O. Croci  
Office hours: SN 2034 - Tuesday and Thursday: 12:00-15:00  
Phone: 864-8185

DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:  
This course is an introduction to the study of politics. It aims at having students learn the basic concepts needed to examine politics in a rigorous, systematic, and scientific way. By the end of the course students should be able to discuss current political issues using appropriate concepts. The course will focus primarily on the Canadian political system but will also look at the systems of other states to gain a broader understanding of how political systems work.

TEXTBOOK:  
E. Mintz, D. Close and O. Croci,  

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:  
Mid-term exam (held in class on March 1) 30%  
Final Exam 60%  
Attendance and participation 10%  

EXAMS: The tests will focus on the material covered in the text and the lectures from the beginning of the course until the day in which the test is held. Students are expected to have acquired a clear understanding of all key concepts and terms. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions, identification of key concepts, and short answer questions.

Policies  
Supplementary instructions that constitute part of this syllabus are available online at [http://www.mun.ca/posc/courses/policies.php](http://www.mun.ca/posc/courses/policies.php) This includes information about campus support services, a statement about equity and instructions regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. Students are expected to review this online information and to be familiar with policies surrounding academic honesty, classroom demeanour, the conduct of examinations, the requirement to use a university email account and the use of recording devices in classrooms.
Tips for succeeding in Political Science at MUN
eTips (www.arts.mun.ca/etips/) is a website created by MUN political science students with tips about how do to well in political science courses. In addition to written tips there are audio clips and YouTube videos about research and writing, life in the classroom, undergraduate planning and tips for applying to graduate programs. Check out this support tool and consider submitting tips of your own to share with others.

COURSE OUTLINE

January 7: Introduction: What is politics and what is political science?

Jan. 12: Politics, power, authority, legitimacy, personal interests and the common good
• Chapter 1

Jan. 14: Nation, state, government, citizenship, globalization
• Chapter 2

Jan. 19: Political ideologies
• Chapter 3: 49-54

Jan. 21: Liberalism and Conservatism (Tories)
• Chapter 3: 54-62

Jan. 26: Socialism and Fascism:
• Chapter 3: 63-74

Jan. 28: Feminism and Environmentalism: are they really ideologies?
• Chapter 4

Feb. 2: Political Culture, political socialization and political participation
• Chapter 5

Feb. 4 and 9: Political Parties
• Chapter 6

Feb. 11: Elections and electoral systems
• Chapter 7: 142-159
  • “When the grass is not greener on the other side or what Italians need to know about Canada’s electoral system” available at http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~ocroci/electoral_system.pdf
I will also send these two pieces to your MUN email address.
Feb. 16: Electoral campaigns
  • Chapter 7: 159-170

Feb. 18: Interest groups
  • Chapter 8: 171-185

March 1: Mid-term Exam

March 3: Social movements, the media, protests and revolutions
  • Chapter 8: 185-200 and Chapter 9

March 8: Democracy and democratic government
  • Chapter 10

March 10: Non-democratic governments
  • Chapter 11 (read also chapter 17)

March 15: Constitutions and the judiciary
  • Chapter 12

March 17: Unitary and federalist political systems
  • Chapter 13

March 22: Parliamentary systems
  • Chapters 14

March 24: Presidential and semi-presidential systems
  • Chapter 15

March 29 and 31: Public administration and public policy
  • Chapter 16

April 5: International politics
  • Chapter 18

Department of Political Science Web Site
Check out our Web site (www.mun.ca/posc) for information about upcoming courses, degree requirements, international exchanges, internships, our Master of Arts program, course instructors, special events, FAQs, and more.