POL312: Canadian Foreign Policy Performance  
Fall 2022

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University of Toronto, St. George Campus  
Faculty of Arts and Science  
Department of Political Science

Schedule:  
Tuesdays, 18:10 to 20:00
Location:  
SS 1070
Email:  
michael.kunz@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours:  
Tuesdays, 17:00 to 18:00, SS3007

Course Description

This course examines Canadian foreign policy, with a focus on how Canada navigates changes in world order. Canada's postwar foreign policy has strived to create and support a liberal rules-based international system that constrains powerful states from unilateral action. Along with this orientation toward the world, a national identity has emerged that depicts Canada as a “helpful fixer” and “middle power”, though these framings have been continuously contested. Contemporary changes in the international system are placing foreign policy makers under pressure to maintain Canadian values while charting a course for Canada in an increasingly divided, conflictual global environment.

The first half of the course examines ideas about Canadian foreign policy, Canada's approach to diplomacy and engagement with other states and global institutions, the structures of foreign policy decision making and action within the Canadian federal government, and other locations of foreign policy influence within Canadian society.

The second half of the course addresses issues facing Canadian foreign policy decision makers in the Justin Trudeau government as they navigate changing environmental and technological conditions and relations with and between powerful states.

Learning Objectives

This course is intended to confer a broad knowledge about Canadian foreign policy history, structures, theories, and issue areas. By the end of the course, students should be able to thoughtfully engage with questions about the proper role of Canadian foreign policy institutions and the strategies Canada should pursue in service of its foreign policy goals.
**Quercus Use**

This course uses Quercus for classroom management, facilitating discussion, and the submission of all assignments.

**Communication with the Instructor**

All email communication should be courteous and professional. Please include your full name in all communication.

I will endeavor to respond within 24 hours during the work week. It is appropriate to send a polite reminder email after that period elapses if you have not received a reply.

Office hours are Tuesdays, 17:00 to 18:00, in SS3007. You may drop in to discuss assignments or topics from the course. You may also email me to schedule an appointment via Zoom.

**Course Materials**

There is no textbook for this course. All readings are either available through the university library or will be posted to Quercus.

**Assignments**

1. Midterm test (20%):
   a. Tests understanding of lectures and readings from the first section of the course.
   b. 18:10-19:00 on **November 1st**.
2. Foreign policy resolution (20%):
   a. Propose a change to Canadian foreign policy.
   b. Maximum 275 words (citations excluded)
   c. Submit through Quercus by start of class **November 29th**.
   d. Please note, resolutions will be made visible to other students.
3. Class question (10%):
   a. Submit a response to a question posed in the previous class.
   b. Due before the start of the next week’s class.
   c. Submit through Quercus and email to instructor.
   d. One-page double-spaced maximum (citations excluded).
   e. Each student must submit one response during the course.
4. Research paper (50%):
   a. Choose a decision in Canadian foreign policy since 2015.
   b. Research the policy options available to decision makers, the factors leading to the decision, the parts of government that enacted the decision, and the effects of the policy decision.
   c. Assess the decision based on its alignment to Canadian values and national interest relative to other options that were available to decision makers.
d. Use journalistic sources while applying Canadian foreign policy scholarly theories.

e. 8-page double-spaced maximum (citations excluded).

f. Submit through Quercus by 23:59, December 9th.

Assignment Policy

Assignments are submitted through Quercus. Late penalties accrue at a rate of 2% a day, weekends and holidays included.

Chicago endnote style is preferred.

Extensions

Reasonable accommodation can be made for student requesting extensions for personal reasons, provided the request is made prior to the due date. Extensions for illness require medical documentation.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism please see Writing at the University of Toronto http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.

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Course Schedule

Week 1: September 13th, 2022: Introduction


Week 2: September 20th: Ideas about Canadian Foreign Policy


Week 3: September 27th, 2022: Multilateralism vs. Plurilateralism


Week 4: October 4th: Politics, Prime Ministers, and the PMO


Week 5: October 11th: Ministers, Parliament, and the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy


**Week 6: October 18th: Military and Intelligence**


**Week 7: October 25th: Substate Actors in Foreign Policy**


**Week 8: November 1st: Canada and the Conflict in Ukraine**

*** Midterm test: 18:10-19:00 ***


**Week 9: November 15th: Global Warming and the Arctic**
Week 10: November 22nd: Rising Illiberalism


Week 11: November 29th: A New Cold War?

***Policy resolution assignment due at start of class***


Week 12: December 6th: Where does Canada go from here?

Open Discussion Class.