



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 201 Lecture 01
Introduction to Government & Politics
WINTER 2021

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Erica Rayment

EMAIL: erica.rayment@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Book through <https://ericarayment.youcanbook.me/>; Meetings held on Zoom

COURSE DAY/TIME: TR 09:30 – 10:45 (Synchronous Sessions held for tutorials and on alternating R 09:30 – 10:30)

DELIVERY METHOD: Web-Based (Hybrid Delivery)

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

TUTORIALS: TUT 1 M 10 :00 – 10 :50

TUT 2 W 10 :00 – 10 :50

TUT 3 R 14 :00 – 14 :50

TUT 4 R 15 :30 – 16 :20

TUT 5 F 13 :00 – 13 :50

TUT 6 F 14 :00 – 14 :50

NOTE : All tutorials will take place synchronously on Zoom

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

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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.” The course will introduce students to the exciting and dynamic fields of study within political science, including political theory, comparative politics, Canadian politics, and international relations. The course will also explore two additional subfields: Indigenous politics and gender and politics. The course will also explore what students can do with a degree in political science and help students develop skills that will be useful in those careers.

The course is delivered through a hybrid format. Asynchronous content, including short lecture videos, will be posted to the course website on a weekly basis. Weekly tutorials will be held through synchronous Zoom sessions. Students are expected to engage with both the asynchronous and synchronous components of the course.

Additionally, every other Thursday, the instructor will host a synchronous session in which students can ask questions or seek clarification about course material. Participation in these sessions is not required, but offered as a complement/support to student learning in the other components of the course.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to:

- Provide an introduction to and stimulate student interest in the study of politics;
- Equip students with the skills and knowledge to engage critically and effectively as citizens and observers in a dynamic and complex world;
- Help students develop and practice key critical thinking and writing skills that will help them succeed in their university career and beyond.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and communicate using a “conceptual vocabulary” of terms important to the political world in which we live;
- Apply this understanding to discuss current and historical political issues and events and participate knowledgeably in ongoing debates about the role of government in society;
- Identify and explain the ways in which political ideas, institutions and actors shape politics in Canada and internationally.

- Communicate more clearly and concisely through long-form writing;
- Develop a clearly articulated thesis statement and advance persuasive, evidence-based written arguments.
- Contribute knowledgeably and respectfully to discussions about politics with peers and listen to and learn from those discussions.

Required Textbooks and Readings

There is one required textbook for the course, available in hard copy or as an e-book through the University of Calgary bookstore:

- *Introduction to Politics (Custom Edition for the University of Calgary)*. Oxford University Press, 2020.

This custom textbook includes selections from the following texts:

- Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald. 2017. *Introduction to Politics (Second Canadian Edition)*, Oxford University Press.
- MacLean, George A., Duncan R. Wood and Lori Turnbull. 2020. *Politics: An Introduction (Third Edition)*. Oxford University Press.

Any additional readings listed in the Course Schedule will be made available through the course website. Please note that the instructor may make minor modifications to the assigned course readings. Any changes to the schedule of assigned readings will be announced on the course website.

Required Technology

Students in this course are required to have a computer with an internet connection and audio/video capability (web camera and microphone to participate in Zoom tutorials). Course content will be made available through D2L and synchronous sessions will be held using Zoom.

Summary of Course Components, Due Dates, and Weighting

Assessment	Due Date	Weighting
Tutorial Participation	Ongoing	15%
Syllabus Quiz	January 22	2%
Assignment 1	February 10	8%
Midterm Test	February 25	25%
Assignment 2	March 24	25%
Final Exam	TBA	25%

NOTE: All assignments *must* be submitted electronically through the course website. If a student misses a required course component, they must contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule below is tentative and may change as the need arises. Any changes to this schedule will be announced on the course website. If there is a discrepancy between the schedule and/or assigned readings listed in the syllabus and the schedule and/or assigned readings listed on the course website, please treat the course website as authoritative.

Dates marked with an asterisk (*) are dates on which an “Ask Dr. Rayment” synchronous session will be held. In these sessions, students can ask questions or seek clarification about course material.

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSESSMENTS
1 (Jan 12, 14)	Introduction to the Course		
2 (Jan 19, 21)	The Study of Politics	Garner Intro, MacLean Ch 4	Syllabus Quiz
3 (Jan 26*, 28)	Power and Authority	Garner Ch 2	
4 (Feb 2, 4)	Democracy + Justice	Garner Ch 3, 4	
5 (Feb 9*, 11)	Ideologies	Garner Ch 5, 6	Assignment 1
6 (Feb 16, 18)	Reading Break – No Classes		
7 (Feb 23*, 25)	Constitutions and Federalism	Garner Ch 8	Midterm
8 (Mar 2, 4)	Legislatures	Garner Ch 9	
9 (Mar 9*, 11)	Parties, Elections and Voting	Garner Ch 11	
10 (Mar 16, 18)	Civil Society +Political Culture	Garner Ch 12, 13	
11 (Mar 23*, 25)	International Relations	MacLean Ch 11	Assignment 2
12 (Mar 30, Apr 1)	Indigenous Politics	TBD – Watch D2L	
13 (Apr 6*, 8)	Gender and Politics	TBD – Watch D2L	

Description of Course Assessments

Tutorial Participation

Tutorial sessions, led by a team of Teaching Assistants (TAs), will provide students an opportunity to reflect on the course material, and express those reflections in conversations with their peers. These discussions will provide students with an opportunity to practice using key course concepts and terms – i.e. applying the conceptual vocabulary of political science.

Live Zoom Sessions

Tutorials will be held synchronously over Zoom and will be led by your TA. They are designed to create an environment in which students can talk about and work through the key elements of course material. Students will be asked to listen actively to their peers, and to consider the strengths and weaknesses of viewpoints different from their own. 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. Students should attend each tutorial having completed all readings for that week's theme.

Discussion Boards

In addition to the live Zoom sessions, each tutorial group will have a discussion board on D2L where students can discuss each week's themes and apply the political vocabulary learned throughout the semester. The online discussion will be led by the TAs, who will post weekly discussion questions. Students can respond directly to these questions or to what their tutorial classmates have said. Responses should be concise – approx. 50 words. *Please keep the discussion respectful. Any disrespectful language will not be tolerated.*

Attendance

Tutorials are a critical building block to developing your own views on course content and an opportunity to learn from your peers. As such, tutorial attendance is mandatory and students should arrive at each session ready to practice contributing and listening to the discussion. Every student will be given one "free" absence.

Assessment

Attendance and participation (in the Zoom sessions and discussion boards) will be tracked by the TA. **Marks for tutorial participation will be assigned at the discretion of the TA.**

Students should aim to participate in both forums (live sessions and discussion boards). Some students may prefer the live discussions while others may prefer the written discussions on D2L. As such, there is no precise formula for determining the participation grade. Your TA will make an assessment based on overall attendance, participation in Zoom sessions, and contributions to the discussion board. The emphasis will be on the *quality* and consistency of participation and not on the *quantity*. You do not need to dominate the discussions (in either forum) in order to receive top participation marks. Regular contribution to discussion that indicates preparation and effort is all that is required.

Syllabus Quiz

The easiest 2% you'll ever earn! To ensure students are familiar with the details of course policies, assignment details and lecture topics, there will be a short, multiple choice, open book quiz about the content of the course outline.

The quiz will be available on the course website beginning January 15. The quiz is not timed and students can take the quiz as many times as they would like until the deadline at 11:59 p.m. on **January 22**.

Midterm Test

The midterm test is scheduled for **February 25**. It will assess students' knowledge and understanding of course material and concepts and promote effective note-taking. The format of the test will be multiple-choice, true/false and short answers. The test will be administered online through D2L. The midterm test will be open book and must be completed individually.

The midterm test will be available on the course website from 11:59 p.m. on February 24 until 11:59 p.m. on February 25. Students can complete the test at any time during this 24-hour period. The test should take 45 minutes to complete. Students will be given 68 minutes to complete the test to allow for any technology issues that may arise. Once you start the test, you must complete it within the allocated time.

Final Exam

The final exam will take place **during the final exam period (April 19 – 29)**. The exact date of the exam will be announced at a later date. Like the midterm test, the final exam will assess students' knowledge and understanding of course material and concepts and promote effective note-taking. The format of the exam will be multiple-choice, true/false and short answers. The exam will be administered online through D2L. The exam will be open book and must be completed individually.

The final exam will be made available for a 24-hour period and students can complete it at any time within this 24-hour period. The exam should take 60 minutes to complete. Students will be given 90 minutes to complete the exam to allow for any technology issues that may arise. Once you start the exam, you must complete it within the allocated time.

Assignment 1

There will be two short written assignments to help students practice communicating clearly and concisely through writing.

In the first short written assignment, students will be asked to answer a question in a *four* (4) paragraph essay of **not more than 800 words**. A four paragraph essay is similar to the more conventional five paragraph essay, with the exception that one of the body/idea paragraphs has been removed.

The primary goal of this assignment is to practice creating a well-planned out and succinctly argued essay. The assignment is intentionally short to encourage students to consider what parts of a concept apply the most to a particular question and how to communicate this clearly in a limited space. The short length also encourages students to focus on the quality of their writing and argumentation.

Assignment 1 must be submitted through the course website by 11:59 p.m. on February 10.

Essay questions and detailed guidelines for what the essay must include, formatting instructions, and grading criteria will be posted on the course website.

Assignment 2

The second short written assignment builds on the skills practiced in Assignment 1. In the first assignment students constructed a basic argument in a four paragraph format. The care and focus that was needed in crafting those four paragraphs now must be repeated with a more complex argument.

In the first assignment, your two points or ideas were constrained to a paragraph each. In the second assignment, you must develop your points or ideas using multiple paragraphs. In this way, the two (or three) points that you wish to make will be discussed and developed using multiple, but equally focused and developed paragraphs. The second assignment will be slightly longer than the first, up to a **maximum of 5 pages**.

Assignment 2 must be submitted through the course website by 11:59 p.m. on March 24.

Topics and questions for Assignment 2, as well as detailed guidelines for what the essay must include, formatting instructions, and grading criteria will be posted on the course website.

Writing Statement

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, 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 by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

Grading Scale

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)

Course Policies

Course Communication

Office hours are usually the best way to get an effective response on an issue from me. Students can sign up for an appointment in office hours using the automatic system through <https://ericarayment.youcanbook.me/>.

Email communication is best for dealing with logistical and/or administrative issues (e.g. providing documentation to request an extension, reminding me to share that link I mentioned in class, asking for clarification on something that isn't covered in the syllabus). If you have a question about course content, ideas, or concepts your best bet is to come to office hours for a (virtual) in-person chat.

If you are contacting me by email, please use your university email address and include the course code in the subject line. I check email from Monday to Friday and will do my best to respond to emails within two business days. Your patience is appreciated if it takes me a bit longer to respond, but if your matter is urgent and you haven't heard from me within two business days, you can send a follow up email nudge.

Late Penalties

Late assignments will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day (including weekends) of the total marks for the assignment. Assignments submitted five calendar days beyond the due date will be assigned a grade of zero. Assignments handed in AFTER the work has been returned to the class cannot be marked for credit. Accommodations due to late registration into the course will NOT be approved.

Extensions

Normally, extensions for written work will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor, and with acceptable written documentation. Extensions can also be granted for students registered with Student Accessibility Services. **Extensions will only be granted if requested at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline for an assignment.** Extensions requested less than 48 hours in advance of the deadline will not be approved unless there are unforeseeable exceptional circumstances and late submissions will be subject to the late penalties identified above. **Extensions will not be granted after the assignment deadline has passed.** If you require an extension, you must notify me as soon as possible.

Grade Appeals

Grades are assigned based on an assessment of the quality of the work submitted. If you think a grade should be reconsidered, you must provide a half-page written explanation outlining why you think the assigned grade is misaligned with the quality of the work that was submitted. This explanation must make specific reference to the grading guidelines. This explanation should be submitted by email to your TA, along with a copy of the graded assignment. There is a 48 hour "cooling off" period after getting a graded assignment back in which you may not submit an appeal. All grade appeals must be submitted within one week of the end of the "cooling off"

period. Please note that requests for reassessment based on needing to maintain a scholarship, support law/grad school applications, or other reasons unrelated to the content of the work submitted, will not be considered as valid reasons for appeal. Please note that after reviewing an assignment, a grade can be adjusted either up or down.

Equity Statement

The University of Calgary is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech in any course forums will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the University of Calgary Student Conduct Office at conduct@ucalgary.ca .

Statement on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and achieving course goals. The assignments in this course are designed to give you an opportunity to learn important skills and concepts over the course of your degree by making honest attempts through your own thinking, writing, and hard work.

I encourage you to review the University of Calgary's Student Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>). It outlines the rules for acceptable academic behaviour and you are expected to know the rules.

If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, or if you aren't sure if something is allowed or would constitute academic misconduct, PLEASE reach out to me for additional information.

Important Department 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). 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 Commissioners for Oaths, visit 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>

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.

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/.

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.

Required Access to Technology

Please see the University's resource page at https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031

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-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit 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].

Important Contact Information

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.