



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 201 L01  
Introduction to Government and Politics  
Winter 2020

**UPDATED MARCH 18, 2020**

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TELEPHONE:  
OFFICE HOURS: None  
COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday & Thursday  
COURSE LOCATION: N/A  
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Alem Cherinet ([atcherin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:atcherin@ucalgary.ca))  
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### **Course description**

This course serves as an introduction to the basic language, theories and theorists, concepts, and institutions of politics and political science. It provides an overview of the ideas and institutions that make up what we conventionally call “government.” Studying politics and associated issues of government and governance is necessary for understanding how society works, how resources are allocated (who gets what, when, where, how and why), what power *is* and how it is exercised. In the pursuit of this knowledge, the course will introduce students to the four main fields of political science: political theory, Canadian politics, comparative politics, and international relations.

The purpose of the course is to provide the foundation for academic and analytical engagement with the political world. Whether students plan to pursue further study in political science or simply desire a basic understanding of politics and government, the concepts, theories and processes studied in this course are fundamental to civic knowledge.

The course is lecture based, supplemented by weekly tutorial sessions.

### **CHANGES TO COURSE MARCH 2020:**

**As of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the course will shift to an alternative-delivery remote learning model.**

For lectures, PowerPoint slides will be posted to the D2L portal on the morning of the relevant lecture (Tuesdays & Thursdays). An audio-recorded lecture will then follow later in the day, also uploaded to the D2L portal. This method of delivery will ensure continuity in terms of delivery and rhythm of the course.

The only substantive difference in this model is the lack of opportunity to ask direct questions in-person during and after the lecture. Students may email the instructor directly with any questions they have about lecture/course material.

For changes to the tutorial system, please see the section on 'Participation' below.

For changes to the final exam, please see the section 'Final Examination' below.

### **Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to help students develop a number of important skills. Fundamentally, it is intended to help them become informed and critically engaged citizens and political observers in a dynamic and complex world. Upon completion, students will have begun to develop these conceptual skills as well as two key capacities.

#### *Conceptual:*

- Communicate using a “conceptual vocabulary” of terms important to the political world in which we live.
- Be able to participate intelligently and knowledgeably in ongoing debates about the role of government in society.
- Understand the way in which political institutions and key actors have shaped the development of Canadian society, other countries, and international politics.

#### *Capacities:*

- The course also seeks to improve students' communicative writing skills. To be a critical and aware person requires sharp listening, research, and observation skills, and, subsequently, clear and concise communication of understanding, ideas, and analysis. The assignments and examinations of the course will develop these capacities, as students will be required to connect concepts and theories to real world issues, and to engage in close reading and critical examination of complex texts. Students will also develop basic research and writing skills, and learn to communicate ideas in brief and straightforward ways.
- Tutorial sessions, led by a team of excellent Teaching Assistants (TAs), will provide students an opportunity to reflect on the course material, and then express those reflections in conversations with peers. This is a critical building block for developing your own views on course content and an opportunity to engage with and learn from your peers. As such, tutorial attendance is mandatory and students should arrive at each session ready to contribute to the discussion and actively listening to and respectfully considering the viewpoints of others.

### **Required Textbook:**

Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald, *Introduction to Politics (Second Canadian Edition)*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

**Please note:** you must use the Second Canadian Edition of this textbook. It is available new and used in the University of Calgary bookstore. Other supportive reading materials and assignment materials will be made available to students through the Desire to Learn (D2L) course website.

### Course Component Weights & Dates

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DATES
<b>Tutorials</b> - Attendance (5%) - Participation (10%)	15%	Throughout
<b>Writing Response</b>	15%	Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	30%	<b>Feb 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	40%	TBA
Total	100%	

**Course Schedule & Topics:** (Note: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan 14	Welcome to the Course/Thought Experiments	None
	<b>Political Concepts &amp; Ideas</b>	
Jan 16	Studying Politics	Introduction
Jan 21	Politics & The State	Chapter 1
Jan 23	Power & Authority	Chapter 2
Jan 28	Democracy	Chapter 3
Jan 30	Freedom & Justice	Chapter 4
Feb 4	Ideology	Chapter 5
Feb 6	Ideology II	Chapter 6
	<b>Canadian &amp; Comparative Politics</b>	
Feb 11	Institutions & States	Chapter 7
Feb 13	Laws, Constitutions & Federalism	Chapter 8
<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>
<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>
Feb 25	Midterm Review	
Feb 27	<b>MIDTERM</b>	
Mar 3	Legislatures & Legislators	Chapter 9

Mar 5	Policy-Making	Chapter 10
Mar 10	Elections	Chapter 11
Mar 12	Civil Society	Chapter 12
Mar 17	Political Culture	Chapter 13
	<b>International Relations</b>	
Mar 19	The International Order	Chapter 14
Mar 24	Theories of IR	Chapter 15
Mar 26	Theories of IR II	Chapter 16
Mar 31	Security & Insecurity	Chapter 17
Apr 2	Diplomacy & Foreign Policy	Chapter 18
Apr 7	International Organizations	Chapter 19
Apr 9	International Political Economy	Chapter 20
Apr 14	<b>EXAM REVIEW</b>	

**Tutorial Schedule & Topics** (Note: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.)

DATE	TOPIC
Week 1 (Jan 13-17)	<i>No Tutorials</i>
Week 2 (Jan 20-24)	Understanding Political Power
Week 3 (Jan 27-31)	On the Nature of Freedom & the Nature of Justice
Week 4 (Feb 3-7)	On the Nature of Freedom & the Nature of Justice II
Week 5 (Feb 10-14)	Competing Ideologies
Week 6 (Feb 17-21)	<i>No Tutorials (Reading Week)</i>
Week 7 (Feb 24-28)	<i>No Tutorials (Midterm Week)</i>
Week 8 (Mar 2-6)	The mechanics of the State
Week 9 (Mar 9-13)	The Policymaking Process
Week 10 (Mar 16-20)	<b>No Tutorials</b>
Week 11 (Mar 23-27)	The International System
Week 12 (Mar 30-Apr)	<b>Theories of International Relations</b>

3)	
Week 13 (Apr 6-10)	<i>No Tutorials</i>
Week 14 (Apr 13-17)	<i>No Tutorials</i>

### Writing Response Assignment (due date: **February 13<sup>th</sup>**)

Students will write a short (1000 words) response to *On Liberty* (“Introduction”) by John Stuart Mill (reading will be made available in PDF on D2L). Mill is an important and central figure in political philosophy, and is discussed directly in the textbook (see for example pp. 76-78). This assignment challenges you to read Mill in the original, engage directly with his arguments, and draw your own conclusions.

Briefly discuss your understanding of the argument Mill is making with respect to the role of government vis-à-vis society and individual citizens. What, according to Mill, are some of the tasks that responsible government should fulfil? What are some potential dangers related to government behaviour? Is Mill’s argument applicable to the political organization of society today? If so, how? If not, why not? **Please use direct quotations from the reading to support your interpretation/analysis.** The assignment should demonstrate that you have engaged with and understood Mill on his own terms.

Further details and the opportunity to ask questions about the assignment will be provided in class in the weeks leading up to the due date.

No secondary research is *required* for this assignment, but you may wish to consult other sources to get a better understanding of Mill’s arguments. If other sources are consulted, *you must cite them and list them in a bibliography*. Remember, Wikipedia is not acceptable as an academic source, nor is Spark Notes or other similar websites. If you’re uncertain as to what sources are suitable to cite and use, please ask the instructor or a TA.

All assignments must be:

- Typed (except where an exception has been granted by the instructor or a TA)
- Double Spaced
- Size 12 Times New Roman Font
- Left and Right Margins set at 1” or 2.54 cm
- Top and Bottom Margins set at 1.25” or 3.17 cm

***Hard-copies are required and must be submitted in-class on the due date. Students must ALSO submit an identical electronic copy of their assignment on D2L before class on the due date.***

### Late Penalties

Deadlines will be treated seriously. It is unfair to students who meet deadlines if those who have

taken extra time are treated equally. Late papers (those without an extension granted by the instructor) will be docked 5% per day (including weekends). A note of caution: computer failure is not grounds for an extension. Always back-up your work in order to avoid last-minute catastrophes.

## Writing Statement

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one (specifically the written response assignment outlined above), and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

## Participation

Participation marks in this course are earned through the tutorials. Both attendance (5%) and contributions (10%) will be tracked, for an overall weight of 15% of the course.

These tutorials will be led by your TA. The purpose of these discussion sessions is to create an environment to talk about and work/think through the key elements of course material (lectures, readings, etc.) with your peers. Tutorials are an important tool for realizing both the conceptual vocabulary and capacity goals of the course. For example, just like learning a language, one needs to practice *using* the key terms in the correct context to better understand the concept. Also, in order to develop one's critical thinking skills, one must develop one's own ideas about the concepts we are studying. In this way students will practice building **informed** oral arguments in the weekly tutorials. Tutorials will deploy discussion techniques like small group discussions, brainstorming sessions, large group roundtables, simulations, and debates. Students will be asked to actively listen to their peers, and to consider the strengths and weaknesses of viewpoints they may not share, and practice weaving together one's ideas with the readings and lecture material, and the viewpoints of one's peers.

Agreeing or disagreeing with an idea is a start, but the tutorial is a chance for you to hone your ability to succinctly say *why* you agree or disagree using course material, and potentially be convinced by new arguments or evidence. As such, students should attend each tutorial having completed all readings for the theme under discussion.

Beginning the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>-March 27<sup>th</sup>, all students will automatically receive 'full' attendance marks, which will be added to the full semester's tally.

Also beginning the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>-March 27<sup>th</sup>, tutorial participation will come in the form of short written answers to questions derived from the tutorial theme for that week. On Monday evenings, the TAs will release three questions, you will have until Friday night at midnight to upload your answers to the appropriate folder in the D2L Dropbox (each tutorial section will have its own folder). Answers should be approximately 150 words *per question* (so 450 words

total). Given the volume of reading this creates for the TAs, the questions will be assessed on a pass/fail basis (if a 'pass', full participation marks will be given for that week). The threshold for a 'pass' is not onerous – demonstration of a good-faith attempt to answer the question (typically with reference to either the textbook or relevant lecture slides, though if you are familiar enough with the material such direct reference is not necessary) will be sufficient, but it is also not non-existent (if, in the judgement of the TA, the answers are considered haphazard, rushed or non-sensical the participation grade will not be awarded).

### **Mid-Term Examination**

The mid-term will occur in-class on **February 27<sup>th</sup>**. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

### **Final Examination**

The final exam will be a take-home exam. **The exam will be distributed on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm Mountain Time and will be due at 10:30am Mountain Time on April 20<sup>th</sup>**. The deadline for the exam reflects the original end time of the scheduled written exam, and the University has specified that take-home exam due dates must reflect this schedule. The take home exam will consist of two sections. The first section will be short answer questions (approximately 350 words each); students will be asked to select and answer 3 out of 5 short answer questions. The second section will consist of long-answer/essay questions (approximately 800 words each); students will be asked to select and answer 2 out of 3 long-answer/essay questions. More details will be provided prior to end of the semester (NB: the final class – April 14<sup>th</sup> – will still be dedicated to reviewing exam material and going over format/expectations for the take home).

GRADE SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

### **Communicating with the Instructor**

Given new University guidelines, there will be no face-to-face meetings between the instructor and students. Students with questions about material or other aspects of the course should contact the instructor directly via email.

### IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

## Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioner for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

*Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.*

### Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

### Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

#### Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

#### University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

#### Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

#### Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

#### Copyright Legislation:

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, “students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.).

Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.”

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

#### Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via

email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

**Evacuation Assembly Points:**

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints) and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Tower Room 116.

**Important Contact Information:**

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)  
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives  
Phone: 403-220-6551  
Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association  
Phone: 403-220-5997  
Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)  
URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman  
Phone: 403-220-6420  
Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

**Campus Mental Health Resources:**

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>  
Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>

**Useful reading:**

Newspapers and Magazines

*The Globe and Mail*

[globeandmail.com](http://globeandmail.com)

<i>The National Post</i>	<a href="http://nationalpost.com">nationalpost.com</a>
<i>The New York Times</i>	<a href="http://nytimes.com">nytimes.com</a>
<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>	<a href="http://wsj.com">wsj.com</a>
<i>The Washington Post</i>	<a href="http://washingtonpost.com">washingtonpost.com</a>
<i>The Economist</i>	<a href="http://economist.com">economist.com</a>
<i>The Guardian</i>	<a href="http://theguardian.co.uk">theguardian.co.uk</a>
<i>Le Monde</i>	<a href="http://lemonde.fr">lemonde.fr</a>
<i>Foreign Affairs</i>	<a href="http://foreignaffairs.com">foreignaffairs.com</a>
<i>Foreign Policy</i>	<a href="http://foreignpolicy.com">foreignpolicy.com</a>
<i>OpenCanada</i>	<a href="http://opencanada.org">opencanada.org</a>
<i>The Atlantic</i>	<a href="http://theatlantic.com">theatlantic.com</a>
<i>Harpers</i>	<a href="http://harpers.org">harpers.org</a>
<i>The New Yorker</i>	<a href="http://newyorker.com">newyorker.com</a>
<i>Arts and Letters Daily</i>	<a href="http://aldaily.com">aldaily.com</a>
<i>The Nation</i> (liberal)	<a href="http://thenation.com">thenation.com</a>
<i>National Review</i> (conservative)	<a href="http://nationalreview.com">nationalreview.com</a>
<i>New Left Review</i> (liberal)	<a href="http://newleftreview.org">newleftreview.org</a>
<i>Commentary</i> (conservative)	<a href="http://commentarymagazine.com">commentarymagazine.com</a>