



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 321 Lecture 02  
Politics and Government in Canada  
Winter 2021**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ian Brodie  
**TELEPHONE:** 403-220-3030  
**EMAIL:** [irbrodie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:irbrodie@ucalgary.ca)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30, by Zoom  
**COURSE DAY/TIME:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 - 12:15  
**DELIVERY METHOD:** Web-Based  
**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:** None  
**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Ginamaria Vetro Email: [ginamaria.vetro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ginamaria.vetro@ucalgary.ca)

**COURSE 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.”

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom.

In a typical week, students work “asynchronously” – i.e., independently – to read the required readings and then complete a quiz about the readings on D2L.

Students then meet “synchronously” – i.e., together through Zoom – on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Most Tuesdays are devoted to a short lecture and an AMA session with the instructor. Thursdays are devoted to the Class Debates.

The best results will come from completing both the asynchronous and synchronous portions of the course. If you are unable to participate in a Zoom session, you may wish to watch a recording of it afterwards. Each session will be recorded and made available on D2L.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The ultimate learning objective for this course is to give you a lasting understanding of Canadian politics. By May, you should be equipped to follow Canadian politics for years to come.

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.), and

- 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.

The Class Debate portion of the course will prepare students to:

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

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)**

The textbook has 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, Sixth Edition. University of Toronto Press, 2016.

In the past, students have found they were better prepared for the course when they used the sixth edition of the textbook. Many second-hand copies of this edition are available. An E-Pub version is available at [www.utppublishing.com](http://www.utppublishing.com).

Other materials are available on the D2L site for the course.

**REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY**

Lectures and Class Debates will be delivered by Zoom. The D2L site for this course houses other required components. Using Zoom and D2L requires reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, firewall and malware updates and an Internet connection,
- A current and updated web browser,
- A webcam (built-in or external), and
- A microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or a headset with microphone.

Most current laptops have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class Tests (best 9 of 10)	45%	Various
Debate Paper	30%	Various
Debate Presentation	15%	Various
Peer Feedbacks (5)	2% x 5 = 10%	Various
Total	100%	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS**

Most weeks follow the same schedule:

- Before Tuesday at 10:00, students complete the week's reading and then the on-line Class Test based on that reading.
- On Tuesday at 11:00, the instructor will host a live lecture and AMA – Ask Me Anything – session through Zoom.
- After the Tuesday session, the instructor will hold Office Hours. Students can book Office Hours through email.
- On Thursday, the class meets at 11:00 by Zoom for the Class Debates. During the week of March 16, there will be additional debates on the Tuesday. In one of these sessions, you and your teammate will debate another team on that week's topic. On five other occasions, you will submit a Peer Feedback about the week's debate.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan 12	Constitutionalism	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 1
Jan 19	The Constitution*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 2
Jan 26	Responsible Government*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 3
Feb 2	Political Parties*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 10
Feb 9	Prime Minister and Cabinet*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 6
	Reading Week	
Feb 23	Parliament*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 7
Mar 2	Elections*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 9
Mar 9	Federalism*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 6
Mar 16	Additional Class Debates	
Mar 23	The Charter*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 5
Mar 30	The Courts*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 8
Apr 6	Public Policy*	Malcolmson, et al., Chapter 11

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises. Changes will be announced under the News tabs on the course D2L site.

## **ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Class Tests: After finishing each week's reading, you will complete an on-line quiz through D2L. Once you begin a Class Test, you will have ten minutes to complete it plus an additional five minutes of grace time to account for technical troubles you might experience.

Students are on the honour system to complete the quiz individually, without help from others. The quizzes are, however, open book. The quizzes will come in different, easily graded formats like multiple choice, fill in the blank, etc.

There will be ten (10) Class Tests conducted at the beginning of certain lectures – the ones marked with an asterisk (\*) in the Course Schedule. Grades for the best nine (9) of these tests will count towards the final grade. Each Class Test will have ten (10) multiple-choice questions testing your knowledge of the assigned readings for that day.

Mid-term Examination: There is **no** mid-term examination in this course.

Class Debates: Working in teams of three, students taking opposing sides on an issue in Canadian politics. 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 of approximately six to eight pages about the issue they have signed up to debate. The Debate Paper is due in advance of the Debate Presentation. The paper 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. Students should submit the paper in PDF format through the appropriate D2L Dropbox.

Give yourself enough time to get your paper proofread before submitting it. Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

2. The Debate Presentation. Students will receive a team grade for the Debate Presentation. Debate 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.
3. Peer Feedback. On five occasions during the course,

Final Examination: There is **no** final examination in this course.

### **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:**

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)

## **LATE PENALTIES**

Late Debate Papers will be docked five percentage points for each day or portion of a day they are late.

## **INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Participation in the synchronous sessions is not mandatory but, in the past, students who did not attend them have done poorly on the Final Examination. Participation in Class Debates is required to get a grade for the Debate Presentation and the Peer Feedbacks.

The D2L site for the course has several discussion forums where you may find answers to questions about the course, especially the Class Debates, the Debate Papers. Students who require further assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during the AMA sessions or to make an appointment to meet privately. All meetings will be held virtually.

Email is a common form of communication, but it is not always the best way to answer student questions. Make sure you put **POLI 321** in the subject line of all course-related emails!

Students should expect to spend two hours reading the assigned materials each week. All materials are required readings.

## **GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS**

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference. It gives us an opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help keep our Zoom sessions private, please do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/> .

The instructor will record online Zoom class sessions. These recordings will be used only to support student learning. Unless required by the Student Accessibility Centre, it is forbidden for students to record the class sessions.

## **COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK**

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. Midterm evaluations may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

## **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by the instructor (including presentations and posted notes, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. All materials created by the instructor are provided under the terms of an **Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0)** licence. See [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

## **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 Commissioners 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>

### **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.

### **Required Access to Technology**

Please see the University's resource page at [https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031](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](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](https://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](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**

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/>.