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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

Political Science 321 L01  
Politics & Government in Canada  
Winter 2018

**Course Summary**

INSTRUCTOR: Ian Brodie  
OFFICE: SS 708  
EMAIL: irbrodie@ucalgary.ca  
OFFICE HOURS: T 2:30-3:30  
COURSE DAY/TIME: Tu Th 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.  
COURSE LOCATION: KNB 126  
TOP HAT JOIN CODE: 248837

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

*An examination of institutions and political processes in Canada. Significant attention is paid to key institutions such as Parliament, the executive, federalism, the Constitution, and the courts. Emphasis is also placed on the way that political processes are shaped by these and other institutions.*

**Course Details**

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The course begins with a study of Canada's form of "cabinet" (or "responsible") government. Other aspects of the Canadian regime are then discussed in the context of cabinet government. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of how Canada's governing institutions relate to each other.

## EXPECTATIONS

Attendance is not mandatory. However, assessment components are completed (i.e., grades are awarded) during the lectures. In the past, students who did not attend the lectures have done poorly on the final examination.

Students will be expected to use Top Hat to complete Class Tests at the beginning of most Tuesday lectures. All students should therefore have access to a laptop, smart phone or tablet during lectures, be connected to the University wifi network and be able to use the Top Hat software. Our Join Code is 248837. Please arrive on time. Plan commutes accordingly.

Students will be expected to use D2L to access some materials, submit Debate Papers and get announcements from the instructor.

Students will also be expected to participate in one Class Debate either at the beginning of a Thursday lecture or during one of the Debate Weeks marked on the Course Schedule.

Students should expect to spend about two hours reading the assigned materials each week. All materials are required readings. Depending on the quality of the class notes taken, students could expect to spend another two to four hours preparing for the final examination.

Be considerate of others by switching off cell phones during lectures. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Please no eating during class.

The instructor is always happy to answer questions about the course during his office hours. Many questions can be answered by reading this syllabus, so keep it with your notes. If you prefer to contact the instructor by email, please put your course number – POLI 321 – in the subject line. Emails will be answered within one business day, excepting weekends. Please take that into account.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The textbook and lectures will prepare students to:

- Explain the key elements of constitutionalism and responsible government in Canada (the confidence convention, the doctrines of individual and collective ministerial responsibility, conventions regarding selection of prime minister, etc.)
- Connect other aspects of our form of government, such as the selection and operation of cabinet, relations between cabinet and Parliament and the core

- operation of political parties to the key elements of responsible government.
- Explain how the institution of cabinet government structures public policy in Canada and compare this to the structure of public policy in the United States.

Participating in the Class Debate portion of the course will prepare students to:

- Speak in front of a group.
- Write a persuasive essay about an assigned topic.
- Practise good citizenship by seeing the merits of both sides of contentious issues

## LEARNING RESOURCES

The following textbooks have most of the required readings and can be found in the University of Calgary Bookstore ([www.calgarybookstore.ca](http://www.calgarybookstore.ca)):

- Malcolmson, Patrick N., et al. *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada*. University of Toronto Press, 2016.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker. *Tutorial Readings: Prof Brodie's Section: POLI 321 L01*. Toronto: Nelson, 2018.

Please note: Malcolmson, et al., is also available in an E-Pub version at [www.utppublishing.com](http://www.utppublishing.com).

Other materials are available on the D2L site for the course. If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/>.

## ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

### Class Tests – 40% of the overall grade

There will be nine (9) Class Tests conducted at the beginning of certain lectures – the ones marked with an asterisk (\*) in the Course Schedule. Grades for the best eight (8) of these tests will count towards the final grade. Each Class Test will have five (5) multiple-choice questions testing your knowledge of the assigned readings for that day.

**Value:** Best eight (8) out of nine (9) tests for a total of 40% of the overall grade

**Date, time and location:** See Course Schedule below

**Length:** The first ten (10) minutes of the relevant lectures (approximately)

**Type:** Closed-book, in class, invigilated, and completed on-line through Top Hat

**Description:** Five (5) Multiple choice questions

### **Class Debates – 20% of the overall grade**

Each student will participate in a Class Debate structured around the Charlton and Barker text. Detailed instructions will be distributed separately. There are two components to the Class Debate evaluation:

1. A Debate Paper. Each student will prepare a paper about the issue in advance of his/her Debate Presentation using the materials in the Charlton and Barker texts. It will be graded by the teaching assistant using a rubric available on D2L. These papers will be graded in part on the quality of the writing. Papers will be submitted in PDF format through a D2L Dropbox.
2. The Debate Presentation. Students will work in teams of three (3) to present one side of an issue in the Charlton and Barker text. These presentations will be graded either by the instructor or the teaching assistant using a rubric available on D2L. Presentations will be graded in part on the quality of the oral presentation.

**Value:** 20% of the final grade, consisting of the Debate Paper (10%) and the Debate Presentation (10%).

### **Final Examination – 40% of the overall grade**

**Date, time and location:** As scheduled by the Registrar

**Length:** Two hours

**Type:** Closed-book, invigilated, graded by the instructor

**Description:** Written answers graded, in part, on the quality of the writing

**Associated learning outcomes:** See learning outcomes for the textbook and lectures.

### **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)

## **Other policies and information**

### **Grade reappraisals**

Up to one week after an exam or assignment is returned, a student may seek a reappraisal of the grade from the instructor. To do so, the student must submit a written request briefly explaining the grounds for the reappraisal. Note, a reappraisal may raise, lower or confirm the grade originally assigned.

### **Absence from In-class tests**

As only the best eight (8) of nine (9) Class Tests are counted, students who miss one class test will not be offered an opportunity to re-write. Students who are absent from more than one Class Test 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 can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

**University Regulations:**

Students are encouraged to familiarize 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-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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints) and note the assembly point nearest

to your classroom. The designated assembly point for classes in KNB is the North Courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre.

### **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 Library Block.

### **Permission to Record Lectures:**

Students may audio record lectures for the purposes of personal or group study only. Recordings may be shared with other students registered in this section of the course, but further distribution is prohibited. Recordings must be discarded at the end of the semester.

### **Copyright**

The University of Calgary respects copyright laws. Students should take care to respect these laws during the course. All course materials prepared by the instructor, including but not limited to this course outline, overhead slides, assignments, rubrics and examinations, are copyright.

### **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)

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

## Course Schedule

This schedule and readings are subject to change. Any changes will be announced during the lecture sessions and posted under the “News” section of the D2L site for the course. Lecture dates marked with \* will begin with a Class Test.

January 9: Introduction: The Canadian Regime and Regime Principles

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 1.

January 11: The Canadian Constitution and “Constitutionalism”

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 2: 2.1 to 2.5.

\*January 16: Responsible Government – January 16\*

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 3.

January 18: First Debate, then Responsible Government continued

- Issue: Is a majority government more effective than a minority? in Charlton and Barker.

\*January 23: Prime Minister and Cabinet

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 6.

January 25: Second Debate, then Prime Minister and Cabinet continued

- Issue: Is the prime minister too powerful? in Charlton and Barker.

\*January 30: Parliament

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 7.

February 1: Third Debate, then Parliament continued

- Issue: Should party discipline be relaxed? in Charlton and Barker.

\*February 6: Political Parties

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 10.

February 8: Fourth Debate, then Political Parties continued

- Issue: Should representation in Parliament mirror Canada's diversity? in Charlton and Barker.

\*February 13: Elections

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 9.

February 15: Fifth Debate, then Elections continued.

- Issue: Is a mixed-member electoral system in Canada's interests? in Charlton and Barker.

February 20, 22 – Study Break

\*February 27, March 1: Federalism

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 4.

\*March 6, March 8: The Courts

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 8: 8.1-8.5.

\*March 13, March 15: Public Policy

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 11.

\*March 20: The Charter of Rights

- Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 5 and Chapter 8: 8.6.

March 22: Sixth Debate, then The Charter of Rights continued

- Issue: Is the Canadian Charter of Rights antidemocratic? in Charlton and Barker.

March 27, March 29, April 3, April 5: Debate Weeks

- Issues each day: Are positions on private healthcare inconsistent with the Charter of Rights? and Should religious beliefs be excluded from consideration of public policy? Both in Charlton and Barker.

April 10: Canada and the US Compared

- TBA.

April 12: Review Session

As scheduled: Final Examination