

Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

POL214H1F: Canadian Government

Syllabus
Summer 2023

Class Time: (Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8pm)
Class Location: Online Synchronous

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Course Description

This course introduces students to Canadian Government and Politics through the lens of political power and liberal democracy. The course is conducted in two parts. Part (1) *Houses of Political Power: Foundations and Institutions* examines constraints on political power (constitutions), the centralization of power (executives and legislatures), levels of power (federalism) and sources of power (elections). Part (2) *Society & Political Systems* examines the relationship between people and the state. Classical and contemporary issues such as regionalism, Indigenous peoples, ideology, representation, and the judicialization of politics will be studied alongside the overarching theme of political power and liberal democracy in Canada. Together in two parts, students will leave this course with a comprehensive understanding of both perennial and contemporary issues of Government and Politics in Canada.

Course Delivery and Format

This course will be conducted entirely online. There will be no in-person components to this course and all assignments, including tutorials, will be conducted 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.

Tutorials will take place once a week synchronously online. Tutorials will begin during the second week of classes. Tutorials are not recorded. Each tutorial will focus on a debate resolution about a specific reading or topic under study in the course. A detailed schedule for tutorial weeks and topics will be posted to Quercus.

Assessment

Mid-Term Test	Due: May 25	25%
Term Paper	Due: June 13	30%
Take-home final exam	Due: Exam Period	35%
Tutorial Participation	Due: Ongoing	10%

Note: Last Day to drop F Courses is June 5, 2023

Required Texts

- *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, 9th Edition by Christopher Cochrane, Kelly Blidook and Rand Dyck (Toronto: Nelson, 2021) (*abbreviated as “Textbook”, below*): <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/3n3-ebk-cdn-politics-critical-approaches-9e-cochrane-blidook-dyck-v9780176886608>
- All other required readings are freely available via the UofT Library System and will be posted to the Quercus course page

Recommended Reading

A list of weekly recommended readings will be posted as a separate document to Quercus.

Assignments

This 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 exam is a take-home exam taking place during the final assessment period.

The late penalty for all written work is 5% per day, including weekends.

Tutorials

Students will be invited to participate in debate resolutions about readings and course material during tutorials. Tutorials begin during the second week of class. 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. A detailed description of tutorial schedule and logistics will be posted to Quercus.

Term Paper and Writing-Integrated-Teaching (WIT)

Students are invited to submit a research paper about a topic central to Canadian Government and Politics. The paper should assert an argumentative thesis statement in response to an empirical research question.

Essay writing resources based on the pedagogical approach of Writing-Integrated-Teaching (WIT) will be available to students on Quercus.

A list of admissible topics, undergraduate writing resources, and a detailed description of the term paper assignment will be posted to Quercus.

Mid-term Test and Final Exam (Take-Home Format)

For the mid-test (due May 25) and the final exam (during the final assessment period), students complete a take-home evaluation consisting of answering essay questions about the topics under study during the semester. Students will be invited to argue a response to a question of their choosing among a proposed set of questions. The mid-term test will be an opportunity for students to demonstrate knowledge on Part 1 of the course, *Houses of Political Power: Foundations and Institutions*. The take-home exam is cumulative with a greater focus on Part 2 of the course, *Society & Systems*.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Resource Centre as soon as possible. If you require accommodations or a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services at 416-978-8060 or accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. Appointments and drop-in sessions for accessibility advisors and learning strategists are available.

Statement on the use of Ouriginal in Quercus.

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>).

Grade Appeals:

Students that request to appeal a grade must provide a written (250-word) document first to the original grader then, if an additional appeal is requested, to the course instructor. Grade appeals should be sent to the original grader *after* 24 hours of and *within two weeks* of receiving the original grade. The original grade may stay the same, increase, or decrease upon additional review and the student must accept the resulting new grade. Initiating the grade appeal process means that the student accepts this condition.

Writing Support

In addition to political science specific Writing-Integrated-Teaching (WIT) resources that will be posted to Quercus, the University of Toronto has many writing centers that will be operating

during the 2023 Summer session, and all will be offering synchronous one-on-one instruction (in-person and online) with asynchronous options at some colleges. Students should visit each individual center's site for information on how to make an appointment.

The FAS centres are listed at: <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science/>

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools or apps for assignments in this course, including tools like ChatGPT and other AI writing or coding assistants, is prohibited. The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, may be considered an academic offence in this course. Representing as one's own an idea, or expression, of an idea, that was AI-generated by be considered an academic offence.

It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. In essence, it is the theft of the thoughts or words of others, without giving proper credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s). You must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable in a university. What the university calls "plagiarism", non-university institutions might call "fraud".

The University of Toronto provides a process that faculty members must initiate when they suspect a case of plagiarism. In the Department of Political Science, suspected evidence of plagiarism must be reported to the Chair; in most cases, the Chair passes the case on to the Dean.

A faculty member may not mark an assignment or assess a penalty if he or she finds evidence of plagiarism – the matter must be reported. Penalties are assigned by the Chair, by the Dean or by the University of Toronto Tribunal.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
2. Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
3. Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation marks around the material and reference the source and author. **Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!**
4. Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
5. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

Ignorance of the rules against plagiarism is not a defence; students are presumed to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Students are especially reminded that material taken from the web **must** be quoted and cited in the same manner as if it came from a book or printed article.

If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask a faculty member or teaching assistant than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty.

Plagiarism is **cheating**. It is considered a **serious offence** against intellectual honesty and intellectual property. Penalties can be severe, ranging from a mark of “0” for the assignment or test in question, **up to and including expulsion from the university**.

Some website listed below on avoiding plagiarism:

‘How to Use Sources and Avoid Plagiarism’:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Other Advisory Material available at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/home>

Class Schedule

Part 1: Houses of Political Power: Foundations and Institutions

Class 1 (Tuesday May 9) Liberal Democracy: Rise and Decay

Required:

- POL214 Syllabus
- Textbook, Chapter 2: “Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State”

Recommended:

- Emergency Debate in Parliament of Canada on anti-mandate demonstrations:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zT01gcghcQQ>

Class 2 (Thursday May 11): Constraints on Power: The Constitution of Canada

- Textbook, Chapter 16: “The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change”
- Carins, 1971. “The Judicial Committee and its Critics.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*: 301-345

Class 3 (Tuesday May 16): Centralization of Power: Executive Dominance

- Textbook, Chapter 19: “The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet”

Class 4 (Thursday May 18): Parliament and Political Debate

- Textbook, Chapter 21: “Parliament”
- White, 2006. “Traditional aboriginal values in a Westminster Parliament: The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.” *Journal of Legislative Studies*: 8-31

Class 5 (Tuesday May 23) Levels of Power: Federalism

- Textbook, Chapter 17: “The Federal System”

Class 6 (Thursday May 25) Sources of Power: Voters and the Electoral System

- Textbook, Chapter 12: “Elections and the Electoral System”
- Gidengil, Everitt, 2003. “Conventional Converge/Unconventional Politicians: Gender and Media Coverage of Canadian Leader’s Debates.”
- Take-home Mid-Term Test Due

Part 2: Political Society & Systems

Class 7 (Tuesday May 30): Judicialization and The Charter of Rights & Freedoms

- Textbook, Chapter 18: “The Charter of Rights and Freedoms”
- Textbook, Chapter 22: “The Judiciary”
- Hogg, Bushell, 1997. “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*: 75-124

Class 8 (Thursday June 1): Indigeneity & Reconciliation

- Textbook, Chapter 4: “Indigenous Peoples”
- Abele, Prince, 2006. “Four Pathways to Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada.” *American Review of Canadian Studies*: 568-595

Class 9 (Tuesday June 6): Regionalism & Language

- Textbook, Chapter 3: “Regionalism”
- Textbook, Chapter 5: “French Canada and the Quebec Question”

Class 10 (Thursday June 8): Multiculturalism

- Textbook, Chapter 6: “Immigration and Diversity”
- Hansen, 2017. “Why Both the Left and the Right are Wrong: Immigration and Multiculturalism in Canada” *Politics Symposium*: 712-716

Class 11 (Tuesday June 13): Ideology and Political Parties

- Textbook, Chapter 13: “Political Parties and the Party System”
- Term Paper Due

Class 12 (Thursday June 15): Canada & The World

- Textbook, Chapter 8: “Political Economy”
- Textbook, Chapter 9: “Canada’s External Environment: The United States”