

# Course Outline: POLS 1000A – Introduction to Politics: Exploring the Democratic Experience

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

*Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.*

### Course Code:

AP/POLS 1000A 6.0 Introduction to Politics

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of politics through an exploration of the ideas, practices, institutions, limits, and possibilities of democracy. Key concepts will be explained and employed to sharpen our understanding of politics. Moreover, we will seek to develop critical reading, writing, and thinking skills necessary to enable active and creative citizenship. In support of this objective, course assignments are designed to deepen research and communication skills.

This course will be divided into three major parts:

- (1) The first part the class will deal with the question of democracy from a historical, theoretical and institutional point of view, from Ancient Athenian democracy to modern representative government.
- (2) The second part of the course will discuss the question of ideology. We will adopt a critical and historical perspective to gain insight into the contributions and limits of the major ideologies of modernity: liberalism, conservatism, and socialism.
- (3) The final part of the course will be devoted to an exploration of the great political issues of the day. Guided by both history and philosophy, we will see how the contemporary challenges to politics compel us to re-examine our relationship to others, to the world, and to humanity.

### Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: LECT/TUT

Two hour lecture, followed by a one-hour tutorial.

## Course Materials

1. Margot Northey, *Making Sense. A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2019. (All Year)
2. Bernard Manin, *The Principles of Representative Government*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1997. (Fall Term)
3. Pierre Manent, *A World Beyond Politics? A Defense of the Nation-State*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2006. (Winter Term)

## Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Tutorial Participation	10%	In-person	N/A
Tutorial Assignments	10%	In-person	Winter term
Fall Term Paper	15%	Take-home	October
Mid-Year Test	15%	In-person	December
Major Analytical Paper	30%	Take-home	March
Final Test	20%	In-person	April