

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Politics

Course Number and Section:

POLISCI

1020E 556

Instructor Name(s): Lindsay Scorgie

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

Course Description:

POL1020 introduces students to the study of politics. The course focuses on ideas (e.g. politics, power, democracy, justice, freedom), ideologies (e.g. liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism), institutions (e.g. the nation state, constitutions, legislatures, executives, the judiciary), political mobilization (e.g. participation, elections, parties, interest groups), and research skills, emphasizing Canadian, comparative, and international examples.

In the current age of 'fake news', disinformation, and misinformation, there will be a strong emphasis throughout the course on students acquiring information literacy skills, and particularly the ability to discern reputable news sources. There will be an equally strong emphasis on students consulting such reputable news sources on a daily basis (moving away from acquiring news through 'soundbites' via social media platforms) and understanding current developments around the world through political science frameworks.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will have definitional knowledge and understanding of political science, a rudimentary knowledge and understanding of the principal theories of political analysis, a preliminary knowledge and appreciation of political science in the context of other disciplines, and an ability to search for, gather, review, and evaluate materials relevant to the core substantive learning objectives of POL1020

Students will have further developed time management / organization skills via meeting assignment deadlines, as well as public speaking skills through contributing consistently to class and group discussions

Textbooks and Course Materials:

- Textbook: Politics: An Introduction, by George A. MacLean, Duncan R. Wood, and Lori Turnbull. Oxford University Press, 3rd Edition. **Please do not use previous editions. See the following link for details on its purchase from the UWO bookstore:

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=HC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=556_HC/POL1020E)

[campus=HC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=556_HC/POL1020E.](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=HC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=556_HC/POL1020E)

- News source: All students are required to purchase a (digital) subscription to the New York Times.

- Supplementary readings and podcasts: The required readings for certain weeks include

academic articles and / or podcasts. The articles are all accessible via the UWO library, and the podcast links are provided below.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	April 2026	20
Quiz 1	November 2025	10
Quiz 2	February 2026	10
Final exam	April 2026	20
Research essay	April 2026	40

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

Wednesday, August 13, 2025