

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Fall 2017 PSCI 224 A1
Introduction to Canadian Government and Politics



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Time: TR 9:30-10:50
Place: CAB 325
Office Hours: R 11:30-1:30
or by appointment

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Office Hours: W 10:00-12:00

Course Prerequisite:

PSCI 101 or consent of department
or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

Welcome to Political Science 224! This is one of two second-year core courses in Canadian Politics, the other being 225 – Introduction to Canadian Politics. In this class we will explore how the institutions of the Canadian state work (or don't work!). Government institutions have a *powerful* impact on our daily lives; they are, in many ways, the methods by which govern ourselves as citizens and residents in Canada. We're going to dive deep into these institutions, including Parliament, the Crown, the Canadian Constitution, the bureaucracy, the courts and more. Because "government" in Canada doesn't mean "things in Ottawa," we'll also look at provinces and cities. We'll talk about current events and how what we're learning in class applies to Canadian politics "in action."

Objectives:

During this course, students will:

- Develop sound knowledge of 1) the institutions of Canadian government and 2) the political, social and economic context of those institutions;

- Gain understanding of important recent political events and articulate informed opinions regarding such issues;
- Appreciate the importance of engaged citizenship; and
- Improve critical thinking and academic writing skills.

Texts:

Hamish Telford. 2017. *Rules of the Game: An Introduction to Canadian Politics*. Pearson Education.

Additionally, for selected classes the required readings will be posted on eClass.

In addition to required readings and suggested readings, students are expected to stay informed of current events of Canadian government and politics. In 2017, there are an almost unlimited number of ways to do so. A few suggestions:

- Print: e.g., The Globe and Mail, the National Post, the Toronto Star, the Edmonton Journal, the Winnipeg Free Press
- Radio/Podcasts: e.g., CBC Radio (especially *The House*)
- Television: e.g., CBC News Network, CTV News
- Websites: e.g., CBC News, The National Observer, Vice News Canada, BuzzFeed Canada; political reporters’ Twitter accounts.

Grade Distribution:

Assignment/Exams	Due Date	Grade Distribution
Research Paper Proposal	October 3	5%
Mid-Term Exam	October 12	25%
Research Paper	November 23	35%
Final Exam	December 19	30%
Attendance	NA	5%

Students should note that in all but exceptional situations all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade. Policy regarding missed term work is outlined in Section 23.4(3) of the University Calendar.

Assignments:

Research Paper Proposal

The research paper proposal will give you a chance to start thinking about your research paper and working towards developing a central argument.

Your research proposal, a maximum of two pages, should include:

- A preliminary introduction that includes a thesis statement. A thesis statement is the statement that lets the reader know what your argument is. It is crucially important to have a good thesis statement in order to write an effective research paper. Including your thesis statement in your introduction, which situates your thesis statement within your broader paper, lets the reader know what they're reading and what they have to look forward to. It helps guide the rest of your paper and reminds you *why* you're writing what you're writing.
- A preliminary outline of your paper that flows from your introduction/thesis statement.
- A preliminary bibliography, including five (5) academic sources that you plan on using for your research.

Research Paper:

Students will be required to submit a 2,500 word paper on a topic of their choosing. Research papers can focus on any aspect of Canadian government and are encouraged to email or discuss possible topics with the instructor before commencing research. Students are required to utilize *at least* eight (8) academic sources in addition to other non-academic sources such as news reports, websites, etc.

Class Participation

While assessing class participation in a class this size is not possible, I will be passing an attendance sheet around in every class. If the sheet does not reach you during class, please ensure that you sign it before leaving. Additionally, I strongly encourage you to ask questions and dive into discussion, which will make the course a much more enjoyable experience for all of us.

What I expect from you: Please

- Attend class regularly and arrive promptly;
- Turn off or mute cell phones. If you need to be available to family members or equivalent, please let me know in advance of the class;
- Complete the required readings before they are discussed in class;
- Always act in a respectful way towards your classmates and guest speakers;
- Approach the course material with an open mind and a willingness to engage with different ideas and opinions.

What you can expect from me: I will

- Welcome and respect your diversity of ideas and interests;
- Be available before and after class, during office hours and via e-mail for consultations about any aspect of the course. Do not hesitate to contact me whenever you have questions or concerns. I will respond to emails within 48 hours, usually within 24.
- Grade assignments promptly. We (Dax and I) will aim for a 2-week turn around, but it depends on the class enrollment. You can expect your assignments back within 3 weeks.

Academic Integrity

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Learning and working environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice: (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 available at <http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/>.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

All students should consult the “Truth-In-Education” handbook or Website (<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>) regarding the definitions of **plagiarism** and its consequences when detected. **Students involved in language courses and translation courses** should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in language courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. Before unpleasantness occurs consult <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>; also discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with your instructor.

DON'T CHEAT!

Audio or Video Recording and Digital Content:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students are expected to hand in paper copies of assignments. Students are each assigned three cumulative days’ worth of late assignments that they may use at their discretion for any assignments. Beyond these three days, a penalty of 5% per day shall be applied to late assignments, *including* weekend days.

Specialized Support & Disability Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email ssdsrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below:

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	>90	4.0	Superb
A	85-90	4.0	
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent
B+	77-79	3.3	Very good
B	74-76	3.0	
B-	70-73	2.7	Good
C+	67-69	2.3	Average
C	64-66	2.0	
C-	60-63	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-59	1.3	Marginal
D	50-54	1.0	
F	<50	0.0	Inadequate

Class Schedule

Day	Topic and readings	Notes
September 5	Welcome Readings: None!	
September 7	Indigenous Forms of Governance Required Reading: Truth and Reconciliation Commission. <i>Honouring the Truth, Reconciling the Future</i> , pp. 37-58. Available here .	
September 12	The Context: Canada's Political Culture Required Reading: Telford Ch. 2	
September 14	The Canadian Constitution Required Reading: Telford Ch. 1	
September 19	The Crown Required Reading: David E. Smith, <i>The Invisible Crown</i> , Ch. 1. Required Reading: Telford Ch. 5	
September 21	The Executive: Prime Minister, Cabinet, and "Court Government" Required Reading: Telford Ch. 5 continued	
September 26	Writing and Research Workshop Required Reading: None!	
September 28	Political Parties Required Reading: Telford Ch. 3	
October 3	Elections and Campaigns Required Reading: Telford Ch. 4	TERM PAPER PROPOSAL
October 5	Parliament: The House of Commons Required Reading: Telford Ch. 6	
October 10	Parliament: The Senate Required Reading: Telford Ch. 6 continued	

	Institutions in Action: Parliament, The Executive, The Crown, and the 2008 Prorogement Crises Required Reading: Desserud 2009 on eClass	
October 12	MID-TERM EXAM	
October 17	Constitutional Change I: Patriation Required Reading: Telford Ch. 8	
October 19	The Charter and the Courts Required Reading: Telford Ch. 9	
October 24	Constitutional Change II: Since Patriation Required Reading: Telford Ch. 11	
October 26	Federalism Required Reading: Telford Ch. 7	
October 31	The Federal System in Action: Healthcare Required Reading: Graefe and Bourns 2008 on eClass	
November 2	The Canadian State and Indigenous Peoples Required Readings: Telford Ch. 10	
November 7	Provincial and Territorial Governments Required Readings: Howlet et al 2005, available here .	
November 9	The Bureaucracy Required Reading: Aucoin 2012 on eClass	
November 14	<i>Reading Week – Have fun/relaxation/whatever you need to make it to the end!</i>	
November 16		
November 21	Public Policy Required Reading: Paquet 2014 on eClass	
November 23	The Bureaucracy and Public Policy in Action: The Mandatory Long-Form Census Required Reading: See News Articles on eClass	TERM PAPER DUE
November 28	City Governments	

	Required Readings: None.	
November 30	Looking Forward	
	Required Readings: Telford Ch. 12	
December 5	Review	