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, Jesse Gordon, David Miller, Craig Muncaster and Yabo Wu. 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.
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, January 25:** 5%
- **Midterm exam, to be held in class on Friday, February 15:** 20%
- **Assignment #2 (Short analytical paper), due Friday, March 8:** 15%
- **Assignment #3 (Applying theory), due Tuesday, April 2:** 15%
- **Final Exam, to be held during the April 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 1:30-2:20pm CLE B415 (CRN 22528)
- T02: Tuesday 2:30-3:20pm CLE B415 (CRN 22529)
- T03: Wed., 1:30-2:20pm CLE B315 (CRN 22530)
- T04: Wed., 2:30-3:20pm ELL 161 (CRN 22531)
- T05: Wed., 3:30-4:20pm DSB C124 (CRN 22532)
- T06: Thursday 1:30-2:20pm CLE B415 (CRN 22533)
- T07: Thursday 2:30-3:20pm HSD A264 (CRN 22534)
- T08: Thursday 3:30-4:20pm CLE B315 (CRN 22535)
- T09: Friday 12:30-1:20pm DSB C114 (CRN 22536)
- T10: Friday 1:30-2:20pm CLE B315 (CRN 22537)

**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 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. Make sure to staple your assignment before turning it in! 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 Friday, Feb.15, 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 April 8-27, 2019. 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 (Jan.28 – Feb.1) and run through week 13 (note that there are no tutorials during the week of reading break, i.e., February 18-22). 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
respectful 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 the Politics of Language**

**Week 1** January 8, 9 & 11 (Jan. 8 introducing both instructors; Jan. 9 & 11 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** January 15, 16 & 18 (Jan. 15, 16 & 18 with Dr. D’Erman)

**Discussion of Assignment #1**

Philosophy of Science; what is a ‘scientific approach’ to Political Science?

- **Readings:**

**Week 3** January 22, 23 & 25 (Jan. 22 & 25 with Dr. D’Erman; Jan. 23 guest lecture from Nancy Ami (Manager, Centre for Academic Communication (CAC))

**Assignment #1 due on Fri., January 25, 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:**
  - CourseSpaces: Sandra Halperin and Oliver Heath (2017) *Political Research. Methods and
Unit 2: Political Theory

Week 4  January 29, 30 & February 1 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  February 5, 6 & 8 (Feb. 5 & 6 with Dr. D’Erman; Feb. 8 with Dr. Wender)

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

- Readings:
  - Please continue with the assigned chapter readings from Week 4, above.
  - Textbook, Chapter 3 (pp. 49-74),

Week 6  February 12, 13 & 15 (Feb. 12 & 13 with Dr. Wender; Feb. 15 Midterm covering Units 1 and 2)

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?

**Midterm Exam in-class on Friday, February 15**

- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 4 (pp. 75-90), & Chapter 9 (pp. 205-228).
Week 7 **READING BREAK! All classes and tutorials cancelled!**

Unit 3: Comparative Politics

Week 8 **February 26, 27 & March 1** (Feb. 27 guest lecture from Dr. Rita Dhamoon (Dept. of Political Science; Feb. 26 & March 1 with Dr. D’Erman)

**Discussion of Assignment #2**

Introduction to Comparative Politics and Indigenous Politics

- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 6 (pp. 121-146).
  - CourseSpaces: TBA

NB: February 28 is the last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure.

Week 9 **March 5, 6 & 8** with Dr. D’Erman

**Assignment #2 due on Friday, March 8, in-class**

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 10 **March 12, 13 & 15** with Dr. Wender

Populism as a phenomenon / 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.
Week 11  March 19, 20 & 22 (March 19 guest lecture with Dr. Michael Prince from School of Social Policy; March 20 with Dr. D’Erman; March 22 with Dr. Wender).

Completing Unit 3: Canadian federalism and public policies.
- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 16 (pp. 371-394)
  - CourseSpaces: (to discuss in class) OECD Social Expenditure database: [http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm](http://www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm)

Unit 4: International Relations (beginning March 22). 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 March 22; view the entire movie either through UVic Media Desk (McPherson Library), or online (see Assignment #3 description on CourseSpaces).

Week 12  March 26, 27 & 29 with both instructors.
**Discussion of Assignment #3**

Viewing international politics through “The Fog of War”, cont’d. What role does/should intervention have on international affairs? Also – course conclusion, and exam review.
- Readings:
  - Textbook, Chapter 17 (pp. 395-419) & Chapter 18 (pp. 420-447).

Week 13  April 2, 3 & April 5 with both instructors.
**Assignment #3 due on Tuesday, April 2, in-class**
- Readings:
  - April 5 with both instructors: course evaluations, course conclusions, review for Final Exam. Please review the “Study Terms and Concepts for POLI 103”, which will be posted on CourseSpaces towards the end of the term.
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/. Regarding missing a class, assignments, doctor’s notes, or accommodations, please have Dr. Wender 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.

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