Outline of Course Content

What is politics and what is political science? Political science deals with political activity and behaviour, which can be found in a vast array of areas and contexts. The first that comes to mind are systems of government—in Canada, and across the globe. But politics also appears in, for example, such everyday manifestations as consumer choices that you make about food to eat or what products to buy; and modes of communication that you use. Politics can be conceptualized, experienced, and engaged in from many different angles, depending on the settings and actors involved. The aim of POLI 103 is to introduce students to some basic ideas and methods that are used in political science to explore, and develop arguments about the political dimensions of our world. This course engages the discipline of political science through case studies and academic material organized into four units: an introduction to political science and its research methods; political theory; comparative politics; and international relations.

In POLI 103 we offer an introduction into the question, ‘what is politics?’ Specifically, how do we understand politics through diverse lenses offered by the discipline of political science, together with crucial issues playing out in the world today? We will begin the course by exploring the tools, assumptions, and definitions used in political science research. We then reflect on the significance of political theory, including key political ideas like state sovereignty that might claim to have a universal validity, transcending place and time. Here, though, a crucial part of the analysis is asking whether those ideas do in fact hold true, everywhere, or are there fundamentally different ways of
envisioning politics? This leads us to the aspect of comparison, whereby we can examine how politics works on the ground within different countries and other political settings. The aim here is to identify, compare, and evaluate varying ways that government works in practice, within different countries and political systems. Not least, we will explore politics and government from the standpoint of international relations. As a representative question, is it the case, as some have maintained, that democratic states tend to behave differently than non-democratic states within the global arena? Then, too, what have been some of the impacts of globalization, i.e., the forging of direct linkages among people around the world, across increasingly blurred boundaries?

Learning outcomes:
• Understanding basic concepts and units of study in the discipline of Political Science;
• Ability to apply political ideas, institutions, and outcomes within different settings;
• Critical thinking: the ability to analyze, synthesize, interpret, and evaluate ideas, information, situations, and texts;
• Developing and practicing academic writing skills;
• Developing and practicing research skills related to the discipline of Political Science.

Instructors

POLI 103 is a co-taught course. Its two professors are award-winning professors in the Department of Political Science and have been teaching for many years:
Dr. Andrew Wender teaches courses in political theory, especially comparative political thought, and has an expertise in overlaps and intersections between politics and religion, particularly within the Middle East.
Dr. Valerie D’Erman teaches courses in comparative politics, European integration and European politics, political economy.
Teaching Assistants (TAs) for this course are: Husnain Iqbal, Namitha George, Jesse Gordon, Craig Muncaster and Zoe Verlaan. The TAs will be leading the tutorials (starting week four, for eight weeks in a row, with the exception of the week of reading break). They are graduate students in the Department who are working towards their Master’s or their PhD degrees.

Readings:

Course Text: The following text is required and is available for purchase at the UVic Bookstore:
Eric Mintz, David Close, Osvaldo Croci, Politics, Power, and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science, 5th edition (Don Mills, ON: Pearson Canada Inc., 2019). New and used copies of the required textbook will be available at the UVic Bookstore. If you elect to buy a used copy, you must also be sure to go to the website (http://www.mypearsonstore.ca/bookstore/revel-bonus-
chapter-for-politics-power-and-the-common-9780134889030?xid=PSED) to purchase the additional, online-available Chapter 19, which is required for the course.

Current political affairs: We ask that students spend a minimum of ten minutes daily following current political affairs. In this course we will be addressing a number of current events, and students will benefit from seeking out additional reading on these matters. Please also note that Assignment #1 (News journal) will be based on your following of current affairs.

Further required readings/multimedia: All additional required readings (as well as access information for other forms of media) will be placed on the POLI 103 CourseSpaces site.
Methods of Evaluation

Your performance in POLI 103 will be evaluated and weighted in the following fashion:

- **Tutorial attendance and participation** 10%
- **Assignment #1 (News journal), due Friday, Sept. 21:** 5%
- **Midterm exam, to be held in class on Tuesday, Oct. 16:** 20%
- **Assignment #2 (Short analytical paper), due Friday, Nov. 2:** 15%
- **Assignment #3 (Applying theory), due Friday, Nov. 30:** 15%
- **Final Exam, to be held during the December exam period:** 35%

Note: All assignments must be completed for a student to be permitted to write the final exam. Failure to complete all assignments and attend at least 65% of the tutorials will result in a grade of “N” for the course. If you are unable to meet these conditions you need to obtain permission based on documentation and written approval.

**Tutorial Sections - students must be enrolled and regularly attend one of these tutorials:**

- T01: Tuesday 2:30-3:20pm  MAC D107 (CRN 12686) Name of TA, TBA
- T02: Tuesday 3:30-4:20pm  FIA 209 (CRN 12687) Name of TA, TBA
- T03: Wed., 8:30-9:20am  HHB 120 (CRN 12688) Name of TA, TBA
- T04: Wed., 1:30-2:20pm  DSB C124 (CRN 12689) Name of TA, TBA
- T05: Wed., 2:30-3:20pm  DSB C124 (CRN 12690) Name of TA, TBA
- T06: Wed., 3:30-4:20pm  DSB C114 (CRN 12691) Name of TA, TBA
- T07: Thursday 2:30-3:20pm  MAC D107 (CRN 12692) Name of TA, TBA
- T09: Friday 12:30-1:20pm  CLE B315 (CRN 12694) Name of TA, TBA
- T10: Friday 1:30-2:20pm  HHB 120 (CRN 12695) Name of TA, TBA

**UVic Undergraduate Percentage Grading System:**

The instructors of this course employ the UVic Percentage Grading Scale, which is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passing Grades</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90–100</td>
<td>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>85–89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>80–84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>77–79</td>
<td>Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73–76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70–72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65–69</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60–64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Failing Grades</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0–49</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0–49</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The percentage grading scale applies to all Faculties at the University of Victoria.
2. The percentage grades should be associated with a letter grading schema.
3. A percentage grade for an N grade should be assigned in the following manner:

N grade percentage range 0-49: In cases where a student who has not completed the exam or has not completed the course requirements but has submitted course requirements that total more than 49% of the total grade for a course, an instructor will assign a percentage grade of 49%.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity (adapted from Learning and Teaching Centre material): Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individually or as a member of a group. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution - Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student - Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor and/or your teaching assistant. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student’s transcript, or a suspension. It is your responsibility to understand the University’s policy on academic integrity, which can be found on pages 44-47 of the undergraduate calendar, through the following website: [https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/pdfs/undergraduate-201805_Part4.pdf](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/pdfs/undergraduate-201805_Part4.pdf) Any problems regarding the academic integrity of a submitted essay or quiz will be referred directly to the Chair of Political Science and University policy will be followed.

Comments About Specific Assignments:

**Written Assignments:** There are three short written assignments for this course. Each assignment will be discussed in detail in class and in tutorial sections. **Criteria and guidelines for each assignment will be posted on CourseSpaces. Please read through all assignments carefully.**

If you still have any questions, you should feel free to discuss them with the TAs or the instructors. Note that assignments will not be accepted without penalty after the stated due date. The only exceptions (at the discretion of the instructors) will be for documented medical (physical or psychological) reasons or documented family emergencies. Late assignments are penalized 5% per day.

NB: All written assignments are due in hard copy, in class (DSB C103), on the indicated due dates. Assignments delivered to either one of the instructors’ drop boxes, outside of the Political Science Department Office (DTB A316), will be accepted without late penalties only if they are submitted no later than 3:30 pm on the due date. Please do not attempt to submit assignments by any other means.

While no assignments are to be submitted electronically (e.g., through e-mail or by CourseSpaces), you must ensure that you retain an electronic copy of each assignment that you complete for POLI 103, in order to make it available should that be requested by one of the instructors.

Please ensure that each assignment includes your tutorial section and TA’s name on the front; failure to do so will result in a 5% penalty.

**Exams:** The midterm exam takes place on Tuesday, Oct.16, and will cover material from the first six weeks of the course. The final exam will include short as well as longer (essay) questions, and will be comprehensive, covering material from throughout the entirety of the course. It will be scheduled by the University Registrar to occur between December 8-22, 2018. The undergraduate calendar states (p. 49): “Students should wait until the final examination timetable is posted before making travel or work plans.” It will not be permissible to write the final exam earlier than when it is scheduled.

**Tutorials:** Tutorials start during the fourth week of classes and run through week 13 (no tutorials during the week of reading break, i.e., Nov. 12-16, or in the last week of class, i.e., Dec. 3-7). Tutorials are designed to enhance your understanding of the course materials. **You must register in a tutorial; failure to register in a tutorial or to attend fewer than 65% of the tutorial classes (without written permission) will result in a final grade of ‘N’ for the course.** Tutorials discuss themes introduced in the lectures. On occasion students should do additional short readings (e.g., one page) before coming to tutorials, which will be made available on CourseSpaces at least one week ahead of time.

Contributions to discussions in tutorials will be judged primarily on the basis of their insightfulness and critical attention to the course curriculum, rather than their frequency. Please do not monopolize discussion time. Key criteria employed to evaluate contributions to discussions are the extent to which they help to advance other students’ understanding of the material being studied, and whether the contributions are intellectually fruitful, congenial, and committed to a spirit of open, friendly, and
respective inquiry. Attendance in tutorials is required and both attendance and quality of participation count towards the final grade.

**CourseSpaces:** is an open source online e-learning platform. It will be used in POLI 103 for announcements and to post additional readings accompanying course lectures. You can also use CourseSpaces to access the course outline and information about how to contact the course coordinator, lecture professors, and teaching assistants: [https://coursespaces.uvic.ca](https://coursespaces.uvic.ca)

**POLI 103 Schedule** (Subject to adjustment)

**Unit I: Introduction to Political Science and Its Research Methods**

**Week 1**  **September 5 & 7** (Sept. 5 introducing both instructors; Sept. 7 with Dr. Wender)

Welcome to POLI 103: what is Political Science? What is politics? How does politics manifest in everyday life? What are some of the enduring themes in the study of Political Science? Why is it important to think about the relationship between politics and language?

- **Readings:**
  - Textbook (Mintz, Close & Croci) Chapter 1 (pp. 1-21).

**Week 2**  **September 11, 12 & 14** (Sept. 11 with Dr. Wender / Sept. 12 & 14 with Dr. D’Erman)

**Discussion of Assignment #1**

Sept 11: continuation of themes from Week 1.
Sept 12 & 14: Philosophy of Science; what is a ‘scientific approach’ to Political Science?

- **Readings:**

**Assignment #1 due on Fri., Sept. 21, in-class**

How do we evaluate sources? When and where can we find reliable data? What role does the news play in our political socialization? How can we objectively assess the news material that we consume?

- **Readings:**
Unit 2: Political Theory

Week 4  September 25, 26 & 28 with Dr. Wender

** Tutorials begin this week **

Introduction to enduring questions of political theory, through the case study: why does Thucydides’s history of the Peloponnesian War still matter to us, after some 2400 years?

- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 2 (pp. 22-48), Chapter 10 (pp. 229-252), and part of Chapter 18 (pp. 420-427 only).

Week 5  October 2, 3 & 5 with Dr. D’Erman

How are political theories applied in current forms of governance? What do we mean by nations and nationalism? How are theories of federalism relevant today?

- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 13 (pp. 300-326), and some re-examination of Chapter 2.

Week 6  October 9, 10 & 12 with Dr. Wender

Case study: comparing world revolutions as an entryway into political theory questions concerning the state, society, and ideology. How do religion and politics interact in different parts of the world?

- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 3 (pp. 49-74), Chapter 4 (pp. 75-96), & Chapter 9 (pp. 205-228).
Unit 3: Comparative Politics

**Week 7** October 16, 17 & 19
Oct.16: Midterm (covering Units 1 and 2); Oct.17: Introduction to Unit 3 with Dr. D’Erman; Oct.19: guest lecture (Dr. Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark on Indigenous Politics)

**Midterm Exam in-class on Tuesday, Oct.16**

Introduction to Comparative Politics and Indigenous Politics

- **Readings:**
  - Textbook, Chapter 5 (pp. 97-120) & Chapter 6 (pp. 121-146).
    https://www.cambridge-org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/core/journals/perspectives-on-politics/article/why-does-political-science-hate-american-indians/AC98DB3D5F1DCB606C9535E378E082A4/share/c5ef83d62249574dc293c625ce9003c08771a274

**Week 8** October 23, 24 & 26 with Dr. D’Erman

**Discussion of Assignment #2**

Comparative politics; what are institutions? What kinds of political institutions do we see regularly in different parts of the world? What influence do institutions have on political outcomes?

- **Readings:**
  - Textbook, Chapter 7 (pp. 147-175), Chapter 14 (pp. 327-350) & Chapter 11 (pp.253-275).

**Week 9** October 30, 31 & November 2 with Dr. Wender

**Assignment #2 due on Friday, Nov.2, in-class**

Populism as a phenomenon / comparative far-right parties / US politics

- **Readings:**
  - Textbook, Chapter 15 (pp. 351-370), Chapter 19 (pp. 449-483) & Chapter 8 (pp.176-204) – it’s recommended that you read chapters in this order.

NB: October 31 is the last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure.
Week 10 November 6, 7 & 9 with Dr. D’Erman; November 6 & 9 with Dr. D’Erman; November 7 guest lecture (Dr. Michael Prince, Studies in Policy and Practice and Dept. of Political Science) on Canadian federalism and intergovernmental relations.

Completing Unit 3: comparative public policies and their interactions between states; case study on comparative social policies

**Discussion of Assignment #3**

- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 16 (pp. 371-394) & Chapter 16 (pp.276-299). *It’s recommended that you read the assigned chapters in that order.*
  - CourseSpaces: (to discuss in class) OECD Social Expenditure database: http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm

Unit 4: International Relations

Week 11 November 16 ONLY with Dr. Wender
**No class Tues., Nov.13 and Wed., Nov.14 – Reading Break**

Case study: exploring global political questions, and theoretical perspectives on international relations, through the movie “The Fog of War” (Morris 2003). We will view select clips from the movie together in class on Nov. 16; view the entire movie either through UVic Media Desk (McPherson Library), or online (see Assignment #3 description on CourseSpaces).

- Readings:

Week 12 November 20, 21 & 23 with Dr. Wender

Viewing international politics through “The Fog of War”, cont’d. What role does/should intervention have on international affairs?

- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 17 (pp. 395-419) & Chapter 18 (pp. 420-447).
  - Please review pp.443-446 (Iraq case study)

Week 13 November 27, 28 & 30 with Dr. D’Erman
**Assignment #3 due on Friday, Nov.30, in-class**
International organizations and governance, international political economy. How do different forms of interdependence shape governance in different places? What is the role of international trade?

- **Readings:**

**Week 14 December 4 & 5; Dec.4 with Dr. D’Erman and Dr. Wender, Dec.5 guest lecture (Sonia Furstenau, Green Party MLA Cowichan Valley).**

**No tutorial sessions this week!**

- Dec.4 with both instructors: course evaluations, course conclusions, review for Final Exam.
  - Readings: Please review the “Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts for POLI 103”, which will be posted on CourseSpaces towards the end of the term.
- Dec.5 last class (guest lecture)

**Please Note the Following Policies and Practices**

**Instructor of record:** Dr. Wender is the instructor of record for the course but this is a co-taught course. The course content, schedule, assignments and grading of all course assignments have been set by both instructors. If you have any questions about the course, that cannot be answered by your TA, please approach either Dr. D’Erman or Dr. Wender, depending on what the question is. **In any email correspondence with the instructors, please type ‘POLI 103’ in the subject header.**

**Accommodation:** If arrangements need to be made regarding any type of accommodation please see either Dr. D’Erman or Dr. Wender at the beginning of term. The instructors (not the TAs) will sign any forms. Please see the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability for more information [http://rcsd.uvic.ca/](http://rcsd.uvic.ca/). Regarding missing a class, assignments, doctor’s notes, or accommodations, please have Dr. Verdun as the instructor on record.

**Teaching Assistants:** Teaching Assistants will hold weekly office hours, which is the best time to consult with them. If you have a question about tutorial or lecture, please speak with your TA during your TA’s office hours. If after doing so the question is unresolved, then please see the professor who is lecturing during that week.

**Registration Matters:** It is each student’s responsibility to add, drop, or withdraw from the course as appropriate, and to adhere to university deadlines.
Course Experience Survey (CES): Towards the end of the term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience (CES) in POLI 103. The survey is vital in providing feedback to us regarding the course and our teaching, as well as to help the Department of Political Science provide an optimal program for students in the future. When it is time to complete the survey, you will receive an e-mail inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an e-mail invitation, you can go directly to http://ces.uvic.ca. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. We will remind you nearer the time, but during the course please think about this important activity, especially these three questions:
1. What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Student Success Tips: UVic has different resources on campus to assist you. If you wish to improve your writing skills, please consult the Centre for Academic Communication at uvic.mywconline.com.

To improve other learning skills, time management, and note taking, please consult the Learning Skills courses offered by UVic: http://www.coun.uvic.ca/learning/.

Professor Study Tips
1. Attend lectures and tutorials
2. Introduce yourself to your professor or TA
3. Relate what you are learning to your life
4. Prepare for class
5. Take your own notes
6. Do not leave things until the last minute
7. Ask questions
8. Respect your classmates
9. Have an open mind
10. Take responsibility for your own learning
11. Look into the outstanding resources at UVic ~ Writing Centre, Peer Help, International Commons, Counseling, and Resource Centre for Students with a Disability
12. Get involved
13. Remember to be respectful with all forms of communication
14. Use a calendar to schedule your due dates and schedule study time

Late sometimes? In the spirit of collegiality, we ask that you please come to class on time so as not to disrupt the class with late arrival, and that you avoid leaving early. The classroom doors are at the front of the class, so latecomers (or early leavers) distract the class and the professor. If you are late, please be courteous and enter through the door at the back of the lecture hall. Talking during the professor’s lecture distracts those around you. Thank you for being polite—we all appreciate it!

Courtesy rules: We all like to use our cell phones and other electronic devices. In this classroom we ask that you only use electronic devices for the purpose of learning for this class. You are asked not to watch other things on your device, as doing so may distract yourself as well as others around you. We also ask that you turn off your cell phone, or put it to silent, again so as not to disturb your fellow students.