PSCI 461: Issues for the 2019 Federal Elections
Fall 2019
HH 259, Thursday 8:30-11:30

Instructor: Gerry Boychuk
Email Address: gboychuk@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: Hagey Hall 302
Office Hours: Thursday, 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

Course Description:
In the 2019 federal election, Canadians will debate crucial issues including Indigenous/Non-Indigenous reconciliation, immigration and multiculturalism, gender issues, energy and environmental protection, and indigenous/non-indigenous reconciliation. This course will examine four books each drawn from one of these areas to consider issues likely to arise in fall 2019 and how each plays out in the 2019 election.

The course will run like a book club with each seminar discussing one of the books over the course of two weeks. On the first week, discussion will focus on developing a clear understanding of the book and its central argument. On the second week, the discussion will focus on encouraging students to develop a critical perspective on each book – considering the strengths and weaknesses of the book as well as the implications of the book’s central argument for how the issue has played out in the 2019 federal election.

Pre-Requisites: LS 206/PSCI 260; Level at least 4A

Territorial Acknowledgement
The instructor would like to acknowledge that our class takes place on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples and that the University of Waterloo is situated on land promised to the Six Nations under the Haldimand Proclamation.

Course Objectives:
The central objective of the course is to help students to understand central issues in a series of major areas likely to be crucial in the 2019 federal election. By the end of this course, students should:

- be conversant with issues relevant for the federal 2019 election in four broad areas;
- demonstrate an ability to understand, analyse, and critically assess book-length works of a professional social science standard;
- be able to effectively and comfortably participate within a small-group seminar format.
BOOKS:

There are four assigned book titles for the course -- listed below in the order in which they will be read in class. All required books are available for purchase online (e.g. Amazon.ca) in either electronic or hard copy format as well as being available in electronic format via Course Reserves.


Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

### Overview

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<tr>
<th>Component Type</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>Book Reviews (at least two up to a maximum of four)</td>
<td>Online via Learn before class on the date of the 2nd discussion session for the assigned book</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>Oral Participation</td>
<td>Seminar Participation (book discussion segment of course)</td>
<td>highest 8 of 10 dates (Sept. 12, 19; October 3, 10, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, and 28)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Book Review Assignments:**

Students will be required to write a 2000 word (approx.) book review providing a critical assessment of the book under review. The review should clearly and concisely identify the work’s central argument (although it should NOT provide an overview of the book) and the basis on which the argument is established. The review should then consider the major strengths and weaknesses of the book’s central argument as well as a consideration of the its implications for how the issue has played out in the 2019 federal election, the implications of the 2019 federal election for that issue area, and whether the politics of the issue fit with the analysis presented in
the book. A grading template for the reviews will be provided and discussed in class on or before the first book discussion seminar.

Extension Policy

To ensure that reviews are based on a student’s own understanding of each book, there is no provision for late assignments (e.g. those handed in after the second class discussion.) Students who are not able to submit an assignment before the second class on which the book is discussed can simply submit an assignment on a later book. A student who has a verifiable absence (i.e. completed and approved VIF form) on the date on which they intended to submit a review may, with the instructor’s permission, submit the review with a due date no later than the next class.

Additional Opportunities

Students must do at least two book reviews but may choose to do up to four book reviews. Students who choose to do more than two book reviews will receive the two highest grades assigned for the reviews.

Students may also elect to re-write a submitted review in light of the instructor’s comments and suggestions provided on the first submitted draft. Should a student elect to do so, the final grade on the assignment will be the average of the grade on the first submitted draft and the revised draft. The due date for revised drafts for all papers is Friday, December 13th, 11:59 pm. Should a student elect to submit more than two reviews and/or rewrite a submitted review, they must inform the instructor in writing (e.g. email) within three days of receiving the assessment for their second submitted review.

SEMINAR PARTICIPATION (30%)

Seminar participation will be graded on ten dates (Sept.12, 19; October 3, 10, 24, 31 and November 7, 14, 21, and 28.) Participation grades will be awarded (e.g. starting from zero if a student attend but does not participate and working upwards) based (roughly half) on quantity of oral contributions (a minimum of at least two contributions per seminar) and (roughly half) quality of contributions (student demonstrating that they have read and thought about the assigned book reading.)

By advance written request and permission of the instructor, a student may elect to reduce the weight of seminar participation to 15% (with the weight of the book reviews being increased to 85%) contingent on the requirement of completing at least three book reviews.

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

Week 1 (Sept.5) Introduction and Election Primer
Week 2 (Sept.12) Primer – Canadian Institutions
Reading: series of news articles (distributed by instructor via Learn)
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<tr>
<th>Week 3 (Sept.19)</th>
<th><strong>Primer -- Issues</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong></td>
<td>series of news articles (distributed by the instructor via Learn)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sept.26</th>
<th><strong>No class</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4 (Oct.3)</th>
<th><strong>Book #1</strong></th>
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<th>Week 5 (Oct.10)</th>
<th><strong>Book #1</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong></td>
<td>McCoy, 2017.</td>
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<th>Oct.17</th>
<th><strong>Fall Reading Break -- No class</strong></th>
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<th>Week 6 (Oct.24)</th>
<th><strong>Book #2</strong></th>
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<th>Week 7 (Oct.31)</th>
<th><strong>Book #2</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Reading:</strong></td>
<td>Johnstone, 2017.</td>
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<th>Week 8 (Nov.7)</th>
<th><strong>Book #3</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 9 (Nov.14)</th>
<th><strong>Book #3</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong></td>
<td>Urquhart, 2017.</td>
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<td>Week 10 (Nov.21)</td>
<td>Book #4</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 11 (Nov.28)</th>
<th>Book #4</th>
<th>Discussion B</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Courchene, 2018.</td>
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University Regulations:

Cross-listed course (requirement for all Arts courses)
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
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. Check the Office of Academic Integrity website for more information.

Discipline
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.] 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

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. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com. Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments and exams in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. For any student concerned about their privacy and/or security, students will be informed at the time
assignment details are provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in the first week of term if they wish to submit the alternate assignment.

**Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

**On Campus**
- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

**Off campus, 24/7**
- **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 ext. 6880
- **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](http://www.facultyarts.uwaterloo.ca)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)](https://www.uwaterloo.ca/studentlife/health-and-wellness/mentally-healthy-campus)

Download the [WatSafe app](https://www.uwaterloo.ca/watsafe) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

**Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo**

Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.