Instructor: Jack Lucas
Email: jack.lucas@ucalgary.ca
Phone: (403) 210-7610
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:45-4:00 and by appointment.
Time and Location: Wednesdays, 12:00-2:45, SS729.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the key institutions that comprise the Canadian state, including the Canadian Constitution, federalism, executives and legislatures, the courts, and electoral systems. The course also provides an introduction to theories of institutions and institutional change, with an emphasis on the value of such theories for understanding the Canadian case.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who commit fully to the readings, class discussions, and assignments in this course will finish the course with (a) the ability to clearly describe central debates in Canadian political science related to major institutions of the Canadian state; (b) some exposure to institutionalist theories in their rational choice, sociological, and historical variants; (c) the ability to design and execute research projects on topics related to Canadian institutions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Please purchase a copy of the texts below. All are readily available from major online retailers. Used / shared / borrowed copies are fine.


GRADE SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>91-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Analysis</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Presentation and Comments</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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Class participation (30%). This is a seminar course. Students are expected to participate fully in weekly meetings; student participation should be based on careful reading of each of the assigned readings. Having completed each reading, students should write a one-paragraph reflection on the reading, noting the reading’s key themes and arguments, evidence, and contribution. Summaries should be about one page in total length. I will collect these short summaries each week and include them in each student’s participation grade.

Literature review (10%). A literature review of no more than three double-spaced pages will be due on February 14. The literature review should outline key sources related to the student’s chosen research essay topic, outline central lines of debate, and evaluate major methods and sources of evidence. I will provide detailed instructions on the literature review in class.

Mini Analysis (10%). Students will present and submit a “mini-analysis” related to the topic of their research essay on March 14th. The mini-analysis is a substantial piece of research that will inform the research essay: a small discourse analysis, compiled demographic data, a small piece of quantitative research, etc. We will discuss the role of mini-analyses in research essays in class.

Paper Presentation and Comments (10%). Our final meeting will consist of a “conference” in which each student will present a draft of his or her research paper and provide discussant comments on the paper of one of his or her colleagues. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their presentation as well as their discussant remarks.
**Research Essay** (40%). A research essay of no more than 7,000 words is due on April 18th, and should be submitted to the instructor by email in MS Word (.doc or .docx) format. The research essay must outline an empirical and theoretical puzzle, outline the scholarly literature on that puzzle, identify a substantive research project related to the puzzles, and address the puzzle using library-based sources or (optionally) original research. Students will develop their research question in class and in ongoing consultation with the instructor.

All written material in exams and essays will be evaluated both for content and for writing quality, including proper formatting and correct spelling and grammar. All written assignments will be submitted to the instructor electronically by email; I will provide detailed submission instructions in class and on D2L.

**LATE PENALTIES**

Late assignments will receive a late penalty of 3% per day; they will not be accepted more than one week past the due date and will receive a grade of zero.

**COMPUTERS AND MOBILE DEVICES**

Our goal in this seminar is to engage collectively in sustained and concentrated discussion of fascinating questions of Canadian political life. This requires an environment free of distraction. For this reason, students are very strongly discouraged from bringing computers, phones, tablets, smart watches, and other electronic gizmos into class. Students who do choose to bring electronic devices into class will be held to a high standard: any evidence of distracting use – facebooking, snapchatting, emailing, tweeting, watching Beyoncé videos, and so forth – will result in a participation grade of zero for that week’s class.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS**

*Please note: the readings listed below may change slightly (topics and overall distribution and number of readings will not). I will distribute a final reading list at our first meeting.*

(D2L) = Available on D2L  
(CR) = TFDL reserves  
(TL) = Available online through library system

**Week 1** Institutions and Institutionalism (January 10)


Week 2 Approaches to Canadian Political Institutions (January 17)


Week 3 Legislatures (January 24)


Week 4 Executives (January 31)


Week 5 Federalism (February 7)


Week 6 Constitutional Politics – Confederation (February 14)


Week 7 Courts and Judicial Politics (February 28)


Week 8 Democratization (March 7)


Week 9  Electoral Systems (March 14)


Lucas, Jack. 2017. “Reaction or Reform? Subnational Evidence on P.R. Adoption from Canadian Cities.” Unpublished manuscript. (D2L)


Week 10  Indigenous Peoples and the Canadian State (March 21)


Week 11  Urban Institutions and Multilevel Governance (March 28)


Week 12  Reading a Classic (April 4)


Week 13  Student Research Conference (April 11)

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.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

**Absence From a Mid-term Examination:** Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz 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](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 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: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca