POL386H1 S
U.S. Government and Politics
Winter 2024 Syllabus

Course Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day &amp; Time</th>
<th>Delivery Mode &amp; Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEC0101</td>
<td>Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</td>
<td>In Person:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Please communicate with the instructor through email (ryan.hurl@utoronto.ca) NOT throught Quercus.

Course Contacts

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Hurl
Email: ryan.hurl@utoronto.ca
Phone: 647 466 0054
Office Hours and Location: Wednesday, 11am-12 noon Sidney Smithy 6024
Additional Notes: Please include course code when emailing... ALWAYS EMAIL DIRECTLY NEVER USE QUERCUS!!!!

Course Overview

Who rules the United State of America? This course will investigate this question by examining how power is attained and how power is exercised in American elections, the legislative process, the bureaucracy, and the federal courts. Particular attention will be paid to the role of national interest groups, regional economic interests, and new modes of political mobilization.

This course will focus on three interrelated themes in American politics. First, we will investigate why the relative power and influence of the legislative branch of the American federal government—Congress—has been supplanted by Presidential government and the administrative-bureaucratic state. We will try to confront the main challenges to Congressional government—that the American legislative process is dominated by organized interests, that it is not responsive to public opinion, and that it is simply incapable of directing public policy.

Secondly, we will consider how American institutions shape public policy through a comparison of immigration policy in Canada and the United States. Finally, we will address the question of the sources and consequence of political polarization amongst the American public and political elites.

Course Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will have had an opportunity to develop their understanding of how to explain and conduct research on American politics, particularly in relation to the study of Congress, the policy-making process and political polarization.

**Prerequisites:** 1.0 credit in POL/ JPA/ JPF/ JPI/ JPR/ JPS/ JRA courses
**Corequisites:** None
**Exclusions:** POL203Y1/ POL203Y5/ POL386Y1/ POLC92H3/ POLC93H3
**Recommended Preparation:** POL214H1/ POL224H1/ POL200Y1 and/or a course in U.S. history
**Credit Value:** 0.5

It probably will help if you have taken POL 347 before taking this course, but it is by no means necessary.

**Course Materials**


Nolan McCarthy, *Polarization: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2019 (available through Amazon; kindle version is only $11.00)

https://www.amazon.ca/Polarization-What-Everyone-Needs-KnowRG/dp/0190867779

**Marking Scheme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>There will be a variety of ways to demonstrate participation in the course—your grade will not only be based upon attendance/speaking in class. In other words—do not worry if you are uncomfortable speaking in class, there will be other ways to participate</td>
<td>No Specific Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Outline</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2024-01-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2024-02-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2024-04-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Person Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam Period</td>
</tr>
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**Late Assessment Submissions Policy**

1/3 of a letter grade per day, up to 1 whole grade.

**Policies & Statements**

**Late/Missed Assignments**

This item is listed here to remind you to include your late/missed assignment policy; if you have late penalties, you are required to publish them in your syllabus. Please see the A&S Academic Handbook (https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook) sections on missed term work (Section 4.7), late term work and extensions (section 4.8), and missed term tests (Section 5.3) for more information.

**Plagiarism Detection Tool**

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).

**Late Policy**

1/3 of a letter grade per day late, up to one letter grade.