

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
POL101
The Real World of Politics
Fall 2021

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Course description

Welcome to POL 101, The Real World of Politics! This course examines politics through the major themes, issues, and questions that have defined the 21st Century. Students will engage the concepts and debates that anchor the field of political science through lectures and discussions that directly address contemporary political problems and issues such as climate change, coronavirus, elections and electoral systems, liberalism, race and racism, terrorism, democracy, social movements, political participation, and empire. Students will also learn important academic skills in this course, including how to take notes, how to read and think critically, and how to write. This is a terrific course to take in first year because our TAs are specially trained to teach writing, and the course assignments are also designed to teach critical thinking and writing.

Overview

This class will be conducted online and in-person. The course includes weekly lectures and weekly tutorials. Lectures will be pre-recorded and available online through Quercus. Students have the option to sign up for in-person or online tutorials.

Each week, students will 1) complete the assigned readings, 2) watch a lecture from Professor Jung, 3) participate in their tutorial group, either online or in person, 4) submit assignments in the weeks they are due.

Students should plan to do the reading and watch the lecture before their tutorial meets each week.

Readings

All the readings for the course are available online or posted on Quercus. The reading load for this course is not heavy, but some of it will be written in a style that is not familiar.

Tutorials

Students in this course must attend a weekly tutorial. Some tutorials are in person, others are online. Tutorials will involve a combination of group discussions, small group work, and opportunities to practice and get feedback on important writing-related skills.

Each tutorial group is assigned a TA, who will lead your discussions and be available to you for office hours (in person or online) and by email. ***Your TA should be your primary point of contact for any questions about this course.***

GRADING SCHEME

Assignments	Percentage
Assignments	6 assignments @ 15% each = 90% (See below)
Tutorial Attendance and Participation	10%

Assignments - 90% (15% x 6 assignments)

There will be seven (7) assignments over the course of the term. Your final grade will be based on your best six (6) assignment grades. Each assignment will be worth 15% of your final grade. Assignments will be submitted online, using the 'assignments' function on Quercus. A detailed rubric will be distributed with each assignment.

Participation – 10%

Your participation in tutorial will be evaluated by your TA. They will communicate their expectations to you. If they don't, ask.

Late policy

Late assignments will not be accepted except for a valid medical or family-related emergencies, unless an extension has been granted.

Extension policy

If you require an extension, you should reach out to your TA *before* the assignment is due. Extensions will be granted for valid medical or family-related reasons. Extensions will be no more than one week (7 days). After seven days, the answer key for the assignment will be posted online, and late work will no longer be accepted.

In keeping with best practices in accessible pedagogy, this course has been designed to accommodate many schedules and learning styles. You will have two weeks to complete each assignment (except the first and last assignments). The assignments are designed to be low-stakes and cumulative, so you will build your skills over the course of the year. Moreover, every student has the opportunity to drop their lowest assignment from their final grade (including a grade of zero if you miss an assignment).

It is your responsibility to manage your workload throughout the year. Look ahead in your calendar and anticipate busy periods. Try not to skip an assignment early in the semester; you may want to "drop" a low grade at the end of the year.

Grade Appeals

If you believe that an error has been made in one of your assignment grades, you should send an email or private Quercus message to your TA explaining the error, with clear reference to the answer key or rubric for the assignment. It is your responsibility to demonstrate that your work merits a higher grade.

Grade appeals must be raised within seven (7) days of the assignment being returned to you. If you are unable to resolve the issue with the grading TA, you may appeal to the Head TA. He can be reached at Daniel.Sherwin@mail.utoronto.ca. Your appeal should clearly explain why the

work you submitted warrants a higher grade than it received, with clear and explicit reference to the answer key and/or rubric.

If you believe an error has been made with your participation grade, you may appeal to your Tutorial TA. Tutorial TAs have total discretion over participation grades; you may not appeal to the Head TA or Professor to overturn a TAs decision.

Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences. University policy requires that course instructors refer suspected plagiarism cases to the Office of Academic Integrity for resolution. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Assignment Schedule

Most assignments will be assigned on Monday and due Friday of the following week.

	Weeks	Assigned	Due Friday at 5:00 PM EST
Assignment 1	Intro, democracy	9/13	9/17 (note the shorter timeline)
Assignment 2	Elections, Participation	9/20	10/1
Assignment 3	Social Movements, <i>Thanksgiving</i> ,	10/4	10/9
Assignment 4	Liberalism, Race	10/12	10/23
Assignment 5	Indigenous politics, <i>reading week</i>	10/26	11/12
Assignment 6	Pandemic, Individual responsibility	11/15	11/26
Assignment 7	Climate Change, End of Empire	11/29	Wednesday, 12/9 (note the shorter timeline)

Resources

Accessibility Services: The course is fully committed to providing students with fair access to their courses. Students with special needs or disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Accessibility Services to arrange for needed accommodations.

Writing Support: Students can attend workshops and arrange one-on-one appointments for feedback on their written work. Students can visit www.writing.utoronto.ca for information and advice on all aspects of academic writing. Students are encouraged to make use of the college writing centers for individualized consultations on their written assignments. Interested students should book their appointments with the writing centers early, as they fill up fast. Information

about the writing centers is available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. Students can also take advantage of the Library's free "Writing Plus" academic skills workshop series, described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>. International students can find information about the English Language Learning program (ELL), which includes practice opportunities for improving oral communication and critical reading skills, at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

Registrar Support: Students are encouraged to contact their registrar promptly if they experience unexpected challenges during the course that may require accommodations.

Health and Wellness: Students can access a wide range of programs and services to support their health and wellbeing. Many of these programs are listed at: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/> 6

Crisis Support: Students in distress can access a range of free crisis lines available from the University of Toronto and the City of Toronto, as listed below:

- University of Toronto: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/>
- City of Toronto: <https://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/kb/docs/articles/311-toronto/information-and-business-development/crisis-lines-suicide-depression-telephone-support-lines-non-crisis-mental-health-services.html>

Most of these crisis lines are available 24 hours a day and some address specific problems that students may be experiencing. Immediate assistance is available as follows:

- My SSP for University of Toronto Students: 1-844-451-9700.
- Good 2 Talk Student Helpline: 1-866-925-5454
- Gerstein Crisis Centre: 416-929-5200
- Distress Centres of Greater Toronto: 416-408-HELP (4357)
- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): 250 College Street (walk-in)

You are not alone: please get help if you're experiencing difficulties or are in distress.

Course Outline

Introduction and Orientation (9/9) *No Tutorial*

Watch: Professor Jung's introductory lecture

No reading assigned

Democracy (9/13) *Tutorials begin*

Read: Robert Kaplan, "Was Democracy Just a Moment?" *The Atlantic Monthly*, December 1997 online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1997/12/was-democracy-just-a-moment/6022/>

Watch: Francis Fukuyama and The End of History <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM6p-15fjBg>

Watch: Professor Jung's lecture

Electoral systems and the Canadian federal election (9/20)

Read: Pippa Norris, "Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems" *International Political Science Review* Vol. 18, No. 3

Watch: the French language debate (Sept.8) or the English language debate (Sept.9) among party leaders running in the Canadian federal election on September 20, 2021.

Watch: Professor Jung's lecture

Political Participation (9/27)

Read: Scholzman, Verba, and Brady, "Participation is not a Paradox: The View from American Activists" *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 25, No.1 (Jan., 1995) pp1-36

Watch: Hahrie Han, "Practicing Democracy," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzDXXZHQaJc>

Watch: Professor Jung's lecture

Social movements (10/4)

Watch: Deva Woodly, "Changing Politics," <https://www.ias.edu/ideas/2013/woodly-change>

Read: "Have Americans Warmed to Calls to Defund the Police?" <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/us/politics/polling-defund-the-police.html>

Listen: Professor Jung's podcast interview with Professor Deva Woodly

Thanksgiving, no class (10/11)

Liberalism, Rights, and Constitutions (10/18)

Read: Ryan, Alan. 1993. "Liberalism." In *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, edited by Robert E. Goodin and Philip Pettit, 291–311. Malden, MA ; Oxford: Blackwell Pub.

Watch: Linda Colley and Sanjay Ruparelia, "How War Shaped Constitution Making and Spread (and Limited) Rights"

Watch: Professor Jung's lecture

Race, Gender, and Politics (10/25)

Read: Anthony Marx, "Race-making and the nation-state," *World Politics*, Vol 48, Issue 2, 1996

Read: Erin Tolley "Lack of council diversity puts municipalities at risk," *Policy Options*, October 2018

Read: Terry Glavin, "There are more crucial issues than the colour of Vancouver's council" *National Post*, October 31, 2018

Read: Erin Tolley, "Racialized women politicians still get different news treatment" *Policy Options*, March 7, 2019

Watch: Professor Jung's lecture

Indigenous politics and reconciliation (11/1)

Skim: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*.

available as a book at amazon.ca, and also online at

[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring the Truth Reconciling for the Future July 23 2015.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring_the_Truth_Reconciling_for_the_Future_July_23_2015.pdf)

Read: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. "Legacy" Chapter, pp. 135-183

Read: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*.

Read: Jung, Courtney. 2018. "Reconciliation: Six Reasons to Worry." *Journal of Global Ethics* 14 (2): 252–65.

Watch: Professor Jung's lecture

Fall reading week, no class. (11/8)

The politics of the pandemic (11/15)

Reading to be assigned closer to the date

The politics of personal responsibility (11/22)

Read: Wiedemann, Andreas and Wise, Tess, “The Dog-Whistle Politics of Personal Responsibility, Credit, and the American Welfare State,” (July 17, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3579128> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3579128>

Listen: “Reasons to be cheerful podcast: The winner takes it all”

Watch: Professor Jung’s lecture

Climate change (11/29)

Read: Steven Bernstein and Matthew Hoffman, “Why action on climate change gets stuck and what to do about it,” (<https://theconversation.com/why-action-on-climate-change-gets-stuck-and-what-to-do-about-it-128287>)

Listen: Professor Jung’s podcast interview with Steven Bernstein and Matt Hoffman

Empire and Afghanistan (12/6): *No Tutorial*

Read: Wade Davis, “The unraveling of America,” online at <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/political-commentary/covid-19-end-of-american-era-wade-davis-1038206/>

Watch: Professor Jung’s lecture