

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ON

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

CODE NO.: POL 105-3 SEMESTER: FALL

PROGRAM: GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE

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APPROVED V7/^^^  
NADEAN KOCTf, DEAN, SCHOOL OF  
ARTS AND GENERAL EDUCATION

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TOTAL CREDIT HOURS : 45

PREREQUISITE(S): NONE

I. PHILOSOPHY/GOALS:

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to the world of politics with a decided Canadian bias- He/she will learn a basic understanding of political behaviours from its earliest beginnings to its present stage. We will look closely at the structure of government with its three branches in Canada, its development, and the influences upon it by, in particular, both American and British sources. The student will become acquainted with the various ideologies - the so-called "isms" of political concern. He/she will be introduced to the bureaucracy and the part played by "public servants" within our form of government. Canada's role in International affairs, particularly in areas of trade, international law, diplomacy, over-population, and the environment will complete this area of political concern.

II. STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

- 1) recognize the patterns of political behaviour and be able to assess its influence at all levels.
- 2) describe the origins of political thought and be able to assess their relevance and influence in today's framework.
- 3) be able to compare the various "isms" of politics and evaluate their strengths and weakness.
- 4) review the various forms of government, with a special emphasis on the Canadian Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.
- 5) examine the Constitution of Canada, as well as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Amending Formula.
- 6) become acquainted with various political parties and their structure.
- 7) describe the electoral system in Canada, its process, and its changes since Confederation.
- 8) outline Canada's role in international affairs in areas of trade, diplomacy, law, and the environment.

III. TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

1. An inquiry into the nature of politics.
2. An examination of the field of Political Science from its inception to current behaviours and issues.
3. The "isms" - a look at various political ideologies and how people are affected in different ways,
4. Governments and their divisions, including the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.
5. The Constitution of Canada, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Amending Formula.
6. Political Parties and the Electoral process.
7. Canada's role in the international arena.

IV. LEARNING ACTIVITIES  
(optional)

REQUIRED RESOURCES

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| <p>1. <u>Introduction to Politics</u><br/>Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:</p> <p>1.1 define politics with regard to behaviour, culture, values and conflicting interests.</p> <p>1.2 describe politics at all three levels of government.</p> <p>1.3 define political socialization.</p> <p>1.4 discuss the role of public opinion and ways of measuring it.</p> <p>1.5 translate various disciplines and how they relate to the field of political science.</p> <p>1.6 examine a brief history and evolution of political science from the ancient Greeks to the Enlightenment, as well as various approaches to it in Canada and the United States.</p> <p><u>Ideologies and Nation-States</u><br/>Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:</p> <p>2.1 differentiate between the various political ideologies.</p> | <p>Text: <u>People, Politics, and Government</u><br/>Activities: Read Chapters 1 and 2<br/>pp. 3-67</p> <p>Text: as above<br/>Activities: Read Chapters 3 and 4<br/>pp. 71-139</p> |
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- 2.2 appraise the strengths of different nations in areas of defence, economics, rank-sizes geographically and in population, and know where Canada ranks in these areas.
3. Governments and Branches of Governments  
Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
- 3.1 distinguish between diversified classifications of governments.
- 3.2 recognize the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government in Canada and know the functions of each.
4. The Constitution, Political Parties, Interest Groups and Electoral Systems  
Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
- 4.1 recognize the features of democratic constitutions, including Canada's Constitution with its Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and Amending Formula.
- 4.2 identify various Canadian Political Parties and be able to compare them with other world parties.
- 4.3 identify various pressure and interest groups and know how they are able to influence public policy.
- 4.4 assess Canada's electoral system, its history, and its present-day organization.
- International Politics, Law, Diplomacy, Population Concerns, and the Environment  
Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
- 5.1 inspect the international political system and evaluate Canada's role within that system.
- 5.2 recognize the impact of international law on Canada.
- Text: as above  
Activities: Read Chapters 5,6,7 and pp. 144-277
- Text: as above  
Activities: Read Chapters 10,11 and 12 pp. 280-383
- Text: as above  
Activities: Read Chapters 13,14,15 and 16 pp. 387-502

5.3 assess the challenges of nuclear proliferation, over-population, and environmental damage as we near the next century.

v. **EVALUATION METHODS:**

Tests (5)	=	70%
Written Project	=	15%
Oral Presentation	=	10%
Attendance and Participation	=	5%
Total	=	100%

The grading system used will be as follows:

A+	=	90 - 100%
A	=	80 - 89%
B	=	70 - 79%
C	=	60 - 69%
R	=	Unsatisfactory - below 60% (course must be repeated)

VI. **REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES:**

Guy, James John. People, Politics, and Government. 3rd. ed., Don Mills, Maxwell MacMillan Canada Inc., 1995.

VII. **ADDITIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARY BOOK SECTION:**

(title, publisher, edition, date, and library call number if applicable)

Periodical Section

Magazines

Articles

Audiovisual Section

Films

Filmstrips

Transparencies

VIII. **SPECIAL NOTES**

Students will be required to participate in all classroom activities, as well as complete assigned "study questions" on various portions of the text, and complete assignments.

Students will lose 1 mark for each day of class missed without a valid reason (e.g. Doctor's note).

