

**PSCI 1003A**  
**North American Politics**  
**Lectures: Thursdays 3:35 pm - 5:25 pm**  
**Please confirm location on Carlton Central**

**Instructor:** Professor Glen Williams  
**Office:** D687 Loeb  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 10:00 am to 11:20 am  
Thursdays 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm  
Fridays 10:00 am to 11:20 am  
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**Purpose:**

This foundational course, designed for first and second year university students, illuminates the background of current political controversies and conflicts 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 1003 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)
- Contributing effectively to group discussions, joint learning, and collective problem-solving (discussion groups)
- Researching a demanding question and writing an efficient and clear discussion of its central issues for later review by others (research assignment)
- Absorbing a significant body of detailed and specific information to demonstrate later your mastery over it to others (examination)

For success in this course (and all 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 sources as well as reading beyond the required sources; always *taking concise notes* and quotes for further reference; and, where you don't quite understand, *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 .

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 assignment, for example, requires that students organize an answer to an essay-style exam question based on their review of material covered in the first half of our course supplemented by further scholarly research. Additionally, in your weekly discussion group, time will be set aside to consider how to tackle exam-style identification terms that are drawn from the previous week's lecture and required readings.

### **Requirements:**

Requirements for evaluation will be as follows.

45% of the final grade will come from a scheduled examination held within the official December 4-20<sup>th</sup> exam period (all requests for deferral must be made to the Registrar's Office), 30% will come from a research assignment due in class October 30<sup>th</sup>, 15% will come from a mid-term examination held in-class on October 16<sup>th</sup> (in case of absence from the mid-term exam, a medical certificate is required) and 10% will come from participation in discussion groups (based on 50% contribution, 50% attendance). 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 November 6<sup>th</sup>. Failure to submit the research assignment will result in a Grade of 'FND' for the course.

### **Texts:**

Required: L.P. Baradat, *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact*, Tenth Edition, and R.J. Jackson et al, *North American Politics: Canada, USA, and Mexico in Comparative Perspective* - both available in a two-text package at the Carleton University Bookstore.

Lectures and required readings in PSCI 1003 are designed to complement each other and will prove equally important to your success in this course. In addition, both assigned texts feature suggested "Further Reading" lists at the end of chapters. Students are strongly encouraged to employ these additional resources to strengthen their understanding of our course material.

Relevant information and documentation for PSCI 1003 will be posted from time to time on our course web page accessed through <http://webct.carleton.ca>

### **Email communication:**

Because of high spam volumes on University addresses, to ensure safe receipt all email communication to me needs to have the following words in the subject heading: PSCI 1003, NA from [your name].

## Topics and Reading List

September 4 **Political Ideologies and Political Cultures: Historical Essentials**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 1, 3.

September 11 **Social Contracts, Liberals, Conservatives**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 4, 5.

September 18 **Socialism and Communism**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 8, 9.

Discussion group identification terms - social contracts and liberalism, utilitarianism

September 25 **Nationalism, Racism, Anarchism, Fascism**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 7, 10.

Discussion group identification terms - historical and dialectical materialism, socialist reform vs. communist revolution

October 2 **Constitutions: United States**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapter 6; Jackson Chapters 2, 9

Discussion group identification terms - social construction of race and nation, anti-Enlightenment & anti-intellectual ideologies

October 9 **Constitutions: Canada**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapter 6; Jackson Chapters 2, 9

Discussion group identification terms - foundational principles of 1787 Constitution, federalists vs. anti-federalists

October 16 **Mid-term Exam (In-Class)** (75 minutes - discussion groups cancelled for this week only - in case of absence, a medical certificate is required. In compliance with the Early Feedback Guideline of the University, the instructor's objective will be to return the marks for this Mid-term Exam to students by October 31<sup>st</sup>.)

October 23

**Constitutions: Mexico**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapter 6; Jackson Chapters 2, 9

Discussion group identification terms - conservatism and liberalism in 19<sup>th</sup> century Canada, 1982 Constitution Act

October 30

**Executives and Legislatures: United States**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 3, 4

Discussion group identification terms - political instability in 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexico, Mexican Revolution

November 6

**Executives and Legislatures: Canada**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 3, 4

Discussion group identification terms - bipartisanship, president vs. congress

November 13

**Executives and Legislatures: Mexico**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 3, 4

Discussion group identification terms - institutionalized adversarialism, ministerial responsibility

November 20

**Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups I**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 6, 7, 8

Discussion group identification terms - Zedillo and Fox Presidencies, PRI and Presidencialismo

November 27

**Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups II**

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 6, 7, 8

Discussion group identification terms - political parties and electoral systems; interest groups and democracy

## Political Science 1003 Research Assignment

Establish links between political ideologies and the historical development of constitutions in either Mexico OR the United States of America OR Canada. Organize your presentation around three significant examples that you believe illustrate clearly the relationship between ideologies and constitutional development in your chosen country. Place roughly equivalent weight on discussing ideologies and constitutional development in your analysis.

All students will write a research essay of a minimum of **2000** and a maximum of **2500** 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 fully and carefully, making no assumption that the reader is already conversant in your subject.

Students will focus their research by working outwards from your textbook's required readings as set out in the course outline. Students must also consult and cite **at least 8 (eight)** additional, appropriate *scholarly sources* such as those found in the "Further Readings" sections of your texts (scholarly journals, monographs, textbooks.)

Bibliographies and footnotes are necessary, and proper citation format must be employed - consult the *Carleton University Department of Political Science Essay Style Guide*.  
<http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.pdf>

This assignment is due in the lecture of **October 30<sup>th</sup>** and will not be accepted after November 6<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.

Students should note that the teaching assistants in PSCI 1003 are available for consultation in the preparation of this assignment. The teaching assistants will announce their office hours during your seminar hour.

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### Academic Accommodations

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 for April examinations.**

**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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

**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.

**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.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.