

# Political Studies 12

Winter Semester 2020, Period 4

**Instructor:** Mr. S. Arthurs

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**Office Location & Hours:** Room 112, 08:15 - 16:15

**Extra Office Hours:** By appointment or after school



## Course Description:

In Political Studies 12, students will learn how to gather, interpret and analyze information that communicates the complex reality of an interconnected political world. Students will collaboratively learn how to define ideology and describe the development of current political spheres. Overall, Political Studies 12 ultimately intends to familiarize students on how politics are defined, how politics shape our lives and ultimately how politics reveal patterns of common strife.

Learners begin by exploring the ethical judgements (re: individual behaviour, government action and policy decisions) that shape how societies respond to technological, cultural, legal and environmental problems. Political Studies 12 then highlights how profound 21<sup>st</sup> century political realities permeate our lives, emphasizing how democratic societies negotiate with resurgent radical ideology in Canada and abroad.

Moreover, Political Theory 12 has a unique opportunity to locate, observe and critique how globalization is eroding democratic institutions in real time, exploring further the interplay of political power, social-media technology and popular culture. Lastly, students explore a world that has made claims-making acceptable, objective fact indiscernible from fiction, in a time when uncertainty reigns.

## Course Overview:

Among other topics, students will examine and be introduced to the following throughout the semester:

1. Basic research methods: Defining abstract concepts (such as ideology) into objective vocabulary (policy).
2. How understanding political decisions are critical to being an informed and engaged citizen.
3. How political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes.
4. Decision making in differing styles of government, including regional, municipal, federal and First Peoples' structures, in relation to the distribution of political and social power.

## Assessment Guideline:

1. General and Work Period Engagement/Participation: 10%
2. Projects, Homework, In-class Written Assignments and Current Events: 20%

3. Seminar/Focus Group Discussion: 10%
4. Test one: 10%
5. Test two (Mid-term): 15%
6. Test three: 10%
7. Test four (Final): 15%
8. Research Project: 10%

### Class Room Expectations:

#### 1) **Attendance & Punctuality**

- a) Be on time and notify the teacher when you will be absent. Do not ever leave campus without permission during school hours in-case of an emergency.
- b) If you are sick, notify the teacher via email and do not come to class. You will require proof of sickness in the form of a note that is either signed by your parent, home-stay guardian or a doctor. You must also leave a contact number for the person who signs the note for verification purposes.
- c) **If you are absent for more than 25 classes, you may be placed on audit status.**

#### 2) **Zero Smart-Phone Policy During Class**

- a) No use of smart phones during class is strongly encouraged. Although the teacher can't force you to place your phones in baskets at the beginning of class, extra bonus marks may be awarded at the end of the semester to students who comply.

#### 3) **Plagiarism & Academic dishonesty**

- a) Plagiarism and academic dishonesty cannot be tolerated under any circumstance. From the Teacher's perspective, it is very simple to recognize when a student is not using original work. If you do not understand how **NOT** to plagiarize, please speak to me privately so I can show you! Multiple occurrences must and will be reported to the principal.

#### 4) **Missed Work & Grades**

- a) Ultimately, if you have missing work your grades will be negatively affected. I will always give students the chance to make up work (within reasonable circumstance) to earn better marks. However, **be prepared to defend your position** as to why you should have the privilege to re-do, complete extra or make up missed work. If you miss a course-work deadline and subsequently skip your make-up date, you will be given a zero – no exceptions.

#### 5) **Participation, Work Periods, Classroom Resources & Class Conduct**

- a) Discussion, synthesizing information and sharing thoughts are essential for an educated citizen. My classes purposely give participation a high grade weight – please contribute!
- b) Always respect yourself, the teacher and fellow students during class. In the most disruptive of circumstances, a semester wide penalty may be applied to students who distract their peers consistently.
- c) You will be given ample class time to complete work and projects. A work period engagement and participation rubric will be provided to you to ensure you are earning full participation marks.
- d) **BRING YOUR LAPTOP AND CHARGER** every day to class.