



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

*POLI 429 - L02*  
*Electoral Behaviour*  
*Winter 2019*

INSTRUCTOR: Paul Fairie  
TELEPHONE: 403-220-6514  
OFFICE: SS 720  
EMAIL: pfairie@ucalgary.ca  
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 19:45-20:45 (Others to be scheduled at peak times)  
COURSE DAY/TIME: Wednesdays, 17:00-19:45  
COURSE LOCATION: SA 129  
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: Either Political Science 321 or 399 or consent of the Department.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An examination of how and why citizens engage with their governments, focusing on voter behaviour. Topics include individual and group influences on electoral choice, citizen participation, and comparisons of political behaviour in Canada to other democracies.

This course will be lecture based. Classroom discussion will be highly encouraged, but it is not mandatory. Small group discussions will be sometimes used, with volunteers summarizing what the group has discussed. Participation is helpful, but not graded.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a result of taking this course, students should:

- Understand the dynamics of voter choice, elections, and political campaigns;
- Be able to apply and explain leading theories of vote choice;
- Understand the historical and institutional context for elections;
- Be able to compare Canadian electoral behaviour to behaviour around the world.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S):**

*Voting Behaviour in Canada*, Cameron D. Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson (eds.). UBC Press, 2011.

*Dominance and Decline: Making Sense of Recent Canadian Elections*. Elisabeth Gidengil et al. University of Toronto Press, 2012.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
<b>Term paper proposal</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>February 15 (D2L)</b>
<b>Mid-term exam</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>February 27 (in class, 75 minutes)</b>
<b>Term paper</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>April 5 (D2L)</b>
<b>Final exam</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>Scheduled by the registrar (2 hours)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

VBIC = Voter Behaviour in Canada

DD = Dominance and Decline

\*\* = These readings are mandatory. Readings without asterisks are optional but helpful (though they will not be directly testable on the mid-term or final exam).

DATE	TOPIC	VBIC	DD
Jan 16	Models of Voter Behaviour	Ch1: The Puzzle of Elections and Voting in Canada	**Ch1: Explaining Vote Choice
Jan 23	Class & Language		**Ch2: The Changing Social Bases of Party Support
Jan 30	Religion & Ethnicity	**Ch4: The Catholic-Liberal Connection	
Feb 6	Region		**Ch10: Electoral Dynamics in Quebec
Feb 13	Gender	**Ch2: Who Votes for Women Candidates and Why?	
Feb 27	Ideology		**Ch3: Values and Beliefs
Mar 6	Institutions		**Ch8: Strategic Considerations
Mar 13	Partisanship & Parties	**Ch5: Parties and Partisans	Ch4: Party Loyalties Ch9: The Greens
Mar 20	Campaigns & Leaders	**Ch8: Personality Matters Ch9: Enlightenment	**Ch6: The Issues and the Vote Ch7: Party Leaders

Mar 27	Economic Voting & Rational Choice	Ch6: Economic Voting in Canada Ch7: Third-Party Support	**Ch5: Does the Economy Matter?
Apr 3	Opinion Polls & Voter turnout	**Ch10: Election Campaign Polls	
Apr 10	Review	**Ch11: Reflecting on Lessons	**Ch11: The Shifting Contours

### TERM PAPER PROPOSAL

The term paper proposal is due on February 15 to Dropbox on D2L. It should be submitted in Word format to allow for comments.

The proposal should include:

1. A clear research question.
2. 1-2 paragraphs about why the question is interesting or important enough to write a term paper on.
3. 1-2 paragraphs about how you plan to conduct the research for the term paper.
4. At least four academic references.

### TERM PAPER

The research paper is due on April 5 to Dropbox on D2L. It must be submitted in Word format to allow for comments. It will be no more than 3000 words, not including the bibliography. It should be double spaced, and with one-inch margins. The bibliography can be formatted in the style of any commonly accepted bibliographic style.

The paper can be on any topic related to the course material, and the term paper proposal provides the best way to clear the topic with me before writing the full paper. The term paper will be graded for quality and clarity of argumentation, clarity of writing, and use of quality evidence to support the claims.

### MID-TERM EXAMINATION

The mid-term exam will be held in class on February 27, starting at the beginning of class at 5pm. You will have 75 minutes to complete it, and we will have a half-lecture after this exam (after a break). It will cover all material covered up to the end of class on February 13.

The mid-term will contain several short answer questions, and one longer answer question. Material will be drawn from the lectures, as well as the mandatory readings.

### FINAL EXAMINATION

The final exam will be two hours long, and scheduled by the registrar. The final exam will be a closed book exam and no aids will be allowed.

The final exam will contain several short answer questions, and one longer answer question. Material will be drawn from the lectures, as well as the mandatory readings.

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)

LATE PENALTIES

The term paper proposal and term paper are due at 11:59 pm on their due date. After that, 3% of the grade will be deducted, and they will not be accepted, except where exempted for legitimate reasons, more than 2 weeks after they are due.

INSTRUCTOR 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.

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.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

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](http://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](http://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/n-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](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 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](http://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](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.

**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)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.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:**

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

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