

POL 214
Canadian Government and Politics
First Term Course Outline

Instructor: Prof. Nelson Wiseman
Office: 3079 Sidney Smith Hall
Telephone: (416) 978-3336

Office Hours: Mondays, 4:00-5:00 PM
Also by appointment: (call 416. 978-3336
any day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

Requirements and Evaluation:

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|---------------------|---|
| First Term Essay | 20% | Due: Oct. 29 | Note: 2% per day penalty for late papers including weekends. |
| Test | 20% | Dec. 3 | |
| Second Term Essay | 25% | Feb. 25 | |
| Tutorial Participation | 10% | | |
| Test | 25% | Apr. 1 | |

(Essays to be handed in at the beginning of class on due date).

BOOKS:

1. Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy: An Introduction*, 7th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2012).
2. Peter H. Russell et al., eds., *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2010).

Consider consulting reference books on research and writing. Two examples:

1. Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese, *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing: Social Sciences*, 5th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2012).
2. Diane E. Schmidt, *Writing in Political Science: A Practical Guide*, 4th ed. (Boston: Longman, 2010).

Note:

1. **"Keep rough and draft work and hard copies of your essays *before handing them in*. Keep them until the marked assignments have been returned."**
2. **"Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For clarification and information, see the University of Toronto's policy on Plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>."**
3. **"Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for detecting plagiarism. Terms that apply to the University's use of the turnitin.com service are described on the turnitin.com web site."**

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

ESSAYS

You are to complete two essays, one in first term and one in second term. Each essay is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to the research question backed by rational consideration of the evidence. Essay topics will be distributed separately in the first and second term.

Summarize your response (argument) in a sentence or two – the thesis statement – in the first paragraph of your essay. Be explicit. The reader should be clear on what you are arguing.

Assume an educated reader. Do not spend more than a few paragraphs providing background information. Focus on providing information that advances your argument.

While the balance of the paper will defend your argument, you should also acknowledge counterarguments and seek to demonstrate that your argument is superior.

The essay must be between 1,900 and 2,100 words (excluding the bibliography), 12 pt Times New Roman font with standard margins. Include a title page with your name, the date, the course number, and your TA's name.

Your TA will provide further instructions regarding the expectations for the essay.

Formatting bibliographies, references

In completing the written assignments, students must cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge and must cite all ideas that are borrowed from other authors.

Students must use a recognized standard format correctly in their bibliographies, references, and footnotes. *Failure to do so will result in substantial penalty in calculating your assignment grade.* Consult your TA if you have any questions.

Cornell University provides useful online guides to the APA and MLA citation styles:

http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/citing/apa.html

http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/citing/mla.html

Late assignments

Late penalties for written assignments: **2 percent per day, including weekends.** Late papers must be submitted to the Department of Political Science reception, Room 3018, 3rd floor Sidney Smith Hall (100 St. George Street). During the week, there is an after hours mail slot in the department. It is not available on weekends.

Extensions and make up tests

Make up tests and essay extensions are granted only for documented medical emergencies and severe family crises.

Appeals

Appeals must be accompanied by a one-half page explanation of the basis of the appeal. Appeals must be submitted to your TA first.

TUTORIALS:

Tutorials are an essential component of the course. Your TA will help you understand the material, prepare for the tests, and write good essays. Note that tutorial participation is marked on a cumulative basis throughout the entire year. When preparing for the tutorial, you should work on developing strategic reading practices. For example, ask yourself the following questions when you are reading:

- Do I understand the basic terms and concepts used by the author?
 - *Keep a list of difficult concepts and bring it to the tutorial group.*
- What is the central point or argument that the author is trying to make?
 - *Write out in a couple of sentences what you think the main point of the reading was (and keep this to study later).*
- How has the author organized his or her argument? What are the major themes?
 - *Note the logical steps in the author's argument. Do these make sense? Are they supported by persuasive evidence?*
- How does the reading relate to other course material?
 - *Do the authors say anything new or are they just repeating conventional wisdom? Do they help prove or counter points made in another week's readings?*

You should continually self-reflect on your participation in tutorial. Ask yourself after each tutorial meeting:

- Did I initiate discussion?
- Did I provide some information when it was needed?
- Did I give some positive opinions or reactions?
- Did I give some negative opinions or reactions?
- Did I ask for positive or negative opinions or reactions?
- Did I disagree with someone I thought was wrong?
- Did I try to restate what someone else had said to ensure I understood?
- Did I give examples when they were needed?
- Did I ask others to provide some examples?
- Did I try to synthesize or summarize a part of the discussion?
- Did I ask if someone might synthesize or summarize a part of the discussion?
- Did I sponsor, encourage, help, or reward others in the group?

First Term Lecture Schedule Constitutions and Institutions

Institutions

Sept. 10&17: The Constitution and Constitutional Change (Brooks, Chap. 5, pp. 127-161 and *Constitution Acts, 1867 and 1982*; Russell, Readings 9, 48, 49, 54, 55).

Sept. 24, Oct.1&15: Machinery of Government (Brooks, Chaps. 8&9, pp. 233-292; Russell, Readings, Readings 14, 16, 17, 21, 22).

Oct. 22&Oct. 29: Federalism (Brooks, Chap. 7, pp. 195-232; Russell, Readings 1, 3, 6, 11, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 54, 56).

Nov. 5&19: Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Brooks, Chap. 6, pp. 162-194; Russell, Readings 37, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62).

Nov. 26: The Electoral System, Political Parties, and Voting (Brooks, Chap. 10, pp.294-341; Russell, Readings 12, 15, 18, 21).

Dec. 3: Test: Room TBA, Examination Centre, 255 McCaul