PSCI 231: GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS
Fall 2018
MC 1085, Mondays 6:30pm-8:30pm

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Office Hours: Mondays, 5-6pm (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:**

*Research Essay (30%):*
- Due Sunday December 9th, 2018 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*). Instruction on how to use library resources will be provided during week 1
- Research essay 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 theory, purpose, and practice of state owned enterprises
  - The extent to which the state is able to manage its national economy
  - The social and/or economic implications of at least two of the following: the privatization of state owned enterprises, market liberalization, and/or deregulation of private enterprise
  - How workers might augment their power vis-à-vis multinational corporations
  - The impact of globalization on business and/or government

*Participation (20%):*
- In-Class (10%): participation in activities and discussions.
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
- Participation grades during weeks with homework are based on: 1) uploading your completed homework to LEARN by the start of lecture (prior to 2:30pm, Fridays); 2) participating in lecture discussions/activities
- Participation grades during weeks without homework involves only step 2 above

- In Discussion Tutorials (10%): attendance, participation in activities and discussions
  - Further details and instructions provided by your TA
- 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

**Tests:**

**Test 1 (25%):**
- Held in-class on October 22, 2018
- Closed book, short essay-style questions, choice will be given (e.g., answer 3 of 5)

**Test 2 (25%):**
- Held in-class on December 3, 2018
- Closed book, short essay-style questions, choice will be given (e.g., answer 3 of 5)
- Cumulative with an emphasis on material covered in the second half of the course

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.*
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

**September 17th**  
*What is political economy?*  
Basic concepts of political economy theory and issues in Canadian political economy  

**September 24th**  
*Exchange, production, corporations*  
Sectors, prices, the organization of production, private enterprise (history, behaviour)  

**October 1st**  
*Work, workers, and workplaces*  
Labour, labour markets, unions  
**Reading 1:** Stanford, Jim. 2015. *Economics for Everyone.* 2nd edition. Chapters 5, 6, 8 (Work, Production, and Value; Working with Tools; Working for a Living).

**October 8th**  
*THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS*  
Prepare for test in two weeks

**October 15th**  
*Alternatives to private enterprise*  
The public sector and state owned enterprises  

**October 22nd**  
*TEST 1*  
In-class test
October 29th

*Macro and global economics*
National economies and globalization, growth and crises

November 5th

*Eras and issues in political economy*
Keynesianism, neoliberalism

November 12th

*Controversial Canadian economic policies*
Free trade, privatization, liberalization, deregulation, resource extraction

November 19th

*The 2008 global financial crisis, recession, and aftermath in Canada*

November 26th

*Test 2 Prep*
In-class review

December 3rd

*TEST 2*
In-class test
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, 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, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult 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, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): 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.