

## SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

### Course Code, Number, and Title:

POLI 2280: The Human Condition

### Course Format:

[Course format may vary by instructor. The typical course format would be:]

Lecture 3 h + Seminar 1 h + Lab 0 h

**Credits:** 3

**Transfer credit:** For information, visit [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca)

### Course Description, Prerequisites, Corequisites:

An interdisciplinary introduction to Political Science in the context of psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and history, among other perspectives, exploring questions about the human condition, power, and our relationship with nature.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

### Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- appraise the value of critical thinking and some of the ways in which our minds can mislead us
- assess various theories about existence, “meaning”, and our place in nature
- summarize the main forces, which have shaped both natural and social evolution, and consider the question of “human nature”
- evaluate various political, economic, and ecological challenges facing humanity in the 21st century

**Instructor(s):** TBA

**Office:** TBA      **Phone:** 604 323 XXXX      **Email:** TBA

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Textbook and Course Materials:**

[Textbook selection may vary by instructor. An example of texts and course materials for this course might be:]

Brockman, J. "What we believe but cannot prove". Toronto. 2006.

Harris, M. "Cannibals and Kings". Toronto. 1999. All chapters.

Voltaire. "Candide". New York. 1999. All chapters.

Prontzos, P. *Courseware*. Langara. 2010.

*Note: This course may use an electronic (online) instructional resource that is located outside of Canada for mandatory graded class work. You may be required to enter personal information, such as your name and email address, to log in to this resource. This means that your personal information could be stored on servers located outside of Canada and may be accessed by U.S. authorities, subject to federal laws. Where possible, you may log in with an email pseudonym as long as you provide the pseudonym to me so I can identify you when reviewing your class work.*

**Assessments and Weighting:**

**Final Exam** 35%

**Other Assessments %**

**(An example of other assessments might be:) %**

Midterm Exam: 30%

Assignments: 35%

Additional Information:

Number and type of writing assignments: 2000 word term essay

Proportion of individual and group work:

Individual: 100%

**Grading System:** Letter grade

Specific grading schemes will be detailed in each course section outline.

Passing grade: D

*This generic outline is for planning purposes only.*

## **Topics Covered:**

[Topics covered may vary by instructor. An example of topics covered might be:]

WEEK 1 - PHILOSOPHY and NATURE.

"What We Believe But Cannot Prove" (Intro, Davies, Sapolsky, Shermer, Lloyd, Gilbert, Rovelli); (Readings 1-6).

WEEK 2 - SOUND and FURY.

"Oedipus", "Hamlet"; WWB (Dutton).

WEEK 3 - EVOLUTION; ANTHROPOLOGY.

"Cannibals and Kings"; (Readings 7-8); WWB (Porco)

WEEK 4 - PSYCHOLOGY.

(Readings 9-10); WWB (Trivers, Dennett, Gopnik, Krause).

WEEK 5 - SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY.

(Readings 11-13); WWB (Kosslyn, Pentland).

WEEK 6 - HUMAN NATURE; ETHICS.

(Readings 14-15); WWB (Spelke, Goleman, Rheingold, Selig.

WEEK 7 - HISTORY (Enlightenment).

"Candide".

WEEK 8 - POLITICAL THEORY.

(Reading 16).

WEEK 9 - ECONOMIC THEORY.

"The Communist Manifesto"; (Reading 17).

WEEK 10 - ECOLOGY.

(Readings 18, 19).

WEEK 11 - DEMOCRACY & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS.

(Readings 20-24).

WEEK 12 - IS A BETTER WORLD POSSIBLE?

"Realizing Hope".

WEEK 13 - CREATING OUR FUTURE.

(Reading 25).

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As a student at Langara, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself and complying with the following policies:

**College Policies:**

[E1003 - Student Code of Conduct](#)

[F1004 - Code of Academic Conduct](#)

[E2008 - Academic Standing - Academic Probation and Academic Suspension](#)

[E2006 - Appeal of Final Grade](#)

[F1002 - Concerns about Instruction](#)

[E2011 - Withdrawal from Courses](#)

**Departmental/Course Policies:**

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