POL 214 HIF: Canadian Government

Syllabus

Fall 2022

Class Time: **Mondays, 12PM–2PM**
Class Location: **Online** (see Quercus page for login)

Instructor: Ludovic Rheault
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Office Hours: Online (see Quercus page at beginning of term.)

Course Description

This course introduces students to Canadian politics. The field of Canadian politics has long been a foundational component of the teaching curriculum in the Department of Political Science. More than just a self-centred exercise in Canadian studies, the aim is to draw important lessons about politics. Many of the topics under scrutiny in this course have relevance in other parts of the world, from the integration of minorities and the treatment of Indigenous peoples to the judicialization of politics. In fact, the Canadian experience on issues like multiculturalism and the entrenchment of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has had a global influence.

At the end of this course, students will have acquired essential knowledge about the Canadian political system. There are three principal modules. We will start by studying the political organization of the Canadian society, by looking at classical and contemporary issues such as regionalism, Indigenous peoples, the housing crisis and multiculturalism. The next module focuses on political actors—political parties and voters. The third module focuses on Canada's institutional pillars, including the executive, parliament and the judicial.

Course Format

This course was selected to be offered online.

Classes will be synchronous on Zoom. Synchronous lectures are delivered during class time and the recording is made available asynchronously for students who cannot join during class hours.

There will be 11 lectures and a review session.

Tutorials will take place every other week. Tutorials are not recorded. Some tutorials are offered in person, some are offered online. Information about tutorial times and delivery format is available on your ACORN schedule, based on the selection made at the time of registration. Each tutorial will focus on a specific reading related to the topics under study in the course. A detailed schedule for tutorial weeks will be posted at the beginning of the term.

Marking Scheme

Evaluation	%	Date
Midterm test	30%	Due October 24, 2022
Term paper	30%	Due November 28, 2022
Take-home final exam	30%	Due December 14, 2022 (Final Assessment Period)
Tutorial participation	10%	Discussion tutorials during semester

Readings

The required readings for this course comprise a textbook and papers associated with the tutorials.

Textbook:

– Cochrane, Christopher, Kelly Blidook and Rand Dyck. 2021. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches. 9th Edition. Toronto: Nelson-Top Hat.

The textbook can be bought in electronic format at VitalSource. It is also be available at the UofT Bookstore. Copies are available at the Robarts library and E.J. Pratt library; earlier editions (7 or 8) of the textbook are acceptable substitutes.

Tutorial readings:

The tutorial readings are influential texts that have marked the field of Canadian politics in recent decades. These readings will be made available on Quercus, free of charge.

Assignments

The course comprises three assignments (midterm, term paper, and final exam), in addition to participation in tutorials. All the assignments can be done remotely. The final is a take-home exam taking place during the final assessment period.

The late penalty for all written work is 2% per day, including weekends.

Participation in Tutorials

Students will be invited to join discussions about readings during tutorials. Attendance and participation in tutorial discussions is worth 10% of the grade. Students are expected to have made the reading associated with each tutorial before joining the session. Tutorial readings and tutorial logistics will be announced at the beginning of the semester in September.

Term Paper

Students will be asked to submit a research paper (approximately 10 pages) about a topic central to Canadian politics. The paper is due at the end of the term (November 28, 2022) and is worth 30% of the final grade.

A list of admissible topics will be posted on Quercus.

The term paper should comprise a central argument/hypothesis and students will rely on a review of the literature or original pieces of evidence to assess their argument/hypothesis.

Midterm Test and Final Exam (Take-Home Format)

For the midterm test (from October 19 to 24) and the final exam (during the final assessment period, from December 10 to 14, 2022), students complete a take-home evaluation consisting of answering essay questions about the topics under study during the semester. Students will be asked to answer questions of their choosing among a proposed set of questions. The take-home midterm and final exam are worth 30% of the final grade.

Typically, answers will take 1 to 2 pages, in essay format. The questionnaires will be made available on Quercus and the answers must also be uploaded on Quercus.

Class Schedule

Textbook chapters associated with each class are indicated in the third column.

Date	Topic	Textbook	
September 12	Current issues & brief history	Ch. 2	
September 19	Regionalism and provinces	Ch. 3	
September 26	Indigenous politics	Ch. 4	
October 3	Multiculturalism and diversity	Ch. 6	
October 10	*Statutory holiday—No classes*		
October 17	The political economy of Canada	Ch. 8	
October 24	Political parties	Ch. 13	Midterm due
October 31	Voters and elections	Ch. 14	
November 7	*Reading week—No classes*		
November 14	Federalism	Ch. 17	
November 21	The executive	Ch. 19	
November 28	Parliament	Ch. 21	Term paper due
December 5	The judicialization of politics	Ch. 18	
December 8	Catch-up and review session		
December 10–20	Final assessment period		Final take-home exam

Note: Topics and dates mentioned on this syllabus may be adjusted slightly based on progress, and to allow for special guests or class activities.

Policies

Illnesses and late work

The University of Toronto launched a unique and centralized tool to report illnesses and other situations leading to absences, the **Absence Declaration**. For any situations affecting your ability to complete term work in time (COVID, cold, flu, other illness or injury, family situation), please fill in the Absence Declaration on ACORN. You will be able to save a copy. *Attach the copy of your Absence Declaration with your work, and it will be taken into consideration by the TAs.*

The procedure is as simple as that. *There is no need to contact the instructor or the TA about illnesses.* Everything is done using the online Absence Declaration.

Late work cannot be submitted after January 6, 2023. If you have an illness or similar situation and cannot complete term work by that date, you will need to initiate a petition process through your college registrar.

Plagiarism

To ensure a fair evaluation for all students, the University has strict guidelines regarding plagiarism. Please make sure to consult the University's documentation on plagiarism to avoid any unpleasant experiences. In particular, this guide is a useful reference:

https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/

Similarity Detection Software

Submission of written work to Ouriginal, UofT's similarity detection tool, is done when uploading it to Quercus. The statement of the University regarding the use of Ouriginal reads as follows:

> "Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (https://uoft.me/pdt-faq)."

Appealing a mark

Demands for appeal regarding a mark are to be justified in writing (250 words maximum) and submitted to the TA who marked the work. The policy of the Faculty of Arts and Science reads:

> "If a TA originally marked the work, the remarking request should go first to the TA and any appeal of that should go to the course instructor.
>
> Such a request entails a remarking of the work. Hence, if a remarking is granted, the student must accept the resulting mark as the new mark, whether it goes up or down or remains the same. Continuing with the remark or the appeal means the student accepts this condition."