



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 425 – Section 1 – Fall 2019
City Government

INSTRUCTOR: Jack Lucas
TELEPHONE: 403-210-7610
OFFICE: SS738
EMAIL: jack.lucas@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 1-4pm
COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesdays 5-7:45pm
COURSE LOCATION: SS113

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: POLI 321 or Consent of Instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This lecture course provides an intensive introduction to the government and politics of Canadian cities, with a special focus on cities in western Canada. By the end of the course, you will be familiar with the basic institutional “machinery” of Canadian cities, the central features of elections and voting behaviour in municipalities, and the historical development of the core features of Canadian urban democracy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who commit themselves to the readings, lectures, class discussions, and assignments in this course will finish the course with (a) substantial knowledge of municipal elections, politics, and voting behaviour in Canada; (b) the ability to describe the basic structures of Canadian local government; (c) substantial knowledge of the development of Canadian urban politics and the theoretical debates about that development; (d) improved skills in library-based research and academic writing; (e) an increased ability to think like a social scientist about city politics!

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

There is no assigned textbook in this course. All assigned readings are available on D2L.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

Schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises. A full list of course readings is available on D2L, along with PDF copies of each reading.

DATE	TOPIC
Part One: Municipal Politics and Policy	
September 10	Course Introduction
September 17	The City as a Corporation
September 24	Municipal Public Policy
October 1	Municipal Council and Finance
Part Two: Municipal Democratic Institutions	
October 8	Electoral Systems 1: Franchise and Ballot
October 15	Electoral Systems 2: Electoral Districts
October 22	Political Parties
October 29	Elected Representatives and Careers
Part Three: Municipal Democracy	
November 5	Urban Political Cleavages
November 19	Incumbents and Incumbency Advantage
November 26	Participation and Representation
December 3	Vote Choice and Election Outcomes

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Evaluation	Due date	Value
Assignments		
City Profile	November 19	15%
City Election Comparison	December 3	15%
Tests and Exam		
Unit 1 Test	October 8	20%
Unit 2 Test	November 5	20%
Final Exam	Exam Period – Dec 9-19, 2019	30%

Assignments (30%): These assignments are intended to refine the research and analysis skills needed to understand Canadian politics, while also connecting class material to ongoing events in Canadian politics. The details for each assignment are available on D2L; I will also discuss each assignment in class before it is due. All assignments will be submitted to the instructor electronically via D2L.

- 1) *Canadian City Profile.* In this assignment, you will write a profile of the administrative and political structure of a major Canadian city. Your analysis will combine required readings with original research and concepts from class. Additional information on this assignment is available on D2L. It is due on **November 19th at 11:59pm.**

- 2) *City Election Comparison*. In this assignment, you will write a comparative analysis of three municipal elections in Canada based on chapters from a forthcoming book manuscript that will be available to you on D2L as well as original newspaper research. Your analysis will compare the factors that affected the municipal election and relate those factors to themes discussed in class. The analysis will be approximately 2500 words in length. Additional information on this assignment is available on D2L. It is due on **December 3rd at 11:59pm.**

Unit Tests (40%): These 60-minute, closed-book, in-class tests will take place on October 8 and November 5. The tests will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions related to course lectures and readings. More details will be provided in class and on D2L.

Final Exam (30%): This 120-minute, closed-book exam will take place during the exam period. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions along with one or more synthetic essay questions. No aids are permitted in the final examination. More details will be provided in class and on D2L.

LATE PENALTIES

In the absence of formal approval from the instructor, all late assignments will **receive a grade of zero**. Please speak with the instructor **well in advance of the due date** if you have any concerns about assignment or test timelines.

GRADE 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)

CONTACT AND ASSISTANCE

Students who wish to discuss course material, or who have questions about assignments or any other aspects of the course, are encouraged to meet with the instructor during class or office hours. Outside of class or office hours, the best way to reach the instructor is by email.

COMPUTERS AND MOBILE DEVICES

Current research on laptops and mobile devices in the classroom shows that student performance, participation, and attention are reduced when electronic devices are present. Please be considerate of others and switch off all mobile devices when you enter the classroom. Texting, web browsing, tweeting, facebooking, instagramming, snapchatting, and all other forms of instant mobile communication are extremely disruptive to others (and probably not great for your brain chemistry) and they will not be tolerated!

Laptops and other electronic note-taking devices are permitted in the classroom for purposes of

note-taking and course-related activities only.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, 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 (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

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 Commissioner 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>

Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.

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.

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-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

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.

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 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, 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:

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

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