

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
POL101
The Real World of Politics
Fall 2023

Professor Courtney Jung
Email address: courtney.jung@utoronto.ca

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, democracy, Indigenous rights, social movements, political participation, the politics of personal responsibility, and political hope. 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.

Learning Objectives:

Through this course, students will:

- Deepen their understanding of the political events, ideas, and debates that are shaping the world
- Learn to take notes
- Become comfortable reading and extracting information from a variety of sources, including academic articles and books, media articles, reports, and podcasts
- Critically evaluate a variety of sources, analyzing the substance and merits of their arguments
- Develop their ability to make persuasive written and verbal arguments about politics

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 – 45 %

Assignment 1: Introductory paragraph, including thesis statement.

Due 10/6/23 11PM EST. (15%)

Assignment 2: Using evidence to make a persuasive argument

Due 11/10/23 11PM EST. (15%)

Notes assignments. Students will be asked to submit their notes, for a grade, three times over the course of the semester. Lecture notes will be due 9/25, 10/23, and 11/20 (15% - 5% each)

Assignments will be submitted online, using the ‘assignments’ function on Quercus. A detailed rubric will be distributed with each assignment.

Participation – 15%

Your participation in tutorial will be evaluated by your TA, based on tutorial attendance, active engagement in class discussion, and evidence that you have watched the lecture and completed the reading for the week.

Final exam (in-person) – 40%

Late policy

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 1% per day.

Corrupted files policy

It is virtually impossible for a file to become corrupted through submission to Quercus.

Therefore “corrupted files” will be penalized as late submissions. If you are concerned about your file being corrupted, please copy and paste the text of your assignment into the text box of an email and send it to the TA at the time of your submission. This way, if anything happens to your file, you can show that it was completed on time.

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). Students registered with accessibility must also request an extension before the assignment is due, and will be given extensions of no more than one week. 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. The assignments are designed to be cumulative, so you will build your skills over the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to manage your workload throughout the semester so that you are able to submit your work on time.

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 v.bruzzo@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 TA's decision regarding participation.

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>

The use of AI is not allowed in this course. Students should not use ChatGPT or any other generative AI program to generate ideas, find sources, check their work, generate notes, or complete any portion of any assignment.

Resources

Accessibility Services: The university 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/departments/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. Lectures, readings, and videos will be posted in weekly “modules” on Quercus.

Introduction and Democracy (9/11) *No Tutorial this week*

Please watch both Professor Jung's introductory lecture and the lecture on Democracy for this week.

Watch: Professor Jung's Introductory lecture

Watch: Professor Jung's lecture on Democracy

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>

Skim: “How democracy is under threat across the globe,”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/19/world/democracy-threat.html?searchResultPosition=3>

Electoral systems and elections (9/18). Tutorials begin

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

Watch: Professor Jung’s lecture

Political Participation (9/25)

Read: Schlozman, 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: Professor Jung’s lecture

Social movements (10/2)

Read: Jelani Ince, Zackery Dunivin, “Black Lives Matter protests are shaping how people understand racial inequality,” *The Conversation*, March 30, 2022.

<https://theconversation.com/black-lives-matter-protests-are-shaping-how-people-understand-racial-inequality-178254>

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

Thanksgiving (10/9) No class, no tutorials

Liberalism, Rights, and Constitutions (10/16)

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: Professor Jung’s lecture

Race, Gender, and Politics (10/23)

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

Watch: Professor Jung’s lecture

Indigenous politics and reconciliation (10/30)

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," pp. 135-183

[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%20the%20Truth%20Reconciling%20for%20the%20Future%20July%2023%202015.pdf)

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

Watch: Professor Jung’s lecture

Reading week. (11/6) No class, no tutorials

The politics of personal responsibility (11/13)

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” with Michael Sandel

Watch: Professor Jung’s lecture

Climate change (11/20)

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

Political Hope (12/4)

Watch: Professor Jung’s lecture