DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE – UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POL214Y – Canadian Government and Politics

Profs. Nelson Wiseman and Jonathan Craft

Course Location: Alumni Hall, St. Michael's College, 121 St. Joseph Street
Time: Mondays 10am – 12pm.

Office Hours:
Term I   Term II
Nelson Wiseman   Jonathan Craft
Office Hours: Office Hours:
3079 Sidney Smith Hall, Monday 4pm – 5pm,   3048 Sidney Smith Hall, Monday 4pm – 5pm,
or by appointment   or by appointment
Call 416-978-3336 any day between 8am – 9pm.

Course Description: An introduction to the study of Canadian government and politics. The first term examines the identities, ideas and issues that drive Canadian politics. The second term surveys the institutions of governance and public policy.

Course Requirements, Evaluation, Due Dates *

First Term Essay	20%	Nov. 2, 2015
First Term Test	20%	December 7, 2015
Second Term Essay	25%	February 22, 2016
Second Term Test	25%	April 4, 2016
Tutorial Participation	10%	

* A penalty of 2% per day, including weekends, is applied to late essays.

Assigned Textbooks

1. Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy: An Introduction*, 8th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Note: The version of Brooks available at the University of Toronto Bookstore includes the *Constitution Acts* and Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman, and Patrizia Albanese, *Making Sense in the Social Sciences*: *A Student's Guide to Research and Writing,* 5th ed. The ISBN for the shrink-wrapped package is: 9780199022502

2. Peter H. Russell et al., eds., *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2010).

Course Notes

1) Students are expected to check BlackBoard/Portal for course updates and information.
2) Keep rough and draft work as well as hard copies of your essays until assignments are returned.
3) 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.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize

4) Normally, students will be required to submit their essays to turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students allow their essays to be included as source documents in the turnitin.com reference database where they are used solely for detecting plagiarism. Terms that apply to the University's use of the turnitin.com service are described on the turnitin.com website.

Course Accessibility

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/ as soon as possible.

Essays

Essays are to be submitted in class.

Essays should 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 terms.

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. The balance of the paper will defend your argument but 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 and footnotes where applicable). Use 12 pt. Times New Roman font with standard margins. Include a title page with your name, the date, the course number, your TA's name, and your tutorial section. In addition, you are required to affix a Statement of Academic Integrity (downloadable from Blackboard) to your essay.

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

Submitting to turnitin.com
Essay hardcopies are due in class, but all papers must also be submitted to turnitin.com. You will use the following class ID and password to enroll in Pol 214 and submit your paper through turnitin.com:

       Class ID: 10433100
       Password: Election2015

Formatting bibliographies, references
Cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge in your essays. You must cite all ideas borrowed from other authors.

Use a recognized standard format in your bibliography, references, and footnotes. *Failure to do so will result in a 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**. Submit late papers to the Department of Political Science reception, Room 3018, 3rd floor Sidney Smith Hall (100 St. George Street). There is an after-hours mail slot in the department. It is not available on weekends.

Extensions and make up tests
Extensions are granted only in the case of an adequately documented **emergency**. Requests are to be directed to Teaching Assistant (TA) Sophie Borwein (sophie.borwein@mail.utoronto.ca). You must make a reasonable effort to contact Sophie as soon as the problem arises, inform her of the problem, and present

your documentation. If you are requesting an extension based on a medical illness, you must complete and submit the UofT Verification of Student Illness or Injury form:
http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/getattachment/index/Verification-of-Illness-or-Injury-form-Jan-22-2013.pdf.aspx

Appeals of essay and test grades
A half page explaining the basis of the appeal must accompany an appeal. You must submit the appeal to your TA first.

Tutorials

Tutorials are an essential component of the course. Your TA will help you understand the material, write good essays, and prepare you for the tests. Tutorial participation is marked on a cumulative basis throughout the entire year. Develop strategic reading practices when preparing for the tutorial. 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 in a couple of sentences what you think is the main point of the reading (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? Is the author's evidence persuasive?
- 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 reflect on your participation in tutorial. Ask yourself after each tutorial meeting:

• Did I initiate discussion?
• Did I provide some helpful information?
• Did I offer positive opinions or reactions?
• Did I offer 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 someone to synthesize or summarize a part of the discussion?
• Did I encourage or help others in the group?

Explore It Program

The Explore It program is a voluntary career exploration program. It allows you to meet with an alumnus of the Dept. of Political Science in their work environment and to see firsthand how the skills and knowledge gained through this course translate into a breadth of potential careers. Visits with alumni hosts will last from a half- to a full-day and may include up to eight students. Each experience differs depending on the alumni host, but in all cases you see an alumni's career in action, can grow your network, and have the opportunity to consider your education in a wider context. An Explore It orientation will be scheduled in one of the early classes/tutorials to introduce you to the program and show you how to participate.

**First Term Lecture Schedule:
Issues, Ideas, and Identities**

Sept. 14: **The Social and Economic Setting:** Brooks, Chap. 3; Russell, Readings 13, 19, 74

Sept. 21 & 28: **Ideology and Political Culture:** Brooks, Chap. 2; Russell, Readings 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 71, 73, 75

Oct. 5: **Regionalism:** Brooks, Chap. 5; Russell, Reading 70, 72, 79, 80

Oct. 19 &26: **Quebec and Language Politics:** Brooks, Chap. 14; Russell, Readings 2, 4, 5, 7, 24, 26, 30, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 68, 69

Nov. 2: **Diversity Politics:** Brooks, Chaps. 4 and 15; Russell, Readings 20, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41

Nov. 16: **Canada in the World:** Brooks, Chap. 17; Russell, Readings 76, 77, 78

Nov. 23: **The Electoral System, Political Parties, and Voting:** Brooks, Chap. 11, pp.294-341; Russell, Readings 12, 15, 18, 21

Nov. 30: **Media:** Brooks, Chap. 13

Dec. 7: **Test (Location: Exam Centre, 255 McCaul, Room 100)**

First Term Tutorial Schedule

Discussion questions are listed below. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings for the given topic area.

Week of September 21 – September 25
Tutorial # 1 - Introduction: No preparation required.

Week of September 28 – October 2
Tutorial # 2 - Political Culture: What are the defining elements of Canada's political culture? What are some different methods of studying Canadian political culture? What are some advantages and disadvantages of using survey data to study political culture?

Week of October 5 – October 9
Tutorial # 3 - Regionalism: What accounts for regional economic disparities in Canada? What accounts for the different configurations of political parties and party systems in the provinces?

Week of October 19 – October 23
Tutorial # 4 – Essay Writing Workshop: Emphasis will be placed on research skills (e.g. the ability to review the literature and distinguish academic and non-academic sources), on developing clear, compelling writing (e.g. effective introductions and thesis statements), and on reviewing the Faculty's policy on plagiarism. Marking criteria for the first essay will be discussed.

Recommended reading: Northey et al. *Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*.

Week of October 26 – October 30
Tutorial # 5 - Quebec and Language Politics: What effects did the Quiet Revolution have on Quebec's political trajectory? Are Quebec's cultural and linguistic policies defensible in a liberal democracy or do they infringe unreasonably on individual rights?

Week of November 16 – November 20

Tutorial # 6 – Diversity Politics: Does official multiculturalism lead to fragmentation and division in Canadian society or does it contribute to social cohesion and an inclusive national identity?

Week of November 30 – December 4
Tutorial # 7 – Term Test Review: Discussion of the test format and content.
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Second Term Lecture Schedule:
Constitutions, Institutions, and Public Policy

Jan. 11 & 18:	**The Constitution and Constitutional Change:** Brooks, Chap. 6, and *Constitution Acts, 1867* and *1982*; Russell, Readings 9, 48, 49, 54, 55.
Jan. 25, Feb 1, & Feb. 8:	**Machinery of Government:** Brooks Chaps. 9 and 10; Russell Readings, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22.
Feb. 15:	**Reading week: No class**
Feb. 22 & 29:	**Federalism:** Brooks, Chap. 8; Russell, Readings 1, 3, 6, 11, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 56.
Mar. 7 & 14:	**Courts and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms:** Brooks Chap. 7; Russell, Readings 37, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62.
Mar. 21:	**Interest Groups:** Brooks Chap. 12; Russell, Reading 62, **&**

- Wherry, A. (2014). The EI hiring credit: Joe Oliver will take the CFIB's word for it. Available online: http://www.macleans.ca/politics/the-ei-hiring-credit-joe-oliver-will-take-the-cfibs-word-for-it/

Mar 28:	**Public Policy in Canada:**

- Eagles, M. (2008). Politics: an introduction to democratic government. Peterborough: Broadview Press. Chap. 11, p. 349-373 (Ebook, available on Blackboard).
- Johal, S. and Granofsky, T. (2015). Growing Pains: Childcare in Canada. The Mowat Centre. Available online: http://social-architecture.ca/wp-content/uploads/GrowingPains_ChildcareinCanada.pdf

April 4	**Test (Location: Exam Centre, 255 McCaul, Room 100)**

Second Term Tutorial Schedule

Week of January 18 – January 22
Tutorial # 8 – Essay Writing Workshop: Discussion of the most common problems in the first term essays.

Week of January 25 – January 29
Tutorial # 9 – The Constitution: What are some competing visions of Canada's Constitution and can these visions be reconciled with one another? Are attempts at constitutional change necessary or desirable?

Week of February 1 – February 5th
Tutorial #10 – The Machinery of Government I: What are the functions of the different branches of the Canadian government? Does the Prime Minister have "too much" power in Canada's political system?

Week of February 8 – February 12

Tutorial #11 – The Machinery of Government II: Does Canada have a 'democratic deficit'? How representative should our institutions be?

Week of February 29 - March 4
Tutorial # 12 Federalism: How does Canada's level of federal decentralization compare to those of other federal democracies? What factors have had the greatest impact on the evolution of Canadian federalism?

Week of March 7 - 11
Tutorial # 13 – The Charter of Rights and Freedoms: Does the increased judicial power that accompanied the adoption of the Charter enhance or detract from democratic politics? What are some of the criticisms of the right and the left of the Charter?

Week of March 21 – 25
Tutorial # 14 – Public Policy: How do policy issues get on the policy agenda and why do some measures but not others actually get adopted? Should Canada enact a national childcare policy, if so what provisions should it include?

Week of March 28 – April 1
Tutorial # 15: Term Test Review Session: Discussion of the test format and content.