

**PSCI 1100A**

**Introduction to Political Science I: Democracy in Theory and Practice**

Monday and Wednesday 9:35 am - 12:25 pm

**Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

**Instructor:** Professor Glen Williams  
**Office:** B641 Loeb  
**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday 12:30 to 13:30  
**Email:** [glen.williams@carleton.ca](mailto:glen.williams@carleton.ca)  
**Web Page:** <http://culearn.carleton.ca>

**Purpose:**

This foundational course, designed for first and second year university students, illuminates the background of democratic political practices in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Special emphasis is placed on the historical impact of political culture and ideologies in shaping the rules of political conduct and political institutions in the three countries.

Beyond addressing the academic focus of this course, students can also use PSCI 1100A to work on improving their 'real world' skills in the following areas:

- Following oral presentations, understanding their structure and logic, and making a useful written summary of their main points for later review (lectures)
- Researching demanding questions and writing efficient and clear discussions of their central issues for later review by others (research assignments)
- Absorbing a significant body of detailed and specific information to demonstrate your mastery over it to others (examination)

For success in this course (and all your other university courses), I can't emphasize enough the importance of alert *attendance* at each and every lecture and group discussion; *reading* absolutely all the required texts; always *taking concise notes* and quotes from texts and lectures for further reference; and, where you don't quite understand important issues identified in the lecture outlines or texts, *asking questions* of your peers, teaching assistants and instructors. University is an opportunity for challenge, reflection, intellectual growth, as well as the development of marketable proficiencies but from the beginning, I urge you to seize the academic initiative in order to maximize the return on your considerable investment in time and money here at Carleton University - for an summary of several studies linking class attendance and grades see <http://www.mnsu.edu/cetl/teachingresources/articles/classattendance.html>

The design of our course directs students towards constant backward revision of our course material with the object of laying out the narrative of our study as well as promoting exam skills acquisition. The research assignments, for example, require that students organize answers to essay-style exam questions based on their review of material covered in the first three-fifths of our course supplemented by further scholarly research.

## **Texts:**

Required: L.P. Baradat, *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact*, Eleventh Edition, and R.J. Jackson et al, *North American Politics: Canada, USA, and Mexico in Comparative Perspective* (2009 Custom Edition for Carleton University updated by Glen Williams) - both available in a two-text package at the Carleton University Bookstore.

Lectures and required readings in PSCI 1100A are designed to complement each other and will prove equally important to your success in this course. In addition, approximately 20 supplementary texts relevant to various aspects of our curriculum have been placed on two hour reserve in the Library under PSCI 1100 - <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/search/r> Students are strongly encouraged to employ the **scholarly commentary** found in these additional resources to strengthen their understanding of our course material *and as an aid in researching their assignments*.

Relevant information and documentation for PSCI 1100A will be posted from time to time on our course web page accessed through <http://culearn.carleton.ca>

## **Requirements:**

Requirements for evaluation will be as follows:

Research Assignment (May 26)	20%
Research Assignment (June 4)	20%
Participation (attendance/discussion)	5%
Final Exam (June 20-26)	55%

55% of the final grade will come from a scheduled examination held within the official June 20<sup>th</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup> exam period (all requests for deferral must be made to the Registrar's Office), 20% will come from a research assignment due in class May 26<sup>th</sup>, 20% will come from a research assignment due in class June 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5% will come from your in-class attendance/discussion. Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Late research assignments, without documented medical leave, will be penalized at the rate of one grade point per day (e.g. B+ to B- for two days late) and will not be accepted after June 2<sup>nd</sup> for Assignment 1 and June 11<sup>th</sup> for Assignment 2. Failure to submit a research assignment will result in a Grade of 'FND' for the course.

## **Email communication:**

To avoid any possible confusion with spam/ejunk, it is safest if all email communication sent to me has as its subject heading: PSCI 1100A from [your name]. Carleton requires that students, staff and faculty use Carleton email accounts when conducting University business.

## **Topics and Reading List**

May 5

### **Political Ideologies and Political Cultures: Historical Essentials**

May 7 **Social Contracts, Liberals, Conservatives, Nationalists I**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 1, 4.

May 12 **Social Contracts, Liberals, Conservatives, Nationalists II**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 3, 5.

May 14 **Socialism and Communism**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 8, 9.

May 19 Victoria Day Statutory Holiday – University Closed

May 21 **Nationalism, Racism, Anarchism, Fascism**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 7, 10.

May 26 **Constitutions: United States**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapter 6; Jackson, Introduction, Chapters 1, 7

(Research Assignment 1 due in lecture.)

May 28 **Constitutions: Canada**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapter 6; Jackson, Introduction, Chapters 1, 7

June 2 **Constitutions: Mexico**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapter 6; Jackson, Introduction, Chapters 1, 7

June 4 **Executives and Legislatures: United States**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 2, 3

(Research Assignment 2 due in lecture.)

June 9 **Executives and Legislatures: Canada**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 2, 3, 5

June 11 **Executives and Legislatures: Mexico**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 2, 3, 5

June 16 **Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 4, 6

### **Political Science 1100A Research Assignments**

#### **Assignment 1 - Due in lecture May 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Placing emphasis on liberal political ideas, concisely sketch the evolution of the political ideologies of liberalism, conservatism, and nationalism from the Age of Enlightenment to the late Nineteenth Century. Reference some significant contributions made by individual political thinkers and actors.*

All students will write a research mini-paper of a minimum of **1000** and a maximum of **1250** words. In writing your essay, it is important to remember that your intended "audience" is not the instructor, but rather another first or second year University student who has no previous background in this topic. Be careful, then, to explain all your terms and concepts, making no assumption that the reader is already conversant in your subject.

Students will focus their research by **working outwards** from your course lecture notes (do not cite) and your textbook's required readings as set out in the course outline. Students must also consult and reference **relevant academic commentary** from **at least 4 (four)** additional, appropriate **scholarly sources** (scholarly journals, monographs, textbooks.) Students are reminded that approximately 20 supplementary texts relevant to various aspects of our curriculum have been placed on two hour reserve in the Library under PSCI 1100 - <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/search/r>

Bibliographies and footnotes are necessary, and proper citation format must be employed. Consult Kate L Turabian, *A manual for writers of research papers, theses, and dissertations: Chicago style for students and researchers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. This widely-used manual can be consulted at the Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Research Desk - LB2369 .T8 2007 – or can be purchased from the University Bookstore. Students also have access, through the Library portal, to *RefWorks*, a web based citation manager. <http://www.library.carleton.ca/services/refworks>

This assignment is due in the lecture of **May 26<sup>th</sup>** and will not be accepted after June 2<sup>nd</sup>. A late penalty of one grade point per day will be deducted for each day that it is handed in late without written medical leave. **Failure to submit this assignment carries the automatic penalty of an 'FND' final grade for the course.** Please read carefully the statement on plagiarism attached to your course outline. It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses. At the discretion of the instructor,

students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on their assignment.

#### Assignment 2 - Due in lecture June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Employing your Assignment 1 discussion of liberalism, conservatism, and nationalism as a point of departure, *select THREE (3) significant examples found in the political constitutions of either Mexico OR the United States of America OR Canada that demonstrate a link between one or more of these ideologies and the historical development of the constitution. (In the case of Mexico, anti-liberal ideologies may also be referenced.) Where possible, show that the political principles of constitutional founders were a key element in shaping your examples.*

All students will write a research mini-paper of a minimum of **1000** and a maximum of **1250** words. In writing your essay, it is important to remember that your intended "audience" is not the instructor, but rather another first or second year University student who has no previous background in this topic. Be careful, then, to explain all your terms and concepts, making no assumption that the reader is already conversant in your subject.

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This assignment is due in the lecture of **June 4<sup>th</sup>** and will not be accepted after June 11<sup>th</sup>. A late penalty of one grade point per day will be deducted for each day that it is handed in late without written medical leave. **Failure to submit this assignment carries the automatic penalty of an 'FND' final grade for the course.** Please read carefully the statement on plagiarism attached to your course outline. It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses. At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on their assignment.

### **Academic Accommodations**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your *Letter of Accommodation* at the beginning

of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.