



A M B R O S E

POLI 101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS (3)

Fall, 2007

Instructor: Dr. Joe Woodard

Thursdays, 6:30p - 9:30p

Room 517

Office: 515c Office Phone: 3997 Office Hours: Thurs. 4:30p - 6:30p, 9:30p - 10:00p

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Course Description:

A systematic introduction to the study of politics, POLI 101 will examine the nature of political activity and the importance of public institutions through the examination of such working realities as culture and regime, society and government, constitution and law, such ideologies as liberalism, conservatism, socialism and nationalism, and elements of modern Canadian politics as the political process, the policy process, federalism, and the executive, legislature and judiciary.

Course Objectives:

Students will gain an appreciation of the dominant role of politics for the human family, and fluency with the central concepts of politics. Guest speakers will provide some exposure to the possibilities of politics as a vocation.

Required Texts:

Mark O. Dickerson and Thomas Flanagan, *An Introduction to Government and Politics*, 8th edition (cited below as **DF**), plus weekly thematic readings, photocopied or on reserve. Supplementary readings are concentrated in the first half of the semester; the guest speakers are concentrated in the second half.

Classroom Etiquette: The use of **laptop computers** in class is **strongly discouraged**; if you have need to access your laptop for scheduling purposes, do so at the start of class or at the break. Laptops are **not** to be used for routine note-taking. **No** laptops will be allowed when a guest speaker is present. **However**, free-flow of discussion is encouraged, and questions always have priority.

Course Schedule:

I: Sept. 6: Introduction, plus *Numbers*.

II: Sept. 13: Nation and Sovereign: **DF** 1-2, plus Herbert Ratner, "*The Family...*"

III: Sept. 20: Band, Nation, City and Regime: **DF** 3-4, plus J.D. Hunter, "*To Change...*"

IV: Sept. 27: Culture and Constitution: **DF** 5-7, plus Gad Horowitz, "*Liberalism...*"

V: Oct. 4: International Order and Ideology: **DF** 8, plus Sam. Huntington, "*Clash...*"

VI: Oct. 11: Liberalism and Conservatism: **DF** 10-12, plus Plato, *Republic* excerpt.

VII: Oct. 18: Modern Isms: **DF** 13-15, plus Tocqueville, *Democracy* excerpt.

VIII: Oct. 25: Review

IX: Nov. 1: Representation, **DF** 16-18.

X: Nov. 8: Democratic Structures, **DF** 19-21

XI: Nov. 15: The Policy Process, **DF** 22-24

XII: Nov. 22: Elections and Offices, **DF** 25-27

XIII: Nov. 29: Bureacracy and Judiciary, **DF** 28-29

XIV: Dec. 6: Christian Politics: "Sphere Sovereignty" readings.

XV: Dec. 13: Review

Course Requirements and Grading:

Weekly brief quizzes (best 10 of 12)4 per cent ea. x 10 = 40%

Final "policy briefing" paper (8-10 pgs.)..... = 30%

Final Exam (take-home questions, written in-class)..... = 30%

Assignments will be accepted in HARD-COPY ONLY. Students identify, on the first or cover page of all assignments, the course name, the instructor's name and their own name, along with their student ID number and mailbox number.

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	
A+		
A	Excellent	>80%
A-		
B+		
B	Good	>70%
B-		
C+		
C	Satisfactory	>60%
C-		
D+		
D	Minimal Pass	>50%
F	Failure	<50%

Important Notes

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@auc-nuc.ca.

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty 15 September 2006

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty 15 November 2006

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.