

Royal Military College of Canada (Kingston)
POE102 Introduction to Political Science
Winter 2021, COVID Remote Teaching

Professor: David Last, CD, PhD
Department of Political Science and Economics
Email: last-d@rmc.ca alternate lastdav@gmail.com
Web sites: Moodle alternate www.davidmlast.ca
Phone: 613 532 3002 (cell)

Class Schedule:
Mondays, 1630-1730; Wednesday 1340-1530
Officer hours by appointment – use cell

Course Description

This course introduces students to the discipline of political science with a focus on ideas, institutions, processes and actors. Students will identify how political science relates to the other social sciences and how to conduct political research. Learning Outcomes are to distinguish Political Science within the broader Social Sciences; recognize the role of ideas, institutions, processes and actors in political life; outline the process of political science research and express political concepts through written and oral arguments.

Where the course fits in the degree program

POE102 is a junior course intended to provide students in their first or second year with the basic conceptual tools, definitions and frameworks to discuss political phenomena: ideologies, institutions, interests, and the nature of the discipline. It is a prerequisite for more advanced courses in political science. Development of writing skills and research methods necessary for future success within the discipline and for baccalaureate study in general is integrated across the modules. Special arrangements may be made for students with prior exposure to course material.

Learning Objectives

Students will understand and apply key social science concepts and methods to the study of political science as ideas, institutions, actors and processes. Table 1 (attached) lists concepts.

Students will demonstrate understanding of:

- The fields within the discipline of political science
- The major ideologies that shape political systems
- The institutions through which states are governed
- The ways in which interests are aggregated and articulated in democratic and non-democratic political systems

Students will understand and apply:

- Basic research tools and methods appropriate to the social sciences
- University level writing skills
- Critical awareness of current events – this means being aware of what is happening, why it matters, and what it means for security professionals

Course requirements and expectations

Cadets are expected to participate each week on Moodle.

The course is hybrid synchronous/asynchronous. Synchronous classes (everyone online at the same time guided by instructor) will be on Big Blue Button (BBB) or Zoom. Asynchronous participation means posting discussion notes to forums on Moodle. You must participate each week. Weekly posts guarantee 10/20 on participation.

All assignments must be submitted before the end of the term. If all work has not been submitted, the instructor reserves the right not to grade your final exam. This policy reflects RMC regulations 7.3 and 10.2.

In discussions and Moodle posts, I expect you to express informed analysis and opinions and to be respectful of your colleagues.

Academic integrity

Academic misconduct consists of any form of plagiarism, cheating, or violations of academic ethics, essentially seeking to pass someone else’s work as your own. Academic misconduct is a serious offence and violates CAF values. Consequences of academic misconduct can range from failing the course to expulsion from RMC. There will be a Moodle test on **Academic Regulation 23 Academic Integrity** early in the course.

Required textbooks

Scott, G.M. and Garrison, S.M. (2017) The Political Science Student Writer’s Manual and Reader’s Guide. Eighth Edition. Rowman Littlefield. (**SG**)

Mintz, E., Close, D., and Croci, O. (Politics, Power, and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science. Fifth Edition. Pearson. (**MCC**)

Other readings will be made available on Moodle or the course web site.

Course evaluations

Your final grade will come from the following evaluations. All written assignments will be submitted through Turnitin linked to the course Moodle site. Submissions and instructor comments may be shared for learning benefit.

Participation (due each week, assessed on Moodle)	20
Exercises	40
Final exam (at home, open book)	40

Special cases: students may qualify for alternative evaluations involving experiential learning, written assignments, simulations, and extra reading. These must be negotiated in Week 1 and confirmed in writing.

Writing and analytical exercises

Exercises are drawn from Scott and Garrison. Each exercise should be submitted in the week indicated in order to get feedback. All assignments must be submitted through Moodle and comments may be provided to the class to enable mutual learning. Marking rubrics (‘wrappers’) for each are posted on Moodle.

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102	SG	Title	Reference
#1	1.1	Reading politics analytically	SG, 1-8
#2	1.2	Reading news as political power	SG, 8-9
#3	2.1	Narrowing research topics	SG, 22
#4	2.2	Free writing	SG, 29
#5	2.3	Organizing and outlining	SG, 29-32
#6	7.2	Locate high quality sources	SG, 123-132
#7	3.3	Interpret and use data tables	SG, 72-73
#8	6.2	Critique of an academic article	SG, 112-115
#9	9.1	Domestic policy analysis	SG, 144-150
#10	7.1	Write a research proposal	SG, 128-131

Class Schedule

The class schedule may be adjusted to account for guest speakers, class activities, and interruptions. You must participate on Moodle each week whether or not you are able to attend the synchronous classes on BBB or Zoom.

Wk	Topic	Objectives	Exercise	Readings*
1	Introduction & Ideas	Course overview, writing skills overview, socialization, political compass, left/right, individual/collective, language, disciplines and fields, information streams	#1 #2	MCC 1
2	Politics & Power	Politics, power, individuals, nation, state, community, cosmopolitan, elite, capital, pluralism	#3	MCC 2
3	Ideologies	Religion, realism, communism, socialism, liberalism, conservatism, fascism, nationalism, critiques, identity	#4 #5	MCC 3,4
4	Actors & organization	Individuals, groups, structure, agency	#6	MCC 5
5	Sectors	Public sector, private sector, volunteer sector, markets, capitalism,	#7	
6	Interests	Interests, interest groups, money, crowds & power, crime, corruption, political parties	#8 #9	MCC 6
Reading Week				
7	Institutions & methods	Organizing social behaviour, institutionalism, bridging and bonding capital, five diagrams	#10	MCC 5, 8
8	Political Economy	PES, Markets, monopolies, political economy, policy making, public interest, pluralism, planning,		
9	Governance	Government, constitution, democracy as institution, rule of law, federalism, governance, media		MCC 8, 12
10	Processes: Democracy	Democracy as process, elections, protections, contention, conflict, violence, security establishments		MCC 7, 10

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Wk	Topic	Objectives	Exercise	Readings*
11	Development	Political, economic, and social development and change, globalization, international governance		MCC 17, 18
12	Violence	Violence, violent specialists, war, civil war, revolution, suppression of violence		MCC 9, 11
13	Exam Review			

* lectures will diverge from the text content; selections from text and additional readings will be posted online for students without textbooks.

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Table 1 concept list for POE102

Administration	Fascism	Neo-liberalism
Anarchism	Federalism	Non-violent civil resistance
Anarchism	Federalism (centralized	Norms
Asymmetrical federalism	decentralized)	Organized crime
Authoritarian regimes	Feminism	Paradox of wealth
Authority	Feminism	Parliamentary system
Beijing consensus	Framing priming agenda-	Peace (positive negative)
Brokerage party	setting (in media)	Pluralism
Bureaucracy	Free-rider problem	Political ideology
Cabinet	Gerrymandering	Political party
Cadre party	Global civil society	Political science
Capitalism	Global governance	Politics
Citizenship	Globalization	Polyarchy
Civic & ethnic nationalism	Hegemonic power	Power
Civil disobedience	Human Development Index	Power (three faces, Lukes)
Civil Society	Hypothesis	Realism
Civil-military relations	Ideology	Regime
Climate change	Independent variable	Religion
Collective action	Inequality	Rule of law
Collective security	Institution	Security sector
Communism	Institutionalism (historical,	Social capital
Communism	sociological, rational,	Social media
Conservatism	discursive)	Socialism
Constitutional government	Interest groups (anomic non-	State
Contentious politics	associational associational	Structural functionalism
Corporatism	institutional)	Systems analysis
Corruption	Judicial activism	Theory
Cross sectional analysis	Left-right politics	Time series
Deliberative democracy	Legislature	Unitary government
Democracy	Legitimacy	United Nations
Democratic socialism	Liberal democracy	Violence (physical structural)
Dependent variable	Liberalism	Washington Consensus
Devolution	Markets	Weber
Dual federalism	Marxism-Leninism	Welfare state
Environmentalism	Mass media	Westminster system
Environmentalism	Media	
Essay styles	Military-police-paramilitary	
European Union (EU)	Model	
Evolution of the state	Nation	
Executive	Nation-state	
	Nationalism	