

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

Political Studies 1010
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL STUDIES:
Ideas and Forms of Government
University Transfer (3 credits)
Fall 2007

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD
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Office hours: TBA and by appointment

Room: E306A
Time: Mon./Wed. 2:30-3:50 p.m.

College Calendar course description:

This course is an introduction to key political concepts such as power, authority, order, equality, freedom and justice. These concepts are examined as they are used by different ideologies including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, anarchism, feminism, postmodernism, and religious fundamentalism.

Political ideas and practices are also examined in the context of democratic, authoritarian and totalitarian forms of government. The role of the news media under different kinds of regime may also be considered.

Course objectives:

This course, along with Political Studies 1020, is designed to introduce you to the political world and the academic study of it. PO1010 is intended to:

1. encourage you to think about the rights and obligations of citizens, the roles of law and government, the requirements of democracy, and the nature of different forms of government; and
2. provide you with a basic knowledge of key political ideas and concepts, and the main political ideologies;
3. also encourage you to appreciate the value of thinking clearly and systematically about the political world around us; and
4. prepare you for further studies in politics at the postsecondary level.

Course requirements:

First test.....	10%
Midterm exam.....	25%
Term paper	30%
Final exam	35%

You are expected to reference sources fully and properly for your term paper. An instructor's handout will provide assistance. See College Calendar, pp. 44-45, for information on the range of penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

The date of the final exam will be scheduled by the College. You are required to write the exam on that date. Take this into account when making any December travel plans.

Students who miss an excessive number of classes may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar on p. 40.

For information on key dates and other important matters, see the Calendar as well.

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Conversion table:

A+ 90-100	B+ 76-79	C+ 67-69	D+ 55-59
A 85- 89	B 73-75	C 64-66	D 50-54
A- 80- 84	B- 70-72	C- 60-63	F 0-49

Required texts:

1. Mark Dickerson & Thomas Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics: A Conceptual Approach, 7th edition. Toronto: Nelson, 2006.
2. Course Package readings.
3. Course Blackboard postings.
4. Internet and database readings.

Note: You may use the 6th edition of Dickerson and Flanagan, but you will have to follow different pagination, and may need to obtain and read some material added to the 7th edition.

Please also note: Details of this course outline are subject to change. Any changes will be discussed in class.

Topics

I. Introduction.

- A. What is politics? Politics and law. Politics and morality. Political resources and methods.
- B. What is Political Science? Related employment opportunities.

II. The basis for political rule.

- A. Legitimacy and authority.
- B. Law, rule of law and constitutionalism. Obligation to obey the law.

III. Democratic and other forms of Government

- A. Classifications of government.
- B. Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism.

C. Democracy. Liberal Democracy. Direct Democracy.

D. Transitions to Democracy. Prerequisites of democracy. Exporting democracy.

IV. Political Ideologies

A. Political Ideologies. Components. Key concepts such as order, equality, freedom and justice.

B. Liberalism. Classical liberalism. Capitalism. Reform liberalism.

C. Conservatism and neo-conservatism.

D. Populism.

E. Socialism and Communism.

F. Anarchism.

G. Feminism.

H. Postmodernism.