

Department of Political Science
University of Toronto St. George

POL224 – Canada in Comparative Perspective

Syllabus

Fall 2023

Class Time and Location: Mondays 5-7pm in MC 102

Instructor: Chris Greenaway

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Office Hours and Location: TBA

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Teaching Assistants: Ashley Splawinski and Jenna Quelch

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Office Hours and Location: TBA

Course Description

This course introduces students to Comparative Canadian Politics through the lens of political power. It provides essential knowledge about the variety of political regimes around the world, with concrete examples emphasizing the similarities and differences between Canada and other actors on the international stage. Topics covered include indigeneity and reconciliation, political institutions, electoral systems, ideology, and issues in representation and inequality. This course is conducted in two parts: (1) *Political Power Foundations and Institutions* and (2) *Society, Systems, and Power*. Students will leave this course with the ability to utilize the comparative approach to critically evaluate Canadian Government and Politics.

Student Learning Outcomes & Writing-Integrated-Teaching (WIT)

This course adopts a deliberative-pedagogical approach to education, grounded in the philosophy of Writing-Integrated-Teaching and deliberative democracy. Major assignments in this course rely on argumentation and a scaffolding structure so that students will leave this course with their own unique research project. Writing-Integrated-Teaching (WIT) is an award-winning Arts & Sciences program aimed at the development of writing strategies for undergraduate students. Numerous writing resources and guides that will be helpful for the course assignments will be posted to Quercus at the beginning of the semester. In addition to the development of writing and research strategies, students will critically analyze the role of political power across both key institutional (Part 1) and non-institutional (Part 2) actors.

Assessment

Research Proposal	Due: October 16	15%
In-Person Research Essay	Due: November 20	35%
Tutorial Participation	Due: Ongoing	10%
Final Exam	Due: Exam Period	40%

Last Day to Drop F Courses: November 6, 2023

Note: Without prior arrangements, there will be a -5% late penalty applied per calendar day

Required Texts

- Christopher Cochrane, Kelly Blidook, Rand Dyck, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, 9th ed. (Toronto: Nelson, 2021) (abbreviated as “Textbook”, below). <https://tophat.com/catalog/social-science/political-science/full-course/canadian-politics-critical-approaches-9th-edition/4385/>
- All other readings are posted on the Quercus course page and/or can be **freely accessed** through the UofT Library System.

Recommended Reading

- A separate document of recommended readings will be provided on Quercus. The reading list will include topics on Canadian Politics and Government that will be useful for the course research project. Academic literature on research and writing in higher education will also be provided in the list of recommended readings.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, students that may have a disability/health consideration requiring accommodations should feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Resource Centre as soon as possible. If you require accommodations for 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 with accessibility advisors and learning strategists are available.

ACORN Absence Declaration Tool

Students who miss an academic obligation during the term may use the ACORN Absence Declaration Tool (AD) to record an absence. Students may utilize this option once per term for a single absence period of up to seven consecutive days. The declaration period must include the day of declaration and may include past and/or future dates, for a total of up to 7 calendar days.

Students must declare their absence and attach a copy of it to their late assignment to receive reasonable academic consideration of an extension without additional supporting documentation.

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 and within two weeks of receiving the original grade. The original grade may stay the same, increase, or decrease upon additional review. The student must accept the resulting new grade. Initiating the grade appeal process means that the student accepts this condition.

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. 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 website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

This course is designed to promote your learning and intellectual development and to help you reach course learning outcomes.

Representing as one's own an idea, or expression of an idea, that was **AI-generated** may be considered an academic offense in this course. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools and apps is strictly prohibited in all course assignments unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor in this course. This includes ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants. Use of generative AI in this course may be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which is a form of cheating.

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 dictates 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 issued 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' - available at:

<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

Class 1 (September 11): Introduction – The Canadian Context

- Syllabus: POL224 Fall 2023
- Emergency Debate in Parliament of Canada on anti-mandate demonstrations:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zT01gcghcQQ>

Part 1: Political Power: Foundations & Institutions

Class 2 (September 18): Indigeneity, Reconciliation, and Institutional Foundations

- Textbook, Chapter 2: "Institutional Foundations and Evolution of the State"

- Borrows, John. 1997. “Wampum at Niagara: The Royal Proclamation, Canadian Legal History, and Self-Government.” In *Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada* by Michael Asch. UBC Press: Chapter 6.

Class 3 (September 25): Constraints on Power: The Constitution of Canada

- Textbook, Chapter 16: “The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change.”
- Textbook, Chapter 18: “The Charter of Rights and Freedoms”
- Dicketson et. al, 2014. “Constitutionalism.” Nelson: 68-79

Class 4 (October 2): Levels of Power: Federalism & Regionalism

- Textbook, Chapter 17: “The Federal System.”
- Heuglin and Fenna, 2015. “The American Experiment.” In *Comparative Federalism: A Systemic Inquiry*. University of Toronto Press: 141-144

(October 9): Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

Class 5 (October 16): Centralization of Power: Executive Dominance: Presidential & Parliamentary Systems

- Textbook, Chapter 19: The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Newton and Deth, 2005. “Presidential and parliamentary government” in *Foundations of Comparative Politics*. Cambridge University Press: 60-71
- **Research Proposal Due**

Class 6 (October 23): Comparative Legislative Debate: Indigenous Parliaments of Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and the Federal House of Commons

- Textbook, Chapter 21: Parliament
- White, Graham. 2006. “Traditional aboriginal values in a Westminster Parliament: The legislative assembly of Nunavut.” *Journal of legislative studies* 12(1): 8-31

Part 2: Society & Systems

Class 7 (October 30): Feminized Language of Democracy: Canada & The UK

- Textbook, Chapter 7: “Gender”
- Blaxill and Beelen. 2016. “A Feminized Language of Democracy? The Representation of Women at Westminster since 1945.” *Twentieth Century British History* 27(3) – Assigned pages: 412 and 422-443

Reading Week: November 6 to November 10

Class 8 (November 13): Ideology & Political Parties

- Textbook, Chapter 13: Political Parties and Party System.”
- Cochrane, Christopher. 2015. *Left and Right: The Small World of Political Ideas*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press: Chapter 8

Class 9 (November 20): In-Person Research Essay

- **In-Person Essay due during class time**

Class 10 (November 27): Sources of Power: Voters & The Electoral System

- Textbook, Chapter 12: “Elections and the Electoral System”
- Warren, Mark. 2009. “Democratic Renewal and Deliberative Democracy.” In *Designing Deliberative Democracy: The British Columbia Citizens’ Assembly*, Ed Mark Warren and Hilary Pearse. Cambridge University Press.

Class 11 (December 4): Multiculturalism & Immigration

- 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 12 (December 7): (*Note This is a Specially Scheduled Lecture - Makeup Monday) Public Policy & Judicialization in Comparative Perspective: Case Study: The Politics of Disability

- Smith, Miriam. 2002. “Ghosts of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and Charter Litigation in Canadian Political Science.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 35(1): 3-29
- Textbook, Chapter 22: “The Judiciary.”
- Ontario Human Rights Commission’s submission to the fourth legislated review of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act. May 23, 20223: <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-commission%E2%80%99s-ohrc-submission-fourth-legislated-review-accessibility-ontarians>