

POL214Y – Canadian Government and Politics

Professors Nelson Wiseman and David Pond

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

Term I: Nelson Wiseman
Room 3079 Sidney Smith Hall,
Office Hours: 4pm–5pm. Also by appointment. Call 416-978-3336 any day, 8am – 9pm.

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

Course Requirements

	Evaluation	Due Dates
First Term Essay	15%	Oct. 31, 2016
First Term Test	15%	December 5, 2016
Second Term Essay	20%	February 13, 2017
Exam	40%	TBA
Tutorial Participation	<u>10%</u>	
	100%	

Note: *penalty for late essays is a deduction of 2 marks per calendar day from your essay mark out of 100*

Assigned Books

1. Alex Marland and Jared J. Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016). Available at U. of T. bookstore in a specially shrink-wrapped package that also contains Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman, and Patrizia Albanese, *Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing* and the Constitution of Canada. (ISBN 9780199028191)

2. Peter H. Russell et al., eds., *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics* 2nd ed. (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2016). ISBN: 9781552396629

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 hard copy at the start of 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. Use the following class ID and password to enroll in POL 214 and submit your paper through turnitin.com:

- * Class ID: 13214763
- * Password: Canada214

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, Sidney Smith Hall (100 St. George Street). The after-hours mail slot there is not available on weekends. **The Department closes at 5 pm.** Papers submitted after 5 pm will not be time-stamped until the following morning, and will accrue an additional day's penalty.

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?

First Term Lecture Schedule: Constitutions and Institutions

Sept. 12 & 19:	The Constitution (Marland/Wesley, Chap. 2; Russell Readings 2, 10-12, 18, 36, 37, 39)
Sept. 26 & Oct. 3:	Federalism (Marland/Wesley, Chap. 3; Russell Readings 1-3, 7, 40-46)
Oct. 17:	The Executive (Marland/Wesley, Chap. 5; Russell Readings 13, 15, 18)
Oct. 24:	Parliament (Marland/Wesley, Chap. 6; Russell Readings 14, 16, 17)
Oct. 31 & Nov. 14:	Charter of Rights (Marland/Wesley, pp. 68-76, 517-18; Russell, pp. 245-248, Readings 47-50)
Nov. 21:	Political Parties (Marland/Wesley, Chap. 9; Russell Readings 16, 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 34, 71)
Nov. 28:	Elections & Electoral System (Marland/Wesley, Chap. 10; Russell Readings 19, 23, 30)
Dec. 5:	Test (Location: Room 285, Exam Centre, 255 McCaul)

