

POL214Y – Canadian Government and Politics

Prof. Jonathan Craft and Nelson Wiseman

Course Location: Earth Sciences Centre, Room 1050, 33 Wilcocks Street
Time: Mondays 10am – 12pm

Office Hours:

Term I
Jonathan Craft
Monday 2pm – 3pm, or by appointment
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Term II
Nelson Wiseman
Thursday 11am – 12pm, or by appointment
3079 Sidney Smith Hall
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 examines the identities, ideas, and issues that drive Canadian politics.

Course Requirements, Evaluation, Due Dates

Students are expected to check BlackBoard/Portal for course updates and information.

First Term Essay	20%	October 30 th , 2017
First Term Test	20%	December 4 th , 2017 – Exam Centre, 255 McCaul Street, Room 200
Second Term Essay	25%	February 26 th , 2018
Second Term Test	25%	April 2 nd , 2018 - Location TBA
Tutorial Participation	10%	

Assigned Textbooks

1. Brooks, S. (2015). *Canadian Democracy: An Introduction* (8th ed.). Toronto: Oxford University Press.
2. Russell, P., Rocher, F., Thompson, D., & Bittner, A. (Eds.) (2016). *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics* (2nd ed.) Toronto: Emond Montgomery.
3. Other readings as assigned.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rulebook for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work;
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

To remind you of these expectations, and help you avoid accidental offences, ***we will ask you to include a signed Academic Integrity Checklist with every assignment (downloadable from course site). If you do not include the statement, your work will not be graded.*** 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.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from your TA, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to your TA or seek the advice of your college registrar.

Course Accessibility

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

Essays

Keep rough and draft work as well as hard copies of your essays until assignments are returned.

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 one-inch 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: 16022028
Password: CDNpolitics

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

Essay Deadlines, Late Penalties, and Extension Request

Essays are due in class and via turnitin.com on the above posted date. Late papers will be subject to a **2% a day penalty**, including weekends.

Submit late papers to the Department of Political Science reception, Room 3018, Sidney Smith Hall (100 St. George Street). **The Department closes at 5 pm.** Papers submitted after this time can be dropped off in the after-hours mail slot. Papers left in the after-hours slot will not be time-stamped until the following morning, and so will accrue an additional day's penalty. The after-hours mail slot is not available on weekends.

Extensions will be granted for the essays only in cases of *documented* medical problems or of *documented* family emergencies. Requests are to be directed to 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.** Requests received after the due date for essays are unlikely to be approved. All extensions granted will be done in writing and for a fixed period of time. 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>

We are not under any obligation to grant an extension. We are not under any obligation to accept automatically any medical note you submit as valid. The medical note should establish that the physician examined and diagnosed you at the time of your illness, not after the fact. If you submit a falsified or altered medical note you are liable to penalty. In short, you need to make arrangements before the assignment is due at a minimum informing Sophie and providing the required documentation.

Term Test and Make Up Tests

Both of the term tests will be administered during the regularly scheduled lecture period on the date listed above. The **first term test** will take place in the **Exam Centre, 255 McCaul Street, Room 200**. The

second term test location is TBD. Please arrive a few minutes early and ***you must bring your valid UofT Student I.D. with you.***

Only students who miss a term test because of *documented* medical problems or family emergencies ***may*** be entitled to write a makeup test. The standard of documentation required is the same as for essay extensions (see above). Students should notify TA Sophie Borwein (sophie.borwein@mail.utoronto.ca) as soon as possible that they will be missing the test. After the date of the missed test, you have *one week* to ask if it is possible to write a makeup test. The Faculty of Arts & Sciences' policy regarding makeup tests is set out in the "Rules and Regulations" section of the *2014-15 Calendar*, available at http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html

Writing a makeup test is a privilege, not a right. Without submission of the appropriate document(s), and permission of the professor you will not be allowed a makeup test.

Appeals of essay and test grades

A half page written explanation must accompany any appeal. You must submit the appeal to your TA first. Appeals may result in increases or decreases to marks.

You are entitled to the mark your work merits. You are not entitled to the mark you think you personally deserve, or you need in order to achieve your personal goals such as getting into law school or graduate school, staying in university, raising your mark in the course to the next letter grade level, maintaining your GPA at a certain level, etc. Do not lobby to raise your mark simply because you want a higher mark. This is a waste of your time.

There are no provisions for students to do extra work or extra assignments to make up for low grades on any of the assignments.

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 course. 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?

The grades assigned for tutorial participation will take into account both attendance and contributions to tutorial discussions. However, attendance alone will not guarantee a good tutorial grade.

First Term Lecture Schedule:

- September 11 & 18:** **Introduction, the Constitution and Constitutional Change:** Brooks Chap. 6, and *Constitution Acts, 1867 and 1982*; Russell readings 3, 11, 36, 37, 39
- September 25, October 2 & 16:** **Machinery of Government:** Brooks Chaps. 9 and 10; Russell readings 13-18
- October 23 & 30:** **Federalism:** Brooks Chap. 8; Russell readings 41-45
- November 13 & 20:** **Courts and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms:** Brooks Chap. 7; Russell readings 46-50
- November 27:** **Interest Groups:** Brooks Chap. 12.
- Wherry, A. (2015). Why the dairy lobby is so powerful. *Maclean's*. <http://www.macleans.ca/politics/ottawa/why-the-dairy-lobby-is-so-powerful/>
- December 4:** **Term Test** (Location: Exam Centre, 255 McCaul Street, Room 200)

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 18 – September 22

Tutorial # 1: *Introduction*. No preparation required.

Week of September 25 – September 29

Tutorial # 2: *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 October 2 – October 6

Tutorial # 3: *The Machinery of Government*. How have the branches of Canadian government evolved over time? Does the Prime Minister have "too much" power in Canada's political system?

Week of October 16 – October 20

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.

Week of October 30 – November 3

Tutorial #5: *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 November 13 – November 17

Tutorial #6: *The Courts and The Charter*. 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 November 20 – November 24

Tutorial #7: *Term Test Review*. Discussion of the test format and content.

Second Term Lecture Schedule: Issues, Ideas, Identities

January 8:	The Social and Economic Setting: Brooks Chap. 3; Russell readings 31, 74; OECD Better Life index, Canada: http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/canada/
January 15 & 22:	Ideology and Political Culture: Brooks Chap. 2; Russell readings 31, 71-73
January 29:	Regionalism: Brooks Chap. 5; Russell readings 8, 75-78
February 5 & 12:	Quebec and Language Politics: Brooks Chap. 14; Russell readings 4-7, 66, 68, 69
February 26:	Aboriginal Politics: Brooks Chap.16; Russell readings 10, 38, 58, 61-64
March 5:	Diversity and Multiculturalism: Brooks Chap. 4; Russell readings 9, 12, 20, 27, 29, 32, 57, 59-60, 67-68, 70
March 12 & 19:	The Electoral System, Political Parties, and Voting: Brooks Chap. 11, Russell readings 19-30
March 26:	Media: Brooks Chap. 13; Russell readings 31-34.
April 2:	Term Test (Location: TBA)

Second Term Tutorial Schedule

Week of January 22 – January 26

Tutorial # 8: *Ideology and Political Culture*. What are the differences between socialism, conservatism, and liberalism? What are the defining elements of Canada's political culture? What are some different methods of studying Canadian political culture?

Week of January 29 – February 2

Tutorial # 9: *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 February 5 – February 9

Tutorial #10: *Essay Writing Workshop*. Discussion of the most common problems in the first term essays.

Week of February 12 – February 16

Tutorial #11: *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 February 26 – March 2

Tutorial # 12: *Aboriginal Politics*. What distinguishes Aboriginal peoples from other ethnic groups in Canada? What are some of the barriers to effective self-governance in Aboriginal communities and how may they be overcome?

Week of March 5 – March 9

Tutorial # 13: *Diversity and Multiculturalism*. 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 March 19 – March 23

Tutorial # 14: *The Electoral System, Political Parties, and Voting*. What are the main functions of political parties? What are the key features of Canada's electoral system?

Week of March 26 – March 30

Tutorial # 15: *Term Test Review Session*. Discussion of the test format and content.