PSCI 231: GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

Fall 2019
MC 2065, Tuesdays 2:30-4:20pm

Instructor: Heather Whiteside
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Office Location: Hagey Hall 309
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm (other days/times by appointment)

Teaching Assistants:
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Course Description: This course takes a critical political economy approach to understanding the relationship between government and business within the capitalist system, and the Canadian context in particular. It introduces students to the theory and practice of political economy; the politics of business and work (including alternatives to private enterprise); governance of the national and global economy; and the key eras, issues, and policies that have come to define the Canadian political economy since the postwar era. The latter also involves analyzing recent political economy developments that (re)shape the political and social context of business, namely the 2008 global financial crisis and its aftermath of recession and austerity.

Pre-Requisites: Level at least 2A.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course, students should be able to critically analyze and engage with course texts and related academic literature (to be demonstrated through written and oral assignments); and will be able to evaluate core introductory level political economy concepts relating to the following themes:

- Market exchange and production.
- Wage work, unions, and the workplace.
- Alternatives to private enterprise.
- Basic concepts in global and macroeconomics and its politics (relating to national economies, growth, globalization, and crises).
- Eras in Canadian political economy since World War II (Keynesianism, neoliberalism).
- Controversial Canadian economic policies (such as free trade, privatization, liberalization, deregulation, resource extraction, austerity).
Texts:


Texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

Tests:

*Test 1 (20%):*
- Held in-class on October 8, 2019
- Closed book, short answer questions, choice will be given (answer 2 of 4)

*Test 2 (20%):*
- Held in-class on November 5, 2019
- Closed book, short answer questions, choice will be given (answer 2 of 4)

*Test 3 (20%):*
- Held in-class on November 26, 2019
- Closed book, short answer questions, choice will be given (answer 2 of 4)

Please note: *student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative test time. If a test is missed, it can only be rewritten with a doctor's note or other form of appropriate documentation. If a test is not rewritten, the grade will be zero for that assignment – assignments will not be reweighted.*

*Essay (20%):*
- Due Tuesday December 3rd by 11:59pm, uploaded to LEARN
- Research essay centred on the relationship between business and government, the economy and politics
- 2,000 words
- Use .doc or .docx only (no .pdf etc.)
A minimum of 5 sources required, 3 of which must be academic in nature (scholarly books, journal articles, chapters in edited books). The others may be from popular press sources (newspaper articles, magazines such as *The Economist*).

Evaluation rubric available through LEARN

Students must choose from the following topics (an alternative topic may be selected upon approval by the instructor):

- How private enterprises shape and are shaped by government/public policy
- The activities of state owned enterprises
- The extent to which the state is able to manage its national economy
- The political and/or economic implications of the following policies: privatization, austerity, free trade
- Workers, wages, and the changing workplace
- The impact of globalization on business and/or government

**Participation (20%):**

- Lectures:
  - Some weeks involve homework: in-class activities based on work done at home prior to that week’s lecture, ensure you bring your homework to class when necessary
    - Files and instructions available on LEARN
  - Tutorials run by the TA will review lecture readings, slides, and homework assignments
  - Tutorials will help prepare students for three in-class tests

- In discussion section tutorials (20%): attendance, participation in activities and discussions
  - Tutorials run by the TA will review lecture readings, slides, and homework assignments
  - Tutorials will help prepare students for three in-class tests

- Conduct and expectations set out in the beginning of the course:
  - Regular attendance is necessary
  - No make-up assignments will be provided
  - Avoid showing up late and leaving early
  - Be mindful of your level of participation
  - Computers are for note taking purposes only
**Extra Credit:**

No extra credits provided, no assignment substitutions permitted, and no alterations will be made to each assignment’s grade weighting.

**Late Policy:**

Research essay: if handed in after the due date, a late penalty of 10% per day, including weekends, will be applied (except in the case of a documented medical emergency – please note that the documentation must specify the date/time of illness, this date/time must specifically cover the due date and the note must be obtained that day).

Participation, discussions, presentation: this portion of the total grade cannot be made up through alternative assignments. It requires regular attendance and active engagement with the discussions in class and in tutorial.

**Policy About Collaborative Work:**

All written work must be sole authored. In the event that any in-class group work is required, participation will be evaluated on an individual basis.

**Turnitin.com:**

Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen the essay assignment in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in this assignment are documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.
Schedule:

**September 10th**  
*Course Introduction*  
Course overview (readings, assignments, expectations, conduct), how to conduct library research

**Recommended Reading:**  

Themes: Basic concepts of political economy theory and issues in Canadian political economy

**September 17th**  
*Production and private enterprise*

**Required Readings:**  

Themes: Companies, Owners, and Profit; Competition

**September 24th**  
*Work, workers, and workplaces*

**Required Readings:**  

Theme: Working for a Living

**October 1st**  
*State Owned Enterprises*

**Required Reading:**  

Theme: The Conflicting Personalities of Government

**October 8th**  
*TEST 1*  
In-class test
**October 15th**
*THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS*

**October 22nd**
*National economies and globalization, growth and economic crises*

**Required Readings:**

Themes: Business Investment; Globalization; The Ups and Downs of Capitalism

**October 29th**
*Eras and issues in political economy*

**Required Readings:**

Themes: Keynesianism and neoliberalism

**November 5th**
*TEST 2*

In-class test

**November 12th**
*Controversial Canadian economic policies*

**Required Readings:**

Themes: free trade, privatization, liberalization, deregulation, resource extraction

**November 19th**
*Global financial and economic crises*

**Required Readings:**

Themes: decades of debt crises in the neoliberal era

**November 26th**

**TEST 3**

In-class test

**December 3rd**

**ESSAY DUE**

Use class time to finalize your essay
University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:
Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.
Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, link to policies http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.
Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, link to policies http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult link to grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.
Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, link to policies http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.
Academic Integrity website (Arts): link to academic responsibility http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html
Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): link to academic integrity http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.