



# Introductory Political Studies Online

University of Saskatchewan

## Objectives for Innovation

Web-based instruction

## Intended Audience

Undergraduate students in political studies or other degree programs

## Results Achieved

Online introductory university-credit course

Interactive learning environment that meets the needs of students and the demands of the course content

Flexible access for students across Canada and at the University of Saskatchewan

## Implementation

September 1999

## Introductory Web Site

<http://www.extension.usask.ca/Programs/Degree/webcourses/polst110.6.html>

## Additional Benefits

Preliminary student and instructor evaluations indicate high-quality learning experience

Most common student comment: "Please offer more online courses like this!"

Positive reviews in various academic venues, including the Symposium on Technology-Enhanced Pedagogy

This program offers a completely online version of introductory political studies, using software for designing and delivering interactive courses over the World Wide Web. All material, including notes, additional resources, assignments and quizzes, is available at the course web site. Students communicate privately with each other and the instructor and participate in class discussion using FirstClass Collaborative Classroom software for web-based computer conferencing.

The course introduces students to government and politics. Students examine political processes and structures, the Canadian political system, and major themes and concepts such as power, freedom, rights, equality, authority and legitimacy.

Interaction between the students and instructor, and discussion among students are an important part of Political Studies 110.6. The FirstClass system provides an effective learning environment for such communication.

The online format makes Political Studies 110.6 available anywhere to students who cannot attend regular on-campus courses.

## Contact

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