

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE – UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POL214Y – Canadian Government and Politics

Professors Nelson Wiseman and David Pond

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

Term 1

Nelson Wiseman

Term 2

David Pond

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Office Hours: Thursdays 11-12 or 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 examines the identities, ideas, and issues that drive Canadian politics.

Course Requirements, Evaluation, Due Dates

Students are expected to check Quercus for course updates and information.

First Term Essay	20%	October 28, 2019
First Term Test	20%	December 2, 2019 at Exam Centre Room 200
Second Term Essay	25%	February 24, 2020
Second Term Test	25%	March 30, 2020
Tutorial Participation	10%	

Late papers: **2% a day penalty**, including weekends.

Textbook

1. Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy: An Introduction*, 8th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press. 2017).
 2. Other readings as assigned. These are available on Quercus under the “Library Course Reserves” tab.
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Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the University of Toronto degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will 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 the 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 your TA. 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 Quercus) 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: 22059191

*Password: 1867

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

Essay Deadlines, Late Penalties, and Extension Request

Essays are due in class and via turnitin.com on the above posted dates. 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 be time-stamped the following morning and will accrue an additional day's penalty. The after-hours mail slot is not available on weekends.

Extensions will be granted for essays only in cases of *documented* medical problems or of *documented* family emergencies. Requests are to be directed to TA **Jason VandenBeukel** (jason.vandenbeukel@mail.utoronto.ca). **You must make a reasonable effort to contact Jason as soon as the problem arises, inform him 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/index.php>

We are not obliged to grant an extension. We are not obliged 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 Jason VandenBeukel and providing the required documentation.

Term Test and Make-up Tests

Term tests will be administered during the regularly scheduled lecture period on the date listed above. Term test locations are TBA. Please arrive a few minutes early. **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 Jason VandenBeukel 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 *Faculty of Arts & Science Calendar*, available at http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html

Writing a make-up test is a privilege, not a right. Without submission of appropriate documentation 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 an increase or decrease to a mark.

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: Constitutions & Institutions

Sept. 9 & 16: The Constitution & Constitutional Change:

1. Brooks, Chap. 6.
2. *Constitution Acts, 1867 and 1982*, <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/>
3. Nelson Wiseman “Constitutions and Institutions as Culture” (Chapter 3 in Nelson Wiseman, *In Search of Canadian Political Culture* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007).

Sept. 23 & 30, Oct. 7: The Machinery of Government:

1. Brooks, Chaps. 9 and 10.
2. Peter Aucoin, Herman Bakvis, and Mark D. Jarvis, “Constraining Executive Power in the Era of New Political Governance,” in James Bickerton and B. Guy Peters, eds., *Governing: Essays in Honour of Donald J. Savoie*, pp. 32-52.
3. “Revisiting Governing from the Centre,” in Donald J. Savoie, *Power: Where is It?*
4. C.E.S. Franks, “Parliament in an Age of Reform,” in *The Parliament of Canada*, pp. 3-9.

Oct. 21 & 28: Federalism:

1. Brooks, Chap. 8.
2. Alan C. Cairns, “The Governments and Societies of Canadian Federalism,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* Vol. 10, No. 4 (1977), pp. 695-725.
3. Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad, eds., *Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy*, 3rd ed. (2012), pp. 3-22.

Nov. 11 & 18: Courts and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms:

1. Brooks, Chap. 7.
2. F. L. Morton and Rainer Knopff, “Judges and the Charter Revolution” in Peter H. Russell, et al., *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics* (2nd ed.) (2016), pp. 361-377.
3. Peter W. Hogg and Allison Bushnell, “The Charter Dialogue Between Courts and Legislatures or Perhaps the Charter of Rights Isn’t Such a Bad Thing After All” *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* (1997) 35.1, pp. 75-124.

Nov. 25: Political Parties, Elections, & the Electoral System

1. Brooks, Chap. 11.
2. Claude Emery, Library of Parliament, “Public Opinion Polling in Canada,” <http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp371-e.htm>
3. Alan C. Cairns, “[The Electoral System and the Party System in Canada, 1921-1965](#),” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 1.1 (1968), pp. 55-80.
4. R. K. Carty, “Three Canadian Party Systems: An Interpretation of the Development of National Parties,” pp. 16-32 in Hugh G. Thorburn and Alan Whitehorn, eds., *Party Politics in Canada* 8th ed. (2001)

December 2: **Term Test** (Exam Centre Room 200)

First Term Tutorial Schedule

Week of September 23 - 27

Tutorial # 1 – Introduction & The Constitution: What are some competing visions of Canada’s Constitution and can these visions be reconciled? Are attempts at constitutional change necessary or desirable?

Week of September 30 – October 4

Tutorial # 2 - 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 7 - 11

Tutorial #3 – 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 October 21 - 25

Tutorial #4 – The Machinery of Government II: Does Canada have a ‘democratic deficit’? How representative should institutions be?

Week of October 28 – November 1

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 11 - 15

Tutorial # 6 – 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 November 18 - 23

Tutorial # 7 – 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 November 25 – 29

Tutorial # 8: Term Test Review Session: Discussion of the test format and content.