



# COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Name:** Introduction to Politics and Government

**Course Number:** POLI 1100

**Number of Credits:** 3.0

**Effective Date:** September 2016

**Course Description:**

This course introduces the study of politics and government and will explore the major concepts, methods, approaches and issues in political science, as well as the primary components of government structure and the political process. The course also prepares students for further study in political science by providing conceptual and analytical (quantitative and qualitative) tools appropriate to the field by looking at three particular dimensions:

1. Political behaviour;
2. Political institutions; and
3. Political outcomes

**School or Centre:**

School of Arts and Sciences

**Year of Study:**

1st Year Post-secondary

**Course History:**

New Course

**Name of Replacing Course (if applicable):**

**Course Pre-requisites (if applicable):**

Admission to University Transfer program at VCC.

**Course Co-requisites (if applicable):**

**PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition)**

No  Yes (details below):

**Instructional Strategies:**

Lectures, class and group discussion, and library research.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Identify various areas of specialization in political science and the general scope and methods of the discipline at an introductory level;
2. Define selected concepts such as government, law, power, democracy, state, society, freedom, and equality;
3. Explain the basic features of political ideologies such as liberalism, conservatism, and socialism;
4. Explain patterns of voting behaviour and party competition, and how electoral systems influence voters and parties;
5. Identify and describe the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government;
6. Explain how different institutional designs of democracy work;
7. Explain basic political processes such as elections and interest articulation, aggregation, and communication;
8. Describe how political science explains policy outcomes;
9. Identify further studies in subfields such as political theory, Canadian government, international relations and world politics, comparative politics, among others.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

If this course is taken as a requirement or an elective in the following first-year University Transfer Certificate programs, the learning outcomes are found in the relevant Program Content Guides available at the Counseling and Advising Service areas:

University Transfer Arts Certificate

University Transfer Computing Science and Software Systems Certificate

University Transfer Environmental Studies Certificate

University Transfer Science Certificate

## Evaluation/Grading System

Grading System	Specify if 'Other':	Specify Passing Grade:
Letter Grades		D

## Components and Weighting of the Assessment/Evaluation Plan:

Type	Percentage	Evaluation Plan (provide a brief explanation for each component especially if value exceeds 35%):
Participation	15	Seminar participation
Midterm Exam	20	
Final Exam	30	
Project	10	Paper Proposal (1-3 pages)
Project	25	Term Paper (3000 words)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Learning Environment/Type

Instruction Type	Hours Per Instruction Type	Comments
L - Classroom	60	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

## Resource Material(s):

Resources are items in addition to tuition that the student is responsible for purchasing. Course resource information will be supplied by the department/instructor.

**Course Topics:**

- Thinking like a Political Scientist: politics, government, power, influence, coercion, state, authority, civil society, and democracy, and the rudimentary methods of political science; great political thinkers in liberalism, conservatism, socialism, environmentalism, and feminism.
- Analysing Political Behaviour: the role and evolution of electoral systems, interest groups, and political parties and the relationship of these processes to voting behaviour.
- Analysing Political Institutions: the role and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; survey of various political regimes.
- Assessing Political Outcomes: the function of the civil service and the role of other decisional actors in terms of policy formulation and implementation.

## VCC Education and Education Support Policies

There are a number of **Education** and **Education Support** policies that govern your educational experience at VCC, please familiarize yourself with them.

The policies are located on the VCC web site at:

<http://www.vcc.ca/about/governance--policies/policies/>

To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at [www.bctransferguide.ca](http://www.bctransferguide.ca).

### FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Approved by Curriculum Committee:	April 19, 2016	Approved by Education Council:	
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