Course description: Political economy, for the purposes of this course, is the study of the state’s relationship to the economy, that is, how economic forces and interests shape public policies and how the latter reciprocally condition the former. It is macro-level and historical: Phenomena of interest are examined across many aspects of social life and multiple policy fields. Their development typically is studied in the long-term.

This course examines the political economy of Canada. It begins with a discussion of the staples orientation of the economy that emerged here after the arrival of Europeans, of governments’ management of the economy until World War Two, and of the multiple interpretations that were, and still are, proposed of these developments for Canadians. Subsequent lectures discuss federal government policies in relation to wealth-creation and redistribution since then, and their effect, culminating with current policies and debates. Later lectures turn to the role of provincial governments, which have been particularly important political-economic actors since the 1960s. There will also be a lecture on the distinctive features of pre-contact Indigenous political economies, their fate after European contact, and recent efforts to restore self-government. The course ends with a consideration of the current state and future prospects for Canada’s political economy.

Five areas of policy response to economic forces and interests are considered, with the treatment of each varying, as appropriate, with the historical period examined: foreign trade, infrastructure development, industrial and innovation policy, social policy and redistribution, and Indigenous relations. Term papers may examine recent developments in one of these areas.

Students are expected to attend all lectures and complete all assigned readings. You will also be required to submit a 10-12 page essay on November 14th. If possible, please hand the paper in to me directly that day at class.
Required Readings: All required readings will be available on the course Quercus page.

Getting in touch with me: I keep office hours each week after class (see above). You can drop by and see me then. If you cannot make it to the office at those times, phoning the office during office hours is a good option. Otherwise, the best way to get in touch with me is by e-mail. I check it regularly, and will respond as quickly as possible. I endeavour to respond to messages within a day or two. E-mail messages are most appropriate when your question is procedural in nature. I encourage you to visit my office during office hours or speak to me at break or after class if you have substantive questions about understanding the course material or preparing your essay assignment, at least if these questions are fairly involved.

Grades and grading: If you wish to appeal a grade for an essay marked by the TA, you will have to approach the TA first, with a 150-200 word written explanation of why you wish to have the grade reviewed. Only after this step has been completed, and the paper has been re-evaluated by the TA, will I consider the matter. I will only adjust an assigned grade if I feel that it is egregiously wrong – i.e., if the grade is off by 5% or more.

If the grade was assigned by me in the first place, please return the assignment to me with a 150-200 word written explanation of your reasons for requesting a re-evaluation. Appeals should be made within two weeks of the assignment having been returned to you.

The TA will grade the term paper; I will grade the mid-term test and the final exam. Please note that the drop deadline for courses this term is Monday, November 5th.

Grading Scheme and Course Requirements:

One-hour in-class quiz, October 24th: 20%

10-12 page term paper, due November 14th: 40%

Final exam, during December exam period: 40%

Term Essays: The essay assignment will be circulated early in the term. Please note that papers that are handed in late will be penalized at the rate of 2% per week day (Monday to Friday). Exceptions will only be made to this rule on justified medical grounds with proper medical documentation. Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before handing their paper in. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

Students should also be aware that plagiarism is considered to be a major academic offence, and that it will be penalized accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources. The essay assignment sheet will provide more detail on these points.
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 the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the turnitin.com web site.

All term work must be submitted by December 5th, 2018.

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility

Lecture themes & readings:

1. September 12th: Introduction: What is Political Economy? Why Study Canada’s?

2. September 19th: State & Staples Economy, from European Arrival to 1945

3. September 26th: Competing Interpretations: An Independent Political Economy? A Balanced One, Externally or Internally?
   H.A. Innis, “The Importance of Staple Products” [1956], in ibid, 15-17.


6. **October 17th: Contemporary Trade & Industrial/Innovation Debates & Policy**
   Sébastien Breau and David Rigby, “International Trade and Wage Inequality in Canada”, *Journal of Economic Geography* 10 (2010), 55-86. You may focus on 55-61, 71-81, and skip tables.

7. **October 24th: Developing a Liberal Welfare State, 1945-80**
   You Write a One-Hour Quiz During First Half of this Class


9. **November 7th**: Reading week; no class.

10. **November 14th: The Political Economy of Federalism & Province-Building**

11. **November 21st: Provincial Welfare States**
11. **November 28th: Indigenous Political Economies: Conquest, Containment, Re-emergence (?)**


12. **December 5th: Wither Canada’s Political Economy?**