

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Introduction to Political Science

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

1020E - 550

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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:

This course introduces students to the study of politics, found wherever and whenever people exercise power. We will study politics in formal institutions such as legislatures and polling stations, and in spaces where people mobilize to resist oppression and injustice, from social media, to the streets, to shopping malls. Following an examination of the question, "What is political science?" the course consists of five parts. First, we examine the workings of political discourse and speech in theory, online, and in public space. Second, we examine institutions where we often expect politics to be found: in parliament, parties, elections, and bureaucracies. Third, we politics in the past and present of social struggle, with a focus on social movements and political change. Fourth, we examine how concepts and practices of sovereignty and law frame and animate the study of politics, including our conceptions of what counts as 'domestic' and 'international' politics. Finally, we conclude the course with an analysis of politics on a global scale. Throughout the course, we will emphasize the role of key concepts and ideas as important, yet contested tools with which we can analyze the political world, introduce students to various perspectives on the study of politics, and provide background for further study of the subfields of political science.

Learning Outcomes:

Define politics and political science, and explain why they are distinct

Define and explain key theories, concepts, and ideas in the field of political science

Discuss politics using a vocabulary and approach that go beyond common-sense or "lay" understandings of political life

Explain the implications and importance of multiple theoretical and conceptual lenses on the study of politics

Identify one's own research interests and pose a research question;

Locate, read, annotate, summarize, digest, and ultimately use scholarly literature in political science

Cite academic sources according to standards of academic integrity and manuals of citation style

Reflect on how theoretical and scholarly engagement with the field may have changed their perspectives

Prepare for productive engagement with the subfields of political science (Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory)

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All materials are electronic and will be uploaded to OWL or accessible via library links.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Article Deep Dive	10/16/2023	10
Citation Chain	11/06/2023	10
Research Proposal	01/15/2024	15
Literature Review	03/11/2024	20
Reflection Dossier 1	11/27/2023	15
Reflection Dossier 2	04/02/2024	15
Seminar Participation	Ongoing	15

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