, success in online courses depends on:** 1) my online presence and tutoring/teaching; 2) you, as students, engaging online and learning through written or textual material rather than in-person interaction; 3) you, as students, pushing through times

when you don't feel motivated. **If you engage online, there is a much higher probability that you will complete the course and do so successfully. Research has demonstrated that students who do not engage online are more likely to withdraw or fail online courses.**

You are likely to receive more feedback in this course than in a classic large-scale introduction class.

Course objectives:

This course is designed to assist you in developing and demonstrating the following skills:

1. Cultivating a measured yet thoroughgoing approach to political analysis
2. Learning and demonstrating university-level writing and citation skills
3. Reading, understanding, analyzing and critiquing texts

Course Assessment:

Discussion Board Participation **20%**

The participation grade will not be arbitrary. A rubric (guideline) will be posted in the first week so that you will know what is needed to get a good participation grade.

Short Paper (3-4 pages (750-1000 words) (due Mon. May 27) **10%**

Midterm (Saturday June 15/format to be announced) **15%**

Essay (6-8 pages, 1500-2000 words) (due Wed. July 10) **25%**

Final Exam (University exam period July 29-Aug1) **30%**

Required textbooks: Texts are available at the UWO bookstore.

Politics, Power and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science (third edition), Eric Mintz, David Close and Osvaldo Croci. (You may not substitute earlier editions.)

Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing (fifth edition), Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese. (You may not substitute earlier editions).

Additional required readings will be posted on OWL or will be available online.

Websites and Media:

Students are encouraged to keep abreast of political developments. To do so, read a newspaper (*The Globe and Mail*, *National Post* and *The Economist* are recommended), watch the news on television, and peruse the internet.

Research Help: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/politicalsciencecanada/> Go to "Chat with a librarian"

Political Science research guide: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/politicalsciencecanada/>

Readings and Assignments : In addition to the following, there will be short readings which will be posted online or available online.

Week 1: May 6

Online learning: First steps to forming an online learning network.

Mintz: Chapter 1 & 2 Politics, State and Nation

Northey: Pages 1-12.

Week 2: May 13

Mintz: Chapter 3 & 11 Big Ideas: Freedom, Democracy and Non-Democratic Systems

Northey: 128-144 Particularly note paragraph guidelines pp 132-134

Online learning: Groups of two or three students to critique, reflect

Week 3 May 20

Mintz: Chapter 4 & 103-114 The “-isms”

Northey 145-150; 191-204 Use Northey to develop your short paper and to use appropriate citation of your references; use (author, year, page) style. Example: P. 192 (Smyth, 1999: 121-3)

Week 4 May 27 MONDAY *Short paper due*

Mintz: Chapter 7 Political Parties: Does Democracy Need Them?

Northey 165-172

Week 5 June 3

Mintz: Chapter 8 Electoral Systems

Northey 172-176

Week 6 June 10

Reading: to be posted

Northey 178-182 Writing exam essay answers

Saturday June 15: MIDTERM

Week 7 June 17

Mintz: Chapters 9 & 10 Influence and Protest

Northey 213-226 Making sure your writing doesn't obscure your ideas 220-221 N.B.
It/this; parallel phrasing 225-226

Week 8 June 24

Mintz: Chapter 12 & 309-323 Constitutional Government & the Judicial Branch

Northey 227-240

Week 9 July 1 Essay due?

Mintz: Chapter 14 & 15 Parliamentary versus Presidential Systems

Week 10 July 8

Mintz: Chapter 16 Administration and Enforcement of Legislation

July 10: 6-8 PAGE ESSAY DUE

Week 11 July 15

Mintz: Chapter 17 & 18 Foreign Affairs and Supra-National Governments

Northey Writing Exam essay answers Pp. 178-186

Week 12 July 22 Conclusion

Readings to be posted on Blackboard

Final Exam: During the university's exam period

Late Paper Penalty

Students who anticipate being unable to meet the due date **are expected to consult with the instructor in advance of the paper due date.** Only late papers accompanied by a medical certificate, **demonstrating an extended illness in advance of the due date,** are exempt from this penalty. **No paper will be accepted after 5 calendar days. Papers MUST be submitted to turnitin.com on the day the paper is due.** Late papers will be subject to a **penalty of 3 points out of 100 for each partial or full day that they are late.** Students are advised to keep a copy of their paper, and not to destroy it until they receive their final mark for the course.

Documentation for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation **must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor.** It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which may be defined as "The act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own." Excerpted from Black's Law Dictionary,

West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170. This concept applies with equal force to all assignments, including laboratory reports, diagrams, and computer projects. Students wishing more detailed information should consult their instructor, Department Chair, or Dean's Office. In addition, they may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available in the University's libraries.

Information about these resources can be found at <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism> and www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html

To avoid plagiarism:

1) place all exact quotations (word for word quotations, or quotations that are word for word except for your use of ellipses) in quotation marks and give the full citation (author, publication title, publisher, date, page);

(2) give the appropriate citation for all paraphrases of another's thoughts. You are paraphrasing when you put in your own words someone else's ideas. When you borrow extensively someone else's ideas and string them together in a slightly different way -- for example, substituting a word here and there of your own-- you are plagiarizing unless you acknowledge the source. Do try always to express ideas in your own words.

Submitting a paper written, in whole or in part, by someone else is also plagiarising. So is copying verbatim from an internet source. Students should be aware that there are now highly sophisticated software programs that instructors use when they suspect essays are plagiarized.

Any instance of discovered plagiarism-intended or unintended- is referred to the Associate Dean who then determines the severity of the punishment (with penalties including a grade of zero or suspension from the University).

Papers for this course must be submitted to turnitin.com on the due date specified. All papers are therefore 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>).

Accessibility and Support Services

Western University is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons with disabilities studying, visiting and working at Western. As part of this commitment, there are a variety of services, groups and committees on campus devoted to promoting accessibility and to ensuring that individuals have equitable access to services and facilities. Students may request academic or other accommodations at: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html?requesting_acc

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.

Non-medical and medical accommodation

See Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

If computer-marked multiple-choice tests/exams are used in this course:

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.

University Grading Guideline

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/grades_undergrad.pdf

- 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

**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.

Mental Health at Western: If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.