

# Political Science (POLI) 278

## Introduction to Political Science II: Political Processes and Political Behaviour (Revision 6)

**Delivery mode:** [Individualized study online](#)  with [eText](#) 

**Credits:** 3



**Areas of study:** Arts or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** None

**Precluded:** POLI 278 cannot be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained in POLI 214.

**Challenge:** POLI 278 has a challenge for credit option.

**Faculty:** [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

## Overview

POLI 278 is the second half of Athabasca University's two introduction to politics courses. It can be taken alone for students requiring 3 credits in political science, but not wishing to take both introductory courses. For students desiring a thorough introduction to political science and those intending to take other political science courses, both introductory courses are recommended. Together with **POLI 277**, the first of the two introductory courses, POLI 278 is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in politics and government to enable them to go on to other courses in political science.

In this course students will be introduced to some of the fundamental concepts and processes of political science, including political culture and political participation; electoral systems; political parties and elections; interest groups and social movements; political conflict; the role of the media in politics; political regimes; globalizing justice; and international relations.

## Outline

- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: Ideas of Politics
- Unit 3: Political Culture, Political Participation, and Political Socialization
- Unit 4: Representation and Electoral Systems
- Unit 5: Political Parties and Elections
- Unit 6: Interest Groups and Social Movements
- Unit 7: Political Conflict and Violence
- Unit 8: Media
- Unit 9: Regimes—Democratic, Non-Democratic, and Hybrid
- Unit 10: Globalizing Justice
- Unit 11: Governing the World Community

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for POLI 278, you must complete the following assignments and achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) and a grade of 50 percent or more on the final examination. The weighting of the assignments is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Telephone Quizzes (2)	10%
Assignment 2: Short Essays	10%
Assignment 3: Annotated Bibliography	15%
Assignment 4: Research Essay	30%
Final Exam	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The **final examination** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the **Exam Invigilation Network** [↗](#).



To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

## Materials

Mintz, E., D. Close, and O. Croci. 2015. *Politics, Power, and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Toronto: Pearson. [📄](#) (eText)

Brodie, J., S. Rein, and M. Smith, eds. 2014. *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Toronto: Pearson.  (PDF)

## eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** , please refer to our **eText Initiative site** .

## Other Resources

All course materials are available online.



## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The Challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **Challenge for credit**  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.




### Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for the POLI 278 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  on the examination.



**Challenge for credit course registration form**

## Important links

- › **Academic advising** 
- › **Program planning** 
- › **Request assistance** 

› [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 6, May 8, 2015*

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