

P0101B: Politics within Borders

Wilfrid Laurier University

Fall 2016

Instructor: Dejan Guzina

Lecture: TR 2:30-3:50 p.m.

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A Few Words from the Instructor

I hope that this course will stir your interest in the political world that surrounds us. Even though many of us don't think much about politics, let alone political science, we are all surrounded by it. Indeed, as the authors of our textbook claim, "politics is one of those areas in life that we cannot avoid." This course will provide you with a critical look at politics by making you more aware of the complexities of politics. But, a few words of advice and explanation are in order before we commence our journey into the world of politics.

As a discipline, political science is situated at the crossroads of both the social sciences and the humanities, and it embraces a wide range of approaches for the study of political events. As such, it can initially appear as overtly complicated, not to mention uninspiring and boring. This is, after all, easy to understand. Students are being bombarded with many new words, political jargon, and abstract arguments that seem removed from the real life. My task will be to persuade you that this is not the case. The study of politics can be intoxicating once we discipline our minds and learn its language. Indeed, 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 evaluate critically those issues from a number of

different perspectives in political science. Thus, I'm encouraging you to keep yourself open to the course content.

In the end, I hold the view that the best results are achieved when students are both challenged and encouraged in their intellectual pursuits. My teaching assistants (TAs) and I are here to help facilitate this process through lectures, class discussions, tutorials (discussion sections), and office hours, and you should take advantage of these opportunities to clarify all aspects of the course material and lectures which are not clear to you. Learning is a two-way street, and as much we are hoping that you can learn from us, we are looking forward to gain new insights from you.

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, 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 more informed about various political ideas, ideologies and beliefs that influence how we think about politics;

- identify different types of democracy and 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;
- 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*, 2nd edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).

Course Expectations

Assignment	% of grade	Due date
Summary brief	10	September 30
Summary overview	20	November 25
Two quizzes	30 (15% each)	October 6; November 17
Tutorials	10	Throughout the semester
Tutorial tickets	10 (2.5% each)	Before tutorials
Final exam	20	To be determined

Assigned Reading:

The textbook for this course is available at the WLU bookstore. The best approach to the textbook chapters is, of course, 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 PO101B lecture agenda at the end of the course outline).

MLS (myls): 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 without delay.

Lectures:

The easiest way to struggle in this course – or even to fail – is to not come to lectures. Even though the course is designed around the textbook, 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.

Bonus Marks: You can earn bonus marks in this course, which will *be added directly to your final calculated grade*. These bonus marks will be based on your participation in class lectures using iClickers. You can purchase your iClicker remotes in the University

bookstore. Please have your iClickers ready for the beginning of the second week of classes.

The use of iClickers is purely *voluntary*, and students won't be penalized in any way if they choose not to subscribe to it. The advantage of using iClickers is that student participation may result in bonus marks in the course. The **Bonus marks** will be assigned in the following way:

1. If you participate in 90% or more in each of the iClicker class sessions, you would receive 3-percentage points on top of your final mark. For example, if your final mark is 77% (B+), your final mark will be increased to 80% (A-).
2. If you participate in 85% to 89% in each of the iClicker class sessions, your final mark will increase by 2 percentage points (for example, your final mark of 68 (C+) will be raised to 70% (B-)).
3. If you participate in 80% to 84% in each of the iClicker class sessions, your final mark will increase by 1 percentage point.

Clicker Registration: You can register your clicker online via [MyLearningSpace](#). Once you login, you will see a course called "Clicker Registration - Fall 2016". To register your clicker, follow these steps:

- Enter the "Clicker Registration - Fall 2016" course (PO101B) by clicking on the course title;
- From the homepage, click on the "Click here to register your clicker" link;
- Enter your clicker serial Remote ID in the box provided (or on the back of the clicker); and
- Click on the 'Register' button.

Please note: You have to complete the registration to have your clicker marks assigned to you. The clicker has to be registered for a specific course. Please direct any questions about this process or about clickers in general to clickers@wlu.ca. A clicker troubleshooting station is available at the help desk in the concourse (Waterloo).

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 the 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 TA and will meet during alternating weeks for a total of four sessions during the term. During the tutorials you will be asked to 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, video clips) will be uploaded on the MLS page.

As part of the tutorial preparations, students will be assigned 4 short tutorial assignments (tutorial tickets; 2.5 points each). These assignments should be handed in before the start of the respective tutorials. Overall, 10 points of the final mark are assigned for those assignments, and 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 – Canada
3. November 9/16 – Brexit: how democratic is referendum?
4. November 23/30 – Turkey's failed military coup

Short Papers:

Students should 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. 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 in December. 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 PO101B, he or she is required to take a final exam.*

Code of Conduct:

Two notes on student conduct are, however, 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: PO102 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.*

PO101B Lecture Agenda

(Please note that the web hyperlinks are put 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*. 2nd 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*. 2nd ed., review ch. 1 (concepts covered in Sept 10 lecture) and ch.2 (pp. 28-39).

September 15 – Studying Politics: How to Analyze and Compare in Political Science?

Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2nd ed., ch. 1 (pp. 11-17).

September 20 – Democratic Ideals, “Good Governance” and Types of Government

Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2nd ed., review ch. 2 (especially pp. 39-48; 92-107; 112-117).

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

Reading:

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

September 27 – Radical Ideologies: Communism, Fascism, and Political Islam

Reading:

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

September 29 – The World of Ideologies: Nationalism and Multiculturalism

Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2nd 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).

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*. 2nd ed., review pp. 109-114 (on Constitutions), read chap 5 (pp. 124-128).

October 20 – Branches of Government in Parliamentary and Presidential Systems

Reading:

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

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

Guest Speaker: Dr. Debora Van Nijnatten, Chair of the Department of Political Science, WLU

Reading:

Carter vs. Canada

Bill C-14

October 27 – Federal, Unitary, and Confederal Systems

Reading:

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

November 1 – Political Participation: Elections and Referendums

Reading:

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

November 3 - Political Participation: Parties

Reading:

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

November 8 – Brexit: Who is Leaving Whom?

Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2nd 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.

November 10 – The Rise of the Far Right in Europe

Reading:

Katya Adler, [Is Europe Lurching to the Far Right?](#) BBC News (April 28, 2016).

Matthew Goodwin, Right Response: Understanding and Countering [Populist Extremism in Europe](#), Chatham House Report (September 2011).

November 15 - The US Election Outcome

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

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 Rygel, Department of Political Science, WLU

Reading:

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

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

November 24 – Comparative Perspectives on Politics of Development

Reading:

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

November 29 - Political and Social Development in China

Reading:

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

December 1 - Political and Social Development in Mexico

Reading:

George A. MacLean and Duncan R. Wood, *Politics*. 2nd 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*. 2nd 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 wlusu.com under the Services tab. All dietary restrictions are accommodated, and food hampers typically last up to a week.