Description

This course examines politics through the major themes, issues, and questions that have defined the 21st Century. Students will engage the concepts and debates that anchor the field of political science through lectures and discussions that directly address contemporary political problems and issues. In this course, we will pay special attention to the relationship between practical politics and ideas or ideologies.

In the fall semester, students will be introduced to basic political concepts such as power, authority, and legitimacy as well as ideas and ideologies such as liberalism, democracy, nationalism, multiculturalism, and reconciliation. Topics include terrorism, political participation, electoral systems, trade, citizenship, climate change, and indigenous rights, as well as the institutional, and non-institutional, structures through which these policies are pursued: parliaments, political parties, electoral systems, social movements, revolutions, and courts.

The spring semester will address the challenges to liberal democracy posed both by non-liberal regimes and by war and poverty. After exploring the contemporary difficulties faced by liberal democracy, we will come to understand the origins and progress of populism, fascism, and communism in the 20th and 21st centuries, with a specific focus on their ideologies, their practical impact on economy and society, and their continuing influence on contemporary world politics. Having clarified the significance of these "challengers" to the liberal order, we will then occupy ourselves with broader questions of war and peace, poverty and inequality, and immigration and citizenship.

Readings

All the readings for the course are available online or posted on Quercus. The reading load for this course is not heavy, but some of it will be written in a style that is not familiar. The readings are not a substitute for attending lectures and tutorials. It is best if you do the readings in advance of the lecture topic and tutorial discussion.
Except in the case of students with registered accessibility requirements, students are not allowed to use laptop computers, telephones, or iPads in this classroom. Studies show that students learn and retain more information by taking notes in longhand. The best way to learn the material is to take notes in longhand and then transfer them to a computer after class.

**Email Communication**

Students are encouraged to raise questions not answered by the syllabus in class, tutorial, and office hours. Email should be a last, not a first, resort. In the event that a matter cannot wait until class or tutorial, you should contact your own TA or the head TA Catherine R. Power: catherine.power@mail.utoronto.ca

**Requirements**

- **Papers and essays**
  - First essay due (4 pages)  October 15  15%
  - Second essay due (5 pages)  December 6  15%
  - Final paper (7 pages)  March 11  20%

All writing assignments are handed in electronically through Quercus.

- **Final exam**  TBA  35%
- **Tutorials**  15%

A detailed description outlining all the steps in the writing assignment will be distributed in tutorial and posted on Quercus.

All assignments must be handed in on time. The penalty for late assignments is 1 percent per day late, including weekends. Extensions will only be granted for valid and documented medical and/or family reasons. Students are strongly advised to keep rough work, drafts and hard copies of essays and assignments before handing them in. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

**Essay Submission**

Students will be required to submit their essay to Quercus, which automatically submits the essay to turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Double-sided initiative:** Please print your essays on both sides of the page.
**Grade Appeals**

If you wish to appeal your grade, you must first request that your TA re-mark your work. You must include a short paragraph identifying how and why you think the grade you received does not accurately evaluate the work you submitted. **Your mark may go either up or down during the appeal process.**

If, subsequent to your first appeal, you are convinced that the mark is incorrect, you may appeal to the Head TA, Catherine Power. You must include: 1) the originally submitted work 2) the original comments on your work, as well as appeal comments, and 3) a short paragraph explaining why your work merits a higher mark than was awarded at appeal. Once again, **be aware that your mark could go either up or down as a result of the appeal.**

**Tutorials**

Tutorial signup will be done through Quercus during the first week of class. **Attendance for all tutorials is mandatory.** There are scheduled regular tutorials as well as writing (WIT) tutorials. All tutorials will be run by Teaching Assistants (TAs). During regular tutorials, students will discuss the lectures and reading materials. Special writing tutorials will be offered in this course, also mandatory, allowing students an opportunity to discuss various aspects of writing, such as argumentation, scope, originality and style.

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*Please note that the date denotes the Monday of the week that tutorials are held and NOT the date of actual tutorial. The date of your tutorial depends on the tutorial group you signed up for.*

**Course Materials**
All readings will be available on-line or on Quercus. Students will be able to access the readings from links in the on-line syllabus and pdf copies of chapters and articles. **It is the student’s responsibility to regularly check Quercus for communications from the professor or the TAs, course content, assignments, and the syllabus.**

**Cheating**

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism at [http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize)

**Accessibility**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodation for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible ([disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or [studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility)).

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**September 10: Introduction and Orientation; Democracy**


**September 17: Political Participation** *Tutorials begin this week*


**September 24: Liberalism**

* Alan Ryan, “Liberalism” from *Blackwell Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*.

* Benjamin Constant, *The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns*
October 1: Presidents and Parliaments


October 8: Thanksgiving. No class

October 15: Elections and Electoral Systems *1ST ESSAY DUE*


http://www.jstor.org/pss/1601345

http://resolver.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/resolve/01925121/v18i0003/297_cespmams

October 22: Race, Gender, and Politics


http://resolver.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/resolve/15375927/v02i0003/439_igletproig

October 29: Reconciliation

* Courtney Jung, Reconciliation: Eight Reasons to Worry

November 5: fall reading week. No class.

November 12: Guest speaker, Katie McKenna, co-executive director, The Leap
Topic: organizing and mobilizing to produce change outside the system

November 19: Sovereignty and Economic Integration: NAFTA, the EU and BREXIT
* Stephen Clarkson, Canada’s Secret Constitution: NAFTA, WTO and the End of Sovereignty? October 2002
* http://www.globalresearch.ca/chapter-eleven-of-nafta-remains-a-threat-to-national-sovereignty/10640
* BREXIT: all you need to know about the UK leaving the EU. http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887

November 26: Guest speaker, not yet confirmed
Topic: effecting change inside the system through electoral politics and bureaucracy

December 3: International Treaties and Federalism: Climate change
* Naomi Klein, This Changes Everything, chapters 1 and 2


December 6: Terror and Civil Liberties: 9/11 *2ND ESSAY DUE*
(This last class is held to make up for the class we missed on Thanksgiving)


**WINTER BREAK**

Spring semester: Please note: several dates and topics are TBD; a final, lightly revised version of the spring syllabus will be distributed later this fall.

**January 7: Democracy and Dictatorship: The Diverse Paths of Modernity**

W.R. Newell, *Tyranny: A New Interpretation* (selections)

**January 14: Democracy in Decline?**


**January 21: Populism versus Liberal Democracy**

Jan-Werner Mueller, *What is Populism?* (selections)


**January 28: Fascism versus Liberal Democracy**


**February 4: Communism versus Liberal Democracy**

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*


**February 11: The Cold War**

Don Munton and David A. Welch, *The Cuban Missile Crisis: A Concise History*, pp.32-83.


Mr. X. “The sources of Soviet conduct.” *Foreign Affairs* 25.4 (1947) 566-582.

**February 18: Family Day – University Closed**

**February 25: The Bottom Billion: Global Justice, Poverty, and Inequality**

Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (selections)


**March 4: Nationalism and Conflict**

Seymour Martin Lipset, *Continental Divide: the values and institutions of the United States and Canada* (Routledge, 1990), pp. 1-56 (“Introduction”)

**March 11:** Guest lecture on experiments and quantitative analysis, TBD.

**March 18:** Soldier and State

Chris Walsh, *Cowardice* (selections)

R. Balot, *Courage in the Democratic Polis* (selections)

**March 25:** Guest Lecture by Professor Randall Hansen on immigration and citizenship

Readings TBD.

**April 1:** Conclusion: End of history? Clash of Civilizations?

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *The National Interest*

Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations” *Foreign Affairs*