



POLI-100 – Introduction to Politics and Government

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2023

Course Outline Review Date: 2028-04-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course assists students gain a foundational understanding of political science's key concepts and practicalities. Among those considered are the fundamental nature of politics; power in all its guises; government systems; political beliefs, attitudes, and values; and various ideologies. From these bases, consideration is then given to constitution(s), executive(s), bureaucracy(ies), party(ies), interest group(s), election(s), and international relations. From their study and by working up case studies, students should become better informed politically and able to proceed to other political science courses.

Program Information:

This course is can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face)

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45

Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

None

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Studying Politics, An Introduction to Political Science. Fifth Edition Christopher G. Anderson and Rand Dyck, eds. Toronto: Nelson Education 2016.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator

<https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to

- identify and explain the significance of key terms, core concepts, and practical fundamentals of political science;
 - formulate a critical analysis of the forces/processes leading to political developments and government actions in Canada and other countries;
 - locate the significance of political forces and government processes by application to current day context;
 - critique the themes and nature of political science; and
 - construct an academic argument by assessing research sources to build a multifaceted understanding of a chosen political science term.
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Course Topics:

- Politics
- Political Science
- Power
- State
- Forms of Government
- Political Culture
- Political Socialization
- Political Ideologies
- Constitutions
- Executive
- Legislatures
- Public Administration and Bureaucracy
- Political Parties
- Political Interest Groups
- Elections
- Voting Systems
- International Relations

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities, and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face)

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Class Participation	5%
Quizzes	5%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%
'Case Studies of the Day' Presentations/Discussions	25%
Research Findings Essay	35%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Evaluation Notes: A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and use of electronic aids.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational,

employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.