



2017-2018 Academic Year
Spring Session



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 321-L01
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IN CANADA**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anthony Sayers
TELEPHONE: 403.220.2703
OFFICE: SS 730
EMAIL: asayers@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday 15:00-16:00 Hrs
WEBSITE: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>
LECTURE TIME: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 – 14:45 Hrs
LECTURE LOCATION: [SB 148](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This lecture course introduces students to the character of Canadian politics, its processes and institutions. It will consider features of the Canadian polity such as its constitution, federalism, and parliament, bureaucracy, political parties, elections, interest groups, and regionalism. The course will explore some of the key cleavages in Canadian society and contemporary political issues. . Students are encouraged to stay abreast of Canadian politics via reliable news outlets as a means of giving substance to information covered in class.

The course consists of lectures by the instructor. The course schedule outlining weekly topics is below. The lectures will generally follow the schedule but are subject to change in response to events, including guest lectures. The assigned reading is from the text available at the University of Calgary Bookstore. Supplementary materials are listed at the end of each chapter of the text and are available via the University of Calgary Library. The instructor may provide additional occasional readings in response to current events or class discussion.

After completing the course, students will:

- Be able to identify critical features of Canadian democracy
- Have developed a sophisticated understanding of important institutional and procedural elements of the Canadian politics
- Understand key concepts such as democracy, representation, and accountability
- Have honed their research and essay writing skills.

COURSE RESOURCES

Course Textbook

Alex Marland and Jared J. Wesley 2016 *Inside Canadian Politics* (Don Mills Ont.: Oxford University Press). ISBN-13: 9780199001392.

The text may be purchased in hard copy or electronic form. Check to see if the book is available from closed reserve or electronically via the Library.

Course Website

There is a course D2L site at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>. The course discussion board allows you to discuss issues relating to Political Science 321 with other students and the instructor. D2L will also be used for announcements and to facilitate communication among students and between students and the instructor/s. Additional information on various aspects of the course may be placed on the website.

Web Sites

Whereas most books and journal articles available through the University of Calgary library will have passed a number of rigorous tests of their scholarship and veracity, this is not the case for websites, which can be published with little or no checking of their content. While many websites offer useful and trustworthy information, you should not accept at face value everything you read or see on the net.

University of Calgary Library

The University of Calgary Library offers many resources that can help you understand the politics of industrialized states and complete superior essays. The Political Science Librarian, Mr. John Wright (jpwright@ucalgary.ca; Telephone: 403.220.5955), can assist you in finding your way around the various resources available in the library. Conducting a simple subject search using 'Canadian politics', 'Canadian Constitution', 'Federal government Canada' or individual topics such as parliament, constitutions, and so forth should produce a list of resources for essay writing.

Academic Journals and Databases for Essays

Relevant journal articles are a most impressive addition to any research paper. Making use of the electronic database search engines – such as Web of Science or International Political Science Abstracts – found on the University of Calgary Library website should furnish a range of valuable articles. The following journals may be particularly useful:

Canadian Journal of Political Science	Publius (Journal of Federalism)
Canadian Political Science Review	The Journal of Canadian Studies
Canadian Public Policy	The American Review of Canadian Studies
Canadian Public Administration	Policy Options

ASSESSMENT

Grading

Please note that you will need to complete each grading component to pass this course.

A+ = 90-100 = 4.00	B+ = 77-79 = 3.30	C+ = 67-69 = 2.30	D+ = 55-59 = 1.30
A = 85-89 = 4.00	B = 74-76 = 3.00	C = 64-66 = 2.00	D = 50-54 = 1.00
A- = 80-84 = 3.70	B- = 70-73 = 2.70	C- = 60-63 = 1.70	F = 0- 49 = 0.00

1. Quizzes (30% of final grade)

There will be two closed book in-class multiple choice quizzes at the beginning of class on the dates noted. Students will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz.

A missed quiz may be retaken only if appropriate documentation excusing the absence is made available to the instructor either before or as soon after the quiz as possible. Please confirm a score has been recorded for each quiz you sit once the instructor indicates that the results have been posted.

The quizzes test students’ knowledge of the course material covered in the assigned readings as well as the lectures and discussions. The first quiz covers material up until the previous lecture. Subsequent quizzes cover classes from the last quiz to the lecture preceding the quiz.

Quizzes (2 x 15% = 30%)

Quiz 1, Thursday, May 24; Quiz 2, Thursday, June 7;

2. Research Essay (30% of final grade)

A 10 page 2,500-word research essay is due in the course Dropbox in D2L by 21:00 Hrs Thursday, June 14th, 2018. *Essays submitted after this time will not receive detailed grading comments.* Essays received after 21:00 Hrs, Monday, June 18th, 2018 will incur a grade penalty of 3% for each day they are late with the first penalty applied at 21:01 Hrs on the 14th.

Essay Topics and instructions will be available on the course website under ‘Assignments.’

The research essay allows students to extend their understanding of the ideas and frameworks introduced in the lectures. They must consistently follow scholarly conventions for footnoting, referencing and bibliography. The essay should contain a thesis statement that responds to the question asked, a body that presents a logical argument, and a conclusion consistent with these other features. The bibliography should contain at least 10 relevant sources. Remember that a well-chosen journal article is likely to indicate you have worked hard to explain your answer.

Please leave adequate margins for grading and comments and use the American Psychology Association (APA) format for documenting sources. Information on this is available from many sources, including the Student Success Centre (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support/onlinewriting-resources>) which offers a range of tools to assist you in writing a superior essay. A grading scheme will be provided on the course website.

Requests for extensions due to illness or similar reasons *must be made to the Instructor before the due date and must be supported by suitable documentation, such as a note from a physician in the case of ill-health.*

3. Final Exam (40 % of final grade)

There will be a 2 hour take home exam consisting of short answers and essays at the end of the term made available electronically at 17:00 Hrs on Tuesday, June 26th, 2018 and due on Friday, June 29th, 2018 at 21:00 Hrs. Answers are to be loaded to the dropbox on D2L by that time. No late exams accepted.

Please do not make any travel arrangements for this period as all students must adhere to a common timeline for receiving and submitting the final exam.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Required weekly readings as well as discussion questions we will be covering in class are available from the course website. Please review the assigned readings, as we will be discussing them in class. Lectures, the text and assigned readings as well as class discussions will inform the questions asked in the in-class quizzes. Relevant additional materials and readings may be made available on the course website.

WEEK OF	TOPIC	BASIC READING
		Text: M & W
May 14	Introduction: Canadian Politics	M & W Chapter 1
May 14	The Constitution	M & W Chapter 2
May 21	Federalism & Regionalism Victoria Day, May 21	M & W Chapter 3 & 4
May 21	The Executive First in-class quiz – Thursday May 24	M & W Chapter 5
May 28	The Legislature	M & W Chapter 6
May 28	The Justice System	M & W Chapter 7
June 4	Public Policy and Administration	M & W Chapter 8
June 4	Political Parties Second in-class quiz – Thursday June 7	M & W Chapter 9
June 11	Democracy and Elections	M & W Chapter 10
June 11	The Media and Political Communication Research Essay due on Thursday, June 14	M & W Chapter 11
June 18	Political Activism: Interest Groups and Social Movements	M & W Chapter 12
June 18	Diversity and Representation	M & W Chapter 13
June 25	Canada's Place in the World Take Home Final.	M & W Chapter 14

Writing Statement

Written assignments are required in Political Science 321, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be considered in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre at https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview, located on the third floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Lecture Etiquette

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cellphones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing sound-enabled websites may disrupt others and will not be tolerated.

Recording of Lectures

Recording of lectures is permitted for individual private study for those who have requested relevant academic accommodation and for others at the discretion of the instructor. Please contact the instructor before recording any lectures. Any other use of recording constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

Contacting the Instructor

Given the limitations of email, students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to their instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet with the instructor, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments and to be courteous in all forms of communication.

Counselling and Student Development Centre

The Counselling Centre offers services in three major areas; personal counselling, career development and academic success. Should you require assistance, please phone 403.220.5893 or review the website at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/counselling/>

Absence from a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) 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-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

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 will be destroyed after three months; 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 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. 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] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 day 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, 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: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca