

### POLI 201 (L01) Introduction to Government and Politics

Pre/Co-Requisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Saira Bano

Lecture Location: ST 127

Phone: (403) 220-3869

Lecture Days/Time: TR 09:00 - 11:45am

Email: [sban@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sban@ucalgary.ca)

Office: SS721

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-1:00pm

Instructor Email Policy: The best way to communicate is through email. Please note that an explanation of concepts covered in the course cannot be answered on email. Therefore, restrict the use of email to make appointments with the instructor.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to basic concepts in the study of government and politics, and to the discipline of political science. It examines the processes and practices that shape political life, the institutional contexts and social framework of political activity, and the role of ideas, institutions and values in influencing political behavior. It touches on major areas of political ideologies, institutions, and current domestic and international political issues. The course explores the relationship between power and politics, provides a broad overview of the scope, methods and concerns of political studies, and examines the institutional contexts within which politics is produced.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand different types of political systems, different levels of political organization, and the power of ideology;
- Have a broad understanding of the institutions, interests, and ideas central to politics;
- Identify and delineate between political systems generally (parliamentary vs. presidential, federal vs. unitary, etc.) as well as major policy streams;
- Be more skilled in researching scholarly information and identifying broad themes;
- Have an enhanced ability to critically consider academic arguments and assess their value.

**Note:** Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all classes. The reading assignments from the textbook, cited in the reading list, are to be completed for each class. It is expected that students will follow the coverage of news stories that are related to the various topic areas. Most class sessions will be lecture-based. Lectures will complement the readings, not provide a substitute for doing them.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)**

George A. Maclean; Duncan R. Wood; Lori Turnbull, *Politics: An Introduction*, 3rd edition, (Oxford: OUP, 2020).

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Research Essay	20%	June 1
Midterm Exam	40%	May 23
Final Exam	40%	Scheduled by Registrar (June 19-21)
Total	100%	

*If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.*

**COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS**

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 May 4	Introduction and Political Concepts	<i>Politics: An Introduction</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2 May 9 & 11	Political Philosophy and Government	<i>Politics: An Introduction</i> , Chapters 3, 4 & 5
Week 3 May 16 & 18	Political Systems, Participation	<i>Politics: An Introduction</i> , Chapters 6 & 7
Week 4 May 23 & 25	Political Socialization <b>Midterm Exam (May 23)</b>	<i>Politics: An Introduction</i> , Chapter 8
Week 5 May 30 & June 1	Politics in Developed and Developing countries <b>Research Essay Due (June 1)</b>	<i>Politics: An Introduction</i> , Chapters 9 & 10
Week 6 June 6 & 8	International Politics and Security	<i>Politics: An Introduction</i> , Chapters 11 & 12
Week 7 June 13 & 15	International political economy	<i>Politics: An Introduction</i> , Chapter 13

*Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.*

**RESEARCH ESSAY (20%)**

The research essay assignment is an analytical exercise intended to strengthen the capacity of students to develop and support focused arguments on key issues. They are not a test of everything a student knows on a given subject; nor are they simply an exercise in opinion journalism. Your paper must convey your analytical and scholarly skills expected of university students.

Choose ONE of the following research questions:

- Should voting be mandatory?
- Should Canada abandon first-past-the-post voting in favour of proportional representation?
- How important is democracy to political stability in developing states?
- Are there real challenges to American hegemony?

## POLI 201(01)

- Should the nation-state continue to be the fundamental political unit?
- Should democracy be promoted in other countries?
- Can the United Nations reconcile both respect for international human rights and for state sovereignty?

The research essay should be 1300-1500 words long (excluding references and bibliography, size 12 times new roman, 1.5 spaced). All papers must utilize citation rules. Papers with no citation will get an F. This is what we call plagiarism. Any citation style is acceptable. Papers will be submitted electronically via D2L Dropbox. Papers may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Papers must be submitted by 11:59pm on June 1<sup>st</sup>. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

### Grading Criteria for the Paper

**A: Excellent**—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

- Clear and insightful main thesis.
- Consistent and logical argumentation
- Well thought out structure and paragraphs.
- Examples and sources used to buttress main points.
- Counter-arguments addressed.
- Excellent spelling, grammar and punctuation.

**B: Good**—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.

- Promising but unclear thesis.
- Generally strong but somewhat wandering and unclear structure.
- Not all evidence is appropriate or well thought out.
- Counter-arguments not properly addressed.
- Occasional lapses in grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**C: Satisfactory**—basic understanding of the subject matter.

- Unclear or unoriginal thesis.
- Wandering and unclear structure.
- Many points are not fully substantiated by evidence.
- Logic may fail or be unclear.
- Problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**D: Minimal pass**—marginal performance; insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.

- No clear thesis or no thesis of any interest/substance.
- Weak or missing use of substantiating evidence.
- No clear structure or logic.
- Serious problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**F: Fail**—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

- Lack of comprehension of the topic.
- No identifiable thesis.
- Severe problems with grammar, spelling and punctuation.

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION (40%)**

The mid-term exams will be done in class on Tuesday, May 23rd. The exam will comprise mostly multiple-choice questions and short answers. These will be closed book exams with no external aids available (e.g., no notes, textbook etc.).

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

*Provide the following detailed information*

Final Exam	Y
Format	Registrar scheduled exam
Modality	Registrar scheduled exam in-person
Type	It will include multiple-choice & short answers, and will be cumulative for the whole course.
Duration	120 minutes
Aids	The Final Exam will be closed book exam with no external aids available (e.g., no notes, textbook etc.).

**WRITING STATEMENT**

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

**GRADING SCALE:** The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

**LATE PENALTIES**

Late papers, those without an extension granted by the instructor, will be docked 5 % per day (including weekends). Papers, which are more than 7 days late, will not be marked and shall receive zero mark.

**INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Absence From a Mid-term Examination**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: [https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22\\_deferral-of-term-work\\_lapseGrade.pdf](https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre ([ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)) for approval by the Associate Dean.

### **Deferral of a Final Examination**

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### **Reappraisal of Grades:**

*For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

*For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

### **Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously

and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

**Recording of Lectures:**

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

**Academic Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

**Research Ethics**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

**Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:**

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

**Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Evacuation Assembly Points**

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

### **Important Dates:**

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

### **Important Contact Information**

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

### **Campus Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

POLI 201(01)

*SU Wellness Centre:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

*Student Wellness Services:*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

*Campus Mental Health Strategy website:* <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.