

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Political Science

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

1020E 556

Instructor Name(s): Zheger Hassan

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course presents an introduction to the field of political science, including the basic theories, concepts, approaches, and enduring questions that motivate political science research. Students will leave this course with an empirical grasp of current political debates, as well as with an overall understanding of the approaches to the fundamental issues that arise in the subfields of the discipline: political theory, comparative politics, international relations, and Canadian politics. The course offers a survey of the basic concepts that animate discussion about the nature of society, government, power, and politics. The course aims to assist students in developing the analytical tools necessary for successful completion of the political science major. In particular, the course emphasizes learning to identify and evaluate arguments and the evidence that underpins them in both academic and non-academic publications. Finally, the course aims to assist students in developing the citizenship skills necessary for participating in political discussions and the Canadian political system.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

develop an understanding of the key concepts, ideas, theories, and methodologies in political science;

develop an understanding of political ideologies and explain why they are significant for shaping political behaviour

understand the nature and scope of politics and power and how they affect people's life directly and indirectly;

develop the ability to critically analyze and engage with academic (and non-academic) sources; and

build the foundations of knowledge, analysis, and application for taking more advanced courses in political science.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald, Introduction to Politics (Third Canadian Edition), (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation and Professionalism	Ongoing	20
Short Autobiography	October 9, 2026	5
Midterm Test	November 13, 2026	15
Policy Briefing Outline	January 15, 2027	5
Policy Briefing	February 26, 2027	15
Quizzes (2)	Oct. 23, 2026 and March 12, 2026	10

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$141.80

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.