



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

**POLI 321 LECTURE 01
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IN CANADA
WINTER 2021**

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Anthony Sayers
TELEPHONE	403.220.2703 – messages
EMAIL/SKYPE/ZOOM:	asayers@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS	Friday, 13:00-14:00HRS (details on D2L)
DELIVERY METHOD	Web-based (Asynchronous)
PREREQUISITE	None
TEACHING ASSISTANT:	alexander.chuchin@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This is a lecture-based course that introduces students to the formal study of Canadian politics. It explores political processes and institutions such as the constitution, federalism, regionalism, elections, political parties, parliament, the bureaucracy, and interest groups.

Where possible, we will cover and discuss contemporary issues and debates in Canadian politics. 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 schedule outlining weekly topics is below. While departures may occasionally occur, such as guest lectures and video presentations, the course will generally follow that schedule. 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.

After completing the course, students will:

- 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Alex Marland and Jared J. Wesley 2020. *Inside Canadian Politics* (Don Mills Ont.: Oxford University Press) 2nd edition. ISBN-13: 978-0199032624

The textbooks are available via multiple channels. Occasional readings will be available from the course website.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

To complete the course successfully, you will need access to a reliable internet connection, an adequately equipped and secure computer, including audio and visual devices allowing online conferencing along with the software required to access the course, meetings, and to complete assignments. This includes, but is not be limited to, programs required to make a computer fully functional such as a web browser, word processor, audio-visual conferencing software, and other software such as statistical packages (either free ware or provided through the University) that may be required to complete course projects.

OTHER RESOURCES

Course Website

D2L will be used for announcements and to facilitate communication among students and between students and the instructor/s. **Additional information about the course and answers to common questions will be available from the News section.** Please check there first before sending a question to the instructor or teaching assistant.

University of Calgary Library

The University of Calgary Library offers many resources that can help you in your work. A critical research skill, along with general web searches, is the capacity to use the academic search engines in the library. 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 the library offers.

Academic Journals and Databases for Essays

Relevant journal articles are a most impressive addition to any research paper. The electronic database – 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, Political Science databases at <https://library.ucalgary.ca/az.php?s=52647>

The following journals may be particularly useful and are easily accessible via a library search:

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

Web Sites

Most books and journal articles available through the University of Calgary library have passed many 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 web.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS, WEIGHTS, AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATE
5 of 12 weekly quizzes	30%	Weekly, Friday at 13:00HRS, except final week
Research Essay	30%	Due March 22 nd , 2021
Final Exam	40%	Available April 15 th , due April 19 th , 2021
Total	100%	

If you miss a required course component, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Note that all times and dates are Mountain Standard Time.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Required weekly readings as well as discussion questions we will be covering in class are below. Please review the assigned readings, as they will be referenced in the lectures. Lectures, the text and assigned readings will inform the questions asked in the quizzes and final exam. Relevant additional materials and readings may be made available on the course website.

WEEK OF	TOPIC	BASIC READING
		Text: M & W
January 11	Canada: A Political Construct (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 1
January 18	The Constitution (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 2
January 25	Federalism & Regionalism (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 3 & 4
February 1	The Executive (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 5
February 8	The Legislature (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 6
Term Break, No Classes Sunday-Saturday, February 14-20		
February 22	The Justice System (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 7
March 1	Public Policy and Administration (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 8
March 8	Political Parties (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 9
March 15	Democracy and Elections (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 10
March 22	The Media and Political Communication (Weekly Quiz); Research Essay due on Monday, March 22nd, 2021	M & W Chapter 11
March 29	Political Activism: Interest Groups and Social Movements (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 12
April 5	Diversity and Representation (Weekly Quiz)	M & W Chapter 13
April 12	Canada's Place in the World Take-home final available April 15th, due April 19th	M & W Chapter 14

ASSIGNMENTS

Note that all times and dates are Mountain Standard Time.

1. Five Short Quizzes (30% of final grade)

There will be a closed book, online, multiple choice quiz on Friday each week at 13:00 HRS (1:00pm) beginning in Week 1 but excluding the last week of term (Week 13). The quiz will consist of 6 questions and be 10 minutes in duration. Completing **five (5)** of these 12 weekly quizzes – that is, five at least - is a requirement for passing the course. **You may complete more than five, with the best five quiz grades going toward your final grade.** A missed quiz will be automatically graded 0. *Please do not wait toward the end of the term to make up your five quizzes.*

Please confirm a score has been recorded for each quiz you sit once the instructor indicates that the results have been posted. You will need to provide suitable documentation (see **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration** below) to make a claim for a make-up exam if you are unable to complete the required five quizzes across the term.

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

Best 5 (5 x 6%) quizzes will contribute to your grade (30%).

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, Monday, March 22nd, 2021**. *Essays submitted after this time will not receive detailed grading comments.* Essays received after **21:00 Hrs, Thursday, March 25th, 2021** will incur a grade penalty of 3% for each day they are late, beginning at **21:01 HRS on Thursday, March 25th, 2021**.

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. Remember that a well-chosen journal article is likely to indicate you have worked hard to explain your answer.

Please use the American Psychology Association (APA) format of in-text, parenthetical citations for documenting sources. Information on this is available from many sources, including the Student Success Centre (<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>) 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 the like *must be made to the Instructor before the due date and accompanied by suitable documentation. See Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration* below.

3.Take-Home, Open Book Final Examination (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 **14:00 Hrs on Thursday, April 15th, 2021**, and due on **Monday, April 19th, 2021 at 21:00 Hrs** at which time the portal will close. As such, late exams cannot be accepted. All students must adhere to a common timeline for receiving and submitting the final exam. Please do not make any travel or other arrangements that compromise your capacity to meet this demand

Grading Scheme

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

LATE PENALTIES

A penalty of 3% per day beginning the moment after the time at which an assignment is due will be applied to any late assignment.

Requests for extensions to any deadlines due to illness or similar reasons *must be made to the Instructor before the due date and must be supported by suitable documentation (see Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration below). Please keep an electronic backup of all your work to insure against loss or other difficulties.*

Writing

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses. The quality of writing, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity and organization, will all be considered in assigning a grade to submitted work. 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.

Online Etiquette

We are all adapting to our changed world, including online classes. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cellphones or avoid other distractions while engaged in an online class. Being distracted by electronic tasks such as texting, emailing, or web browsing, and the presence of others may affect your learning and that of others. There is a presumption that audio-visual sessions are limited to those registered in the class. While circumstances beyond your control may intervene, please do your best to abide by these conditions.

Recording of Lectures

Any use of recorded lectures beyond that required by your participation in this course constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

INSTRUCTORS GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments. **All meetings will be held virtually.**

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours, to be held virtually.

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). 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=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031

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/>.