SCHOOL OF HISTORY, POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
POLLS 1101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE
FALL 2007 SYLLABUS

CLASS
Course number: Pols 1101
Time: 9:00AM – 12:00 Noon
Room: 133
Website:

INSTRUCTOR
Name: Touss Sepehr, AA, BA, MA, PhD (Can.)
Office: 119
Office Hours: To be announced
Office Phone: 604-682-8112
E-mail Address: touss@fdu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This survey course combines descriptive analysis with efforts to explain underlying patterns of the political universe through questions of "what, why and how." As a comparative introduction to political science, students are reminded that they must consider the important normative questions that are embedded in most issues about politics. The main objective is to develop a better understanding of the political world and link the central analytic concepts of the discipline that have emerged over time through the use of contemporary empirical research and historical evidence. Adjunct to the objective is consideration of the ideas about how governments make policies and what kinds of policies they should make. The analysis ranges from the individual's political beliefs and actions through the politics of groups and states to the dynamics of the international system. Its focus on issues and processes in world politics brings to the student an understanding of politics as the use of power or the production of a public choice. Current events as related to political situation will be emphasized in depth.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to use appropriate theoretical and methodological analyses of the discipline to solve a range of problems that arise in their day-to-day social interaction as well as business operations. More specifically, the student should be able to:

Develop a thorough and balanced understanding of the discipline and its close relationship and approach to other social sciences & humanities courses. While studying political theories and methodologies, the learner should be able to understand the ramifications of politics in the context of international relations and draw conclusions as to the current state of world affairs as well as current politico-economic affairs and should be able to draw pragmatic & practical conclusions.

PREREQUISITES: Courses in humanities, social studies – especially history could be of great benefit and advantage to the learner.

COURSE TOPICS: While the instructor believes in the conceptual and theoretical framework of the discipline, he prefers to place emphasis on the learners’ understanding of what is, inter alia, political science, political power, struggle for power and draw comparative analyses between the US, European and Canadian political systems and constitutions. Moreover, students should become aware of the politico-social realities of current affairs. The instructor may ask them to read articles on political or international affairs and draw their analyses and conclusions. An introduction to US government, its constitutional
principles as well as its political institutions and public policy would be used as a paradigm of federal system of government and juxtaposed to other world models.

**TEXTBOOK:**
The text for POLS 1101 is required as the common text for all sections of the course. Each instructor, however, is free to choose any supplementary reading material he/she prefers. The new text for September 2007 is:


The instructor may incorporate some pertinent political science supplementary reading material on Canada as well as world affairs.

**TEXTBOOK WEBSITES:**
Key web sites are listed at the end of each chapter. It is a continuing assignment throughout the course to be informed of current developments in the subject matter. Accessing the web sites is an on going requirement. So are the weekly assignments, including presentations, class discussions and written reports and biographical studies (ranging from Nicolo Machiavelli to Martin Luther King).

**ADDITIONAL READING MATERIALS:**
Supplementary reading assignments and handouts will be provided. In addition, students shall include:

*The New York Times [Internet] and a weekly news magazine (e.g., Time, Newsweek, The Economist)* as sources of current developments in the real political world. Highly recommended: Nightly News Hour, BBC and CNN, etc.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE STUDENT LEARNING:**
1. Two written tests and two presentation are required:
   a. Presentations (20%);
   b. Mid-term (20%); and
   c. Final exam (30%).
2. Two essay assignments (10% each) are required. Due dates for the essays given in class.
3. Class participation is important (10%) and attendance is required.
4. Students are responsible for all material presented in class.
5. There are no make-up examinations or assignments, under ordinary circumstances.
6. The incomplete [or "I"] is not automatically given. You must have the instructor’s approval.

**FINAL GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING**

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>93% and above</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>90-92.9%</td>
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<td>87-89.9%</td>
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Incomplete (I) can be awarded in special cases. University policy must be followed.