

## P0101A: Politics within Borders

Wilfrid Laurier University

Fall 2016

*We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

**Instructor:** Debora VanNijnatten

**Lecture:** TR 11:30-12:50 p.m.

**Classroom:** Arts 1E1

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**Office Hours:** TR 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

**Office:** DAWB 4-120 (inside the Political Science Department main office)

*How did Trump get this far in the US presidential election?*

*After the coup - how democratic is Turkey?*

*What's all the fuss about BREXIT?*

**This course is going to help you answer these questions!**

Politics is fundamental to human societies – all societies have developed the means to manage conflicts, allocate scarce resources and pursue collective goals. This course will help students unravel how politics arises, and how it is managed in different countries and across borders. We will discuss why politics in the United States looks very different from politics in China, Canada or Mexico – and it is not enough to say that a country is “democratic” or “undemocratic”. While we will explore what democratic institutions and processes actually look like in the country context, we will also discuss the aims of “good governance”. This is a term that is used to judge

the performance of countries across the globe, not only in political but also in social and economic terms.

We all have some general understanding of many political issues surrounding us, but the key to articulating our political insights is to be able to critically evaluate those issues from a number of different perspectives. In order to do so, we will first familiarize ourselves with the political science vocabulary, its terms, concepts, and the various approaches used in political science. We will then explore democracy's guiding principles, processes and institutions, why some countries are regarded as democracies and others are not, and whether new technologies will change the nature of democracy. To aid in this exploration, we will consider democracy and governance in various contexts: the industrialized world (the United States, Canada and Mexico) and the developing world (Iran and China).

*And throughout the term, we will follow three political issues that are unfolding right now:  
Trump, Turkey and BREXIT!!*

## Course Description

This course explores the dynamic world of politics from Canadian and comparative perspectives. From the local level to the national, politics shapes how we address controversial issues, such as possession of guns or drugs and provision of public health care. Through the study of the relationship between the state and civil society; factors such as public opinion, constitutions and laws; political parties, social movements and the ideologies that motivate them, we can identify patterns that help us to understand the distinctive political worlds within countries.

## Course Objectives

The study of politics is the privileged domain of neither political scientists nor politicians. While this course is designed to prepare students who wish to pursue a Political Science degree further at Laurier (as a single major, a double major, in the Sussex LLB-Laurier PO program, or with Specializations in Legal Studies, Research or Public Policy), it is also directed towards those who primarily want to increase their ability to navigate the often complex and perplexing world of politics. With these two ends in mind, the course is organized to help you:

- become clearer about your own political beliefs;

- develop your capacity to be critical about politics (present different positions fairly and to raise, if not yet answer, relevant questions about them) along constructive paths;
- explore and appreciate the diversity of approaches available in the study and practice of politics;
- make you aware of, and help you understand, political events unfolding in the world around us;
- more than anything, stir your interest in the fascinating world of politics!!

## Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the fundamentals of good political scientific analysis, identify and critique political argumentation;
- differentiate between coverage of politics in the popular media and academic analysis of political phenomena;
- identify core concepts, issues and themes that define politics within borders, and be able to link them to current political events;
- become more informed about various political ideas, ideologies and beliefs that influence how we think about politics;
- identify different types of democracy; differentiate between totalitarian and authoritarian systems; describe the powers and functions of the various branches of government: the executive, the legislature, the judiciary, and the bureaucracy; distinguish between the unitary, federal and confederal forms of government; and, explain the importance of political parties and elections, as well as understand pros and cons of the referendum;
- compare and contrast various political systems (for example, Canada and the United States); and
- discuss the importance of the economic, political and social development (using the examples of China, Turkey, and Mexico).

## Course Requirements and Assessment Overview

## Required Textbook

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics, an Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).

## Course Assessment

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>% of grade</i>	<i>Due date</i>
Response Paper 1	10	September 30
Response Paper 2	20	November 25
Two quizzes	30 (15% X 2)	October 6; November 17
Tutorial participation	10	Throughout the semester
Tutorial tickets	10 (2.5% X 4)	Before each tutorial
Final exam	20	TBA

## Assigned Reading:

The textbook for this course is available at the WLU bookstore. The best approach to the readings in the textbook is to read them *before* the lecture for which they have been assigned, taking notes as you go along. If you can do this consistently you will understand and remember the lecture material much more effectively. As a result, you will save yourself a considerable amount of time in the long-term while probably performing better overall in the course. Students are encouraged to visit the textbook's webpage that contains a number of chapter exercises and quizzes: Oxford UP's [textbook webpage](#). Additional readings (shorter articles and commentaries) will be posted on MLS, or the web-links will be provided (check the PO101A lecture agenda at the end of the course outline).

**MLS (mys):** You will be receiving announcements via [MyLearningSpace](#) (MLS) for this course. Readings for tutorial discussions will also be posted separately on MLS webpage. If you experience technical difficulties with MLS, you should get in touch with [myLS@wlu.ca](mailto:myLS@wlu.ca) without delay.

## Lectures:

The easiest way to struggle in this course – or even to fail – is to not come to lectures. Come to lectures!!! The lectures provide the structure and a significant portion of the content of the material covered during the term. Moreover, unless you regularly attend the lectures, you will find it difficult to know how to approach the material in the textbook. You will also miss important explanations and information concerning the tutorials, written assignments, and exams. Lectures can be a place where some of the most significant learning that you will experience takes place, if you come prepared to listen and participate.

## In-class Quizzes:

During the fifth (October 6) and tenth (November 17) weeks of class, short tests/quizzes will be conducted to evaluate your understanding of the course material. The content of these tests will be discussed in class.

## Tutorials:

When registering for PO101 you should also have signed up for a tutorial group. You should check LORIS to confirm which tutorial you are in, as you must attend your own tutorial. Each tutorial group will be led by a Teaching Assistant (TA) and will meet during alternating weeks for a total of four sessions during the term. During the tutorials you will be asked to identify the argument of the assigned article, present different positions on given issues accurately, and to raise and pursue questions about them in an attempt to improve your individual and collective capacity to think critically about politics. Your participation mark will not simply reflect your attendance but will also incorporate an evaluation of the quality of your participation. The tutorial material (shorter articles) will be uploaded on the MLS page.

As part of the tutorial preparations, students will be assigned 4 short tutorial assignments worth 2.5 points each). We call these assignments “tutorial tickets” because they **MUST** be handed in before the start of the respective tutorials – they are your ticket to participate! Overall, 10 points of the final mark are assigned for those assignments, with the additional 10 points for the attendance and seminar participation.

## Tutorial Schedule:

1. September 14/21 - America's need for superheroes!
2. October 19/26 – Carbon pricing in Canada
3. November 9/16 – Brexit: how democratic is the referendum?
4. November 23/30 – Turkey's failed military coup

## Short Papers:

Students will write two short papers for this course. *Detailed term paper instructions* will be provided in the handout that will be uploaded on MLS the first week of classes. The due date for the first response paper is September 30, while the second paper is due on November 25.

## Final Exam:

The final exam will take place during the exam period – which runs right through to December 23. You should *not make travel commitments during this time period*. The exam will allow us to evaluate your learning of course material as contained in assigned readings, lectures, and tutorials throughout the term. Some guidelines will be discussed in class concerning how you might best approach preparing for the exam. *For a student to receive a final passing grade in PO101A, he or she is required to take the final exam.*

## Code of Conduct:

Two notes on student conduct are worth mentioning at this stage. First, all students are expected to treat one another with respect in their interactions through this course. Second, all students are responsible for becoming familiar and acting with academic integrity as defined at Laurier, especially – but not exclusively – with respect to plagiarism. More information can be found at <http://www.wlu.ca/academicintegrity>. You should feel free to discuss these issues further with me, or your TA, at any point during the term.

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, lectures, readings, tutorials, assignments, or any other matter, do not hesitate to contact either your TA or me. For example, if you are unable to attend one of your tutorials, complete a written assignment, or take an exam on time, you should contact us as soon as possible so that we can discuss the matter and determine what

options are available. Each case will be treated on its own merits but it is expected that you will provide appropriate documentation.

### Email Etiquette:

When you are communicating with the Professor or TAs using email:

- 1) make sure the subject line of your message identifies the course number and the nature of your query (for example: PO101A Assignment Question);
- 2) also, make sure you tell us your name, student number, your TA's name, and your tutorial number; and
- 3) finally, you should use *only* your Laurier email account when corresponding with your TAs or a professor.

### The Proper Use of the Course Material:

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to MyLearningSpace, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's Code of Student Conduct and/or Code of Academic Conduct, and will result in appropriate penalties. *Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Wilfrid Laurier University.*

## PO101A Lecture Agenda

(Please note that the web hyperlinks are **in red**)

### September 8 – Welcome to PO101!

Let's Trump Politics: American Elections, Brexit and the Turkish Coup

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Don Mills: Oxford 2014, ch.1 (focus on pp. 4-11 and 17-24).

## Section One: Political Science Toolkit

### September 13 – Key Concepts for the Study of Politics

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., review ch. 1 (concepts covered in Sept 10 lecture) and ch.2 (pp. 28-39).

### *Sept.14 - Tutorial 1: US Superheroes*

### September 15 – Democratic Ideals and Types of Governments

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 4 (pp. 92-100).

### September 20 – What is “Good Governance”?

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., review ch. 2 (especially pp. 39-48).

### *Sept 21 - Tutorial 1: US Superheroes*

### September 22 – The World of Ideologies: Liberalism and its Critics (Socialism and Conservatism)

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 3 (pp. 52-73; 75-77).

## September 27 – The World of Ideologies: Other Systems of Thought

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 3 (pp. 70-75; 81-85).

## September 29 – The World of Ideologies: Nationalism and Multiculturalism

*Guest Speaker: Dr. Dejan Guzina*

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 3 (pp. 22-24; 73-75).

Stephen M. Walt, **Nationalism Rules**, *Foreign Policy* (July 15, 2011).

**Multiculturalism**, *Canadian Encyclopedia on Line*.

Paul Collier, **Good and Bad Nationalism**, *Social Europe* (March 10, 2015).

*\* Response Paper 1 – due on Friday, September 30, 4:30 pm, myls submission only*

## October 4 – Faith Communities and Politics

*Guest Speaker: Dr. John Milloy, Director, Centre for Public Ethics, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary*

### Reading:

John Milloy, **Politics and faith**, CBC News Canada.

## October 6 – Quiz #1

**October 10 – 14: No classes (Thanksgiving + Reading Week)**

## **SECTION TWO: How Politics Works**

### October 18 – Constitutions and Institutions of Government

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., review pp. 109-114 (on Constitutions), read chap 5 (pp. 124-128).

*Oct.19 - Tutorial 2: Canada*

## October 20 – Parliamentary and Presidential Systems

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 5, and pp. 240-247.

## October 25: The Interface between the Courts and Parliament (The Case of Assisted Dying in Canada)

### Reading:

**Carter vs. Canada**

**Bill C-14**

### *Oct.26 - Tutorial 2: Canada*

## October 27 – Federal, Unitary, and Confederal Systems

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 6; and pp. 254-261.

## November 1 – Political Participation: Elections and Referendums

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 7 (pp. 180-189).

## November 3 - Political Participation: Parties

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., review ch. 7 (pp. 189-195).

## November 8 – Referendums and Brexit: Who is Leaving Whom?

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch.9 (pp. 254-261), ch. 7 (pp.195-196).

Uri Friedman, “**Should the Brexit Vote Have Happened at All?**” *Atlantic* (June 27, 2016).

Kenneth Rogoff, “**Britain’s Democratic Failure,**” *Project Syndicate*: The World’s Opinion Page.

### *Nov.9 - Tutorial 3: BREXIT*

## November 10 – Aboriginal Governance Processes

### Reading:

Eric Mintz, Livianna Tossuitti and Christopher Dunn (2017), 'Aboriginal Rights and Governance' in *Canada's Politics: Democracy, Diversity and Good Government*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Toronto: Pearson, p.299-322 (available on MyLS course webpage)

### November 15 - The US Election Outcome

*Guest speaker:* Dr. Gerard Boychuk, Chair of the Department of Political Science, Waterloo University

*No reading – just follow the election coverage in the news!*

### *Nov.16 - Tutorial 3: BREXIT*

### November 17 – Quiz #2

## **SECTION THREE: Comparative Politics in Action**

### November 22 - Political Participation: State vs. Civil Society (the case of Turkey)

*Guest speaker:* Dr. Kim Ryigel, Department of Political Science, WLU

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch.8 (pp.202-214).

Doug Bandow, “**Turkey’s Attempted Coup:** The Collapse of the Ideal Islamic Democracy,” *World Opinion* (July 24, 2016).

### *Nov.23 - Tutorial 4: Turkey*

### November 24 – Comparative Perspectives on Politics of Development

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 9 (pp. 230-236), ch.10 (pp. 266-278).

*\* Response Paper 1 – due on Friday, November 25, 4:30 pm, myls submission only*

### November 29 - Political and Social Development in China

#### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 10 (pp. 278-285).

### *Nov.30 - Tutorial 4: Turkey*

## December 1 - Political and Social Development in Mexico

### Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 10 (pp. 285-292).

## December 6 – Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Terrorism

### Reading:

Mark Mackinnon, “**Munich, Nice, Turkey, Brexit, Trump: It’s all connected**” *The Globe and Mail*, July 23, 2016:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ch. 12 (pp. 341-345).

**Note:** On December 6 we will also be discussing the final exam questions.

## Additional Information of Interest to Students

*Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's **Accessible Learning Office** for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Academic Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.*

### Counselling Services:

Counselling Services are available to help students deal with emotional, psychological and social challenges of university. Counselling, consultation or referrals are available at the Student Wellness Centre.

### Peer Help Line:

**1.886.281.PEER x7337**. Peer Help Line, a confidential listening, referral, information and support line, is available during evening hours to provide support.

### Student Food Bank:

All Laurier students are eligible to use the Student Food Bank. Anonymous requests can be made online at [wlsu.com](http://wlsu.com) under the Services tab. All dietary restrictions are accommodated, and food hampers typically last up to a week.