

PSCI 1003A
North American Politics
Lectures: Thursdays 12:35 pm - 2:25 pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor Glen Williams
Office: D687 Loeb
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Thursdays 11:00 am to 12:15 pm
Fridays 10:00 am to 11:15 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 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 later 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 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.

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* (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 1003 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 1003 - <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/search/r> Students are strongly encouraged to employ 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 1003 will be posted from time to time on our course web page accessed through <http://webct.carleton.ca>

Requirements:

Requirements for evaluation will be as follows:

Participation	10%
Research Assignment (Oct 15)	17.5%
Research Assignment (Nov 5)	17.5%
Final Exam (Dec 9-22)	55%

55% of the final grade will come from a scheduled examination held within the official December 9-22nd exam period (all requests for deferral must be made to the Registrar's Office), 17.5% will come from a research assignment due in class October 15th, 17.5% will come from a research assignment due in class November 5th, and 10% will come from participation in discussion groups (based on 50% informed 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 October 22nd for Assignment 1 and November 12th for Assignment 2. In accordance with a University Senate resolution concerning student participation in the National/Provincial Days of Action, students who wish to extend the November 5th deadline can deposit their essays without late penalty on November 6th only in the Political Science assignment drop box outside Loeb B640. Failure to submit a research assignment will result in a Grade of 'FND' for the course.

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

September 17 **Social Contracts, Liberals, Conservatives, Nationalists I**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 1, 4.

September 24 **Social Contracts, Liberals, Conservatives, Nationalists II**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 3, 5.

October 1 **Socialism and Communism**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 8, 9.

Discussion group identification terms - social contracts, natural law and liberalism; utilitarianism, positive government and social welfare liberalism

October 8 **Nationalism, Racism, Anarchism, Fascism**

Required Reading: Baradat, Chapters 7, 10.

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

October 15 **Constitutions: United States**

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

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

(Research Assignment 1 due in lecture.)

October 22

Constitutions: Canada

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

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

October 29

Constitutions: Mexico

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

Discussion group identification terms - conservatism and liberalism in 19th century Canada; 1982 Constitution Act

November 5

Executives and Legislatures: United States

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 2, 3

Discussion group identification terms - political instability in 19th century Mexico; Mexican Revolution
(Research Assignment 2 due in lecture.)

November 12

Executives and Legislatures: Canada

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 2, 3

Discussion group identification terms – bipartisanship; president vs. congress

November 19

Executives and Legislatures: Mexico

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 2, 3

Discussion group identification terms - institutionalized adversarialism; ministerial responsibility

November 26

Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups I

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 4, 5, 6

Discussion group identification terms – PRI and Presidencialismo; Zedillo, Fox, and Calderón
Presidencies

December 3

Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups II

Required Reading: Jackson, Chapters 4, 5, 6

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

Political Science 1003 Research Assignments

Assignment 1 - Due in lecture October 15th

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 Twentieth 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 textbook's required readings as set out in the course outline. Students must also consult and cite **at least 4 (four)** additional, appropriate *scholarly sources* (scholarly journals, monographs, textbooks.)

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 2nd 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/index.html>

This assignment is due in the lecture of **October 15th** and will not be accepted after October 22nd. 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.** In compliance with the Early Feedback Guideline of the University, the instructor's objective will be to return the marks for Assignment 1 to students by November 5th. 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. Please record the name of your teaching assistant on your title page.

Assignment 2 - Due in lecture November 5th.

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. 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.

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 4 (four)** additional, appropriate *scholarly sources* (scholarly journals, monographs, textbooks.)

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This assignment is due in the lecture of **November 5th** and will not be accepted after November 12th. 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.** It will be the instructor's objective to return the marks for Assignment 2 by December 3rd. 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. Please record the name of your teaching assistant on your title page.

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 request for 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 16, 2009 for December examinations** and **March 12, 2010 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).

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.

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: 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: 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, visit our website at 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.