



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

POL382H1S: Topics in Canadian Politics: Canadian Parliament's Rules and Operations

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Political Science

Professor Elizabeth McCallion

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Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Course Description

This course takes an in-depth look at Canada's parliament, exploring the interplay between parliament's rules and operations. In the course, we will consider the purpose of parliament, and investigate the formal and informal rules that have been established to support that purpose. We will also analyse the operations of parliament and ask whether it has been effective in fulfilling its purposes. Topics include the prime minister and executive dominance, the House of Commons and Senate, committees, political parties and party discipline, legislative amendment, and parliamentary reform.

Course Objectives

1. Students will develop a strong understanding of major issues in the field of Canadian parliament by attending lectures, engaging with class activities and participating in class discussions during the lecture hours.
2. Students will strengthen their research skills and written communication skills by producing an interesting and relevant written essay outline and final essay. The essay outline and essay will interrogate a topic of their choice assigned by the professor and make a persuasive argument about said topic.

3. Students will develop analytical skills and communication skills by writing a take-home exam-style final assessment at the end of the term. The exam will require students to think broadly about key themes of Canadian parliament and tie together information from across multiple weeks of the course.

Course Requirements

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Syllabus Quiz	3%	January 16 at 5 pm Makeup date: January 30 at 5 pm
Essay Outline	20%	January 30 at 5 pm
Essay	40%	March 5 at 5 pm
Meme Assignment	2%	March 26 at 5 pm
Final Assessment	35%	April 10 at 5 pm

Syllabus Quiz: Before our second class, please read the syllabus and complete the short syllabus quiz, available in Quercus. The quiz will ask you to demonstrate your comprehension of the course syllabus. It is an open-book quiz (you can refer to the syllabus while answering questions). You are welcome to work with a classmate on the quiz if you wish – the purpose of the quiz is to ensure that you are aware of key course policies.

Essay Outline (600 words + reference list): The essay outline will be based on a topic you select from a list of topics provided by the professor. Include your thesis statement, main points of discussion, and the evidence you will use to support your arguments. In your references, list 5-7 sources, at least half of which should be peer reviewed. Remember to use your sources meaningfully to support your points.

Essay (3000 words + reference list): The final essay should make a convincing and sophisticated argument about a key debate in the study of Canadian parliament. You should use at least 10 high quality sources; your reference list should be expanded after you receive essay outline feedback. It is strongly recommended that you write the essay based on your essay outline, unless you have compelling reasons for switching topics (in that case, it is recommended that you consult with the professor). Please see Quercus for detailed instructions about the essay.

Meme Assignment: In the second-last week of class, submit a meme to the Quercus folder titled “Meme Assignment.” The meme should be related to some aspect of the course material. Please indicate in your submission note if you do not want the meme shared with the class or shared on social media, or if you do not want it credited to you. In addition to submitting to Quercus, feel free to share your meme on social media with the hashtag #POL382!

Take-Home Exam-Style Final Assessment: The final assessment will encourage you to make connections across course themes and investigate key aspects of Canadian parliament. You will develop and share informed opinions in your answers to the questions. The assessment will take an exam-style format and involve an element of choice – out of a list of five questions, you will choose three to answer in an essay format. Answers will be a maximum of 600 words each. The assessment is expected to take three hours to write, but you will be given the questions on March 22 and will submit the assessment to Quercus on April 10. This allows students to manage their own accommodations – if you need extra time, need to take breaks, need to have a snack, or

write the exam in smaller stretches of time, you may do so. The assessment will be released on Quercus and circulated by email, and it must be submitted to Quercus in a .doc or .pdf format before the deadline – **there is no 72-hour grace period for the take home final assessment, and assignments submitted after 5 pm on April 10 will not be graded.**

Assignment Submission Method

Assignments must be submitted online through Quercus. If students run into a technical issue with Quercus submission close to the deadline, they should email their completed work to elizabeth.mccallion@utoronto.ca before the deadline to prove that it is complete. They should then upload their work to Quercus as soon as possible after the deadline once the technical issue is resolved.

Late Policy and Missed Term Work

In the interest of a Universal Design for Learning, assignments will have a 72-hour grace period after the deadline where no late marks are deducted. Students do not need to request an extension of up to three days (if an extension longer than three days is needed, please reach out to the professor via email – documentation such as an Absence Declaration or Verification of Illness form will be required). Assignments submitted after the 72-hour grace period will receive a penalty of 5% per day. Those submitted more than one week after the due date will not be accepted.

Please note that the grace period *does not* apply to the final assessment, which is due on April 10 at 5 pm, without exception. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from writing the final assessment, you may request to write the final assessment at a later date by emailing elizabeth.mccallion@utoronto.ca, preferably one week before the exam. If you cannot submit the final assessment due to emergency circumstances, please request a deferral within 48 hours of the final assessment (special exceptions can be made for students who were incapacitated for longer than 48 hours). Please note that all deferred final assessments will be written at the same time in May, to be submitted on a date of the professor's choosing.

Regrade Policy

You may request a regrade of your work. Requests for a regrade may not be made within 48 hours of receiving feedback and must be made within two weeks of receiving feedback.

If the TA originally graded your work: You must submit a written request (max 1 page) to the TA explaining the reason that you think your work should be regraded. The request for the regrade must be based on the manifest content of the work, not on external factors (such as the effort you put in, the grade you need to get into another program, etc.). If the TA does not agree to change the grade or if you are unsatisfied with the TA's resolution, you may ask the TA to escalate the appeal to the professor. The TA will send the professor a fresh (ungraded) copy of your work and she will assign it a new grade.

If the professor originally graded your work: You must submit a written request (max 1 page) to the professor explaining the reason that you think your work should be regraded. The request for the regrade must be based on the manifest content of the work, not on external factors (such as the effort you put in, the grade you need to get into another program, etc.). The professor will take another look at your essay and consider the points made in your appeal.

Remember that if work is regraded, there are three possible outcomes: the grade may be higher, it may stay the same, or it may be lower than the original grade. After the regrade, the original grade will be erased, and the new grade will stand.

Please note that if you are unsatisfied with the professor's decision at the end of the regrade process and you have made every effort to understand her reasoning, you have the right to apply for a Special Consideration Request to the Academic Department (the first level is an appeal to the Undergraduate Coordinator).

Weekly Topic Outline

Week 1 (January 9) – Introduction to the Course

No readings. Please familiarize yourself with the course policies in the syllabus.

Week 2 (January 16) – The Purpose of Parliament

Syllabus Quiz Due

Franks, C.E.S. 1987. *The Parliament of Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. → **Please read Chapter 2, “Approaches to Parliamentary Government,” 10-34.**

Chaplin, Ann. 2020. “Telling Stories: The Crown, Parliament, and Canada.” *National Journal of Constitutional Law* 40(1): 79-110.

Week 3 (January 23) – The House of Commons and Responsible Government

Malcolmson, Patrick, Richard Myers, Gerald Baier, and Thomas Michael Joseph Bateman. 2021. *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada*. 7th ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. → **Please read Chapter 3, “Responsible Government,” 43-65.**

Roy, Jason J. and Christopher Alcantara. 2020. *Winning and Keeping Power in Canadian Politics*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. → **Please read Chapter 6, “Parliamentary Configurations and Assigning Responsibility,” 129-148.**

Week 4 (January 30) – The Senate and Sober Second Thought

Essay Outline Due

Syllabus Quiz Makeup Date

Ajzenstat, Janet. 2003. “Bicameralism and Canada’s Founders: The Origins of the Canadian Senate.” In S. Joyal (ed.), *Protecting Canadian Democracy: The Senate You Never Knew*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press. 3-30.

McCallion, Elizabeth. 2022. “From Private Influence to Public Amendment? The Senate’s Amendment Rate in the 41st, 42nd, and 43rd Canadian Parliaments.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 55(3): 583-599.

Week 5 (February 6) – Party Discipline

Godbout, Jean-François. 2020. *Lost on Division: Party Unity in the Canadian Parliament*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. → **Please read Chapter 5, “How Parties Vote,” pp. 92-119.**

Marland, Alex. 2020. *Whipped: Party Discipline in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press. → **Please read Chapter 7, “Parliamentary Caucuses,” 178-203.**

Week 6 (February 14) – Executive Dominance

Savoie, Donald. 1999. “The Rise of Court Government in Canada.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 32(4): 635-664.

*Blidook, Kelly. 2010. “Exploring the Role of ‘Legislators’ in Canada: Do Members of Parliament Influence Policy?” *The Journal of Legislative Studies* 16(1): 32-56.

-----**READING WEEK – February 20 – NO CLASS**-----

Week 7 (February 27) – Representation in Parliament

Rayment, Erica and Elizabeth McCallion. 2023. “Contexts and Constraints: The Substantive Representation of Women in the Canadian House of Commons and Senate.” *Representation*. Ahead-of-print.

Koop, Royce, Heather Bastedo, and Kelly Blidook. 2018. *Representation in Action: Canadian MPs in the Constituencies*. Vancouver: UBC Press. → **Please read Chapter 5, “Influences on Representational Styles,” 128-157.**

Week 8 (March 5) – Parliamentary Procedure

Essay Due

Malloy, Jonathan. 2023. *The Paradox of Parliament*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. → Please read Chapter 5, “House of Commons Business,” 102-144.

Schneider, Ze’ev, and Karen Norman. 2023. “A Place to Speak and Be Heard: Building a Collection to Support the Use of Indigenous Languages in Canada’s Parliament.” *Collection Management* 48(2): 150-163.

Week 9 (March 12) – Committees, Lobbyists, and Policymaking

Dyck, Rand, Christopher Cochrane, and Kelly Blidook. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*. 8th ed. Toronto: Nelson Education. → **Please read Chapter 16, “Advocacy Groups, Social Movements, and Lobbying.” 365-390.**

Stilborn, Jack. 2014. “The Investigative Study Role of Canada’s House Committees: Expectations Met?” *The Journal of Legislative Studies* 20(3): 342-359.

Lawlor, Andrea and Erin Crandall. 2013. “Committee Performance in the Senate of Canada: Some Sobering Analysis for the Chamber of “Sober Second Thought.” *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 51(4): 549-568.

Week 10 (March 19) – Parliament as a Workplace

Final Assessment questions released March 22

Docherty, David C. 1997. *Mr. Smith Goes to Ottawa: Life in the House of Commons*. Vancouver: UBC Press. → **Please read Chapter 4, “Arriving in Ottawa: New Politicians and Old Rules,” 84-112.**

Raney, Tracey and Cheryl Collier. 2021. “A Question of Ethics? Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Legislatures of the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada.” In *Women, Power, and Political Representation: Canadian and Comparative Perspectives*, edited by Roosmarijn Adrienne de Geus, Erin Tolley, Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, and Peter John Loewen. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 89-97.

Week 11 (March 26) – Checks on Parliament: The Governor General and the Judiciary

Meme Assignment Due

Morton, F.L. and Rainer Knopff. 2000. *The Charter Revolution and the Court Party*. Peterborough: Broadview Press. → **Please read “Introduction,” 13-32.**

Lawlor, Andrea and Erin Crandall. 2023. “The Canadian Charter’s Notwithstanding Clause as an Institutionalized Mechanism of Court Curbing.” *American Review of Canadian Studies* 53(1): 1-21.

Heard, Andrew. 2009. “The Governor General’s Suspension of Parliament: Duty Done or a Perilous Precedent?” In P. Russell and L.M. Sossin (eds.), *Parliamentary Democracy in Crisis*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 47-61.

Week 12 (April 2) – The Future of Parliament

Note: the readings for this week are drawn from Policy Options' "Making a Better Parliament" series, which came out of the Bell Chair in Canadian Parliamentary Democracy workshop held at Carleton University in October 2022. They are all short op-ed articles that can be read casually. Reflect on the proposals and what they might mean for the future of parliament.

Goodyear-Grant, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth McCallion. 2023. "A proper hybrid Parliament would help expand gender-sensitive representation." *Policy Options*. March 15. Available at: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2023/hybrid-parliament-gender-sensitive/>

Raney, Tracey and Jeanette Ashe. 2023. "More inclusive parliaments start with better workplace conditions." *Policy Options*. March 15. Available at: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2023/inclusive-parliaments-workplace-conditions/>

Esselment, Anna Lennox. 2023. "No luck in the draw: A legislator's conundrum." *Policy Options*. March 16. Available at: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2023/backbench-mps-random-draw-conundrum/>

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see <https://academicintegrity.org/about/values>). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University's policies and procedures on academic integrity (<https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>).

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

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**.

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>

****To simplify plagiarism investigations (and to protect yourself from plagiarism accusations), please keep your research notes from your assignments until after you receive grades for them****

Ouriginal Plagiarism Detection

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>).

If you would like to opt out of submitting your assignments through Ouriginal, please notify the professor before January 16. Alternate modes of plagiarism checking will be used instead.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

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. 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. Students may not copy or paraphrase from any generative artificial intelligence applications, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the purpose of completing assignments in this course. This course policy is designed to promote your learning and intellectual development and to help you reach course learning outcomes.

Accessibility Services

Students with disabilities may receive accommodation from the University and need to register with accessibility services. Instructors are notified with a request for accommodation and can give the request consideration. For best practices around accommodations, visit Accessibility Services <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/> or email accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or Tel: 416-978-8060.

I am more than happy to entertain requests for accommodations, and I encourage students to approach me regarding these requests as soon as possible. I will do my best to accommodate students’ requests, including requests for extensions, modified assignments, and changes to the physical classroom environment (including microphones, seating, lighting, PowerPoint slides, etc.).

Absence Declaration and Academic Consideration

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances – *please note that you are not required to share personal medical information with me.* The documentation you provide can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Writing Centre Support

All students are encouraged to make use of the writing centres at their colleges. Writing centres will provide you with feedback on your work before submission, and they can give you useful tips for planning and executing assignments. More information about the writing centres at the various colleges can be found here: <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science/>

Technology Support for Students

If you encounter any technical issues during the course, please try restarting your internet browser and restarting your computer. If that does not resolve the problem and you have exhausted all other solutions, please report the technical problem to the course instructor and/or the Information Commons Help Desk, as appropriate.

For Quercus and all other technology support, contact the Information Commons Help Desk: help.desk@utoronto.ca. For more details, visit Info Commons Help Desk, Robarts Library.

Online Communication Policy

I monitor my email from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Any response to emails outside of that time should not be interpreted as an ongoing commitment to monitor emails during the evenings or weekends. You can expect a response from me within two business days – if you do not hear back from me within two business days, you are welcome to follow up on your email to make sure that I saw it.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

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/>

For Students - U of T

- U of T Health & Wellness uoft.me/5EB
- 416-978-8030
- Support if Students are Feeling Distressed uoft.me/5EC
- U of T Telus Health Student Support <https://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/telus-health-student-support/>
- Community Safety Office communitysafety.utoronto.ca/ 416-978-1485

U of T Safety & Support www.safety.utoronto.ca/