

# PSCI 100: Canadian Politics and Public Policy in Comparative Perspective

Fall, 2013

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:20pm

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**Instructor:** Dr. Anna Esselment and Dr. Emmett Macfarlane

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**Office Location:** Hagey Hall 304 and Hagey Hall 350

**Office Hours:** Dr. Esselment: Tues. 2:30-4:00pm, HH 304 (or by appointment)  
Dr. Macfarlane: Tues. 3:00-5:00pm, HH 350 (or by appointment)

**Contact Policy:** Email is likely the best way to get in touch with the professor or your TA outside of usually scheduled office hours. A few things to remember when emailing:

- **Please use your official UW email account.** To ensure your privacy, your professor/TA will not reply to emails sent from a non-UW account (such as Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, Sympatico, etc.).
- Please address your email to the professor or TA appropriately (i.e. 'Dr. Esselment', "Dr. Macfarlane", 'Professor', Isaac, Katie, Michael, etc.).
- Please remember to sign your email with a first and last name.
- Please allow 24-48 hours for a response to your email.
- Please note that your professor and TA generally do not answer emails after 4:00pm on weekdays or on weekends (4:00pm Friday to 9:00am Monday).
- **Email should be used for brief questions that can be answered quickly.** If you want to discuss course material, assignments, or another matter in greater detail, please see the professor or TA during his or her office hours or make an appointment to meet at some other time convenient for both

## Teaching Assistants:

TBA – on course LEARN website.

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the comparative study of ideas, institutions, and interests central to politics and key policy issues in Canada and elsewhere. It focuses on how the formal institutions of the state and elements of the Canadian polity, like party competition, interest groups and regionalism, have shaped political behaviour, public policy, the work of government and the state of democracy in Canada and elsewhere. Students will examine how these various features of the Canadian system influence our politics and consider

contemporary debates about the relative health of particular institutions, processes and public policies as well as various proposals for reform.

**Pre-Requisites:** None.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students should:

- Have a broad understanding of the institutions, interests, and ideas central to politics in Canada and elsewhere;
- Identify and delineate between political systems generally (parliamentary vs. presidential, federal vs. unitary, etc.) as well as major policy fields (social policy, immigration policy, environmental policy, etc.);
- Be more skilled in researching scholarly information and identifying broad themes and questions in academic books and journals;
- Be able to put together an academic bibliography in APA style;
- Have an enhanced ability to critically consider academic arguments and assess their value.

### **University Regulations:**

#### **Cross-listed 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:**

**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. **We strongly encourage the undergraduate students in PSCI 100 to take the Academic Integrity Tutorial, found at [Academic Integrity Tutorial](http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/) <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>**

**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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. These two websites are particularly helpful:

[Academic Integrity website \(Arts\): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

[Academic Integrity Office \(uWaterloo\): http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

**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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

**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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

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

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility 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 AccessAbility at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Academic/Personal Counselling:**

Life at university can sometimes have unexpected challenges. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, anxious, stressed, or have other personal or academic issues that are affecting how you are managing your workload, please see counselling services offered at U Waterloo. You do not need to divulge personal information to me, you can simply talk to a counselor and he or she can advise your professors whether or not you require accommodation vis-à-vis extensions, etc.. Visit the following website for more information: [Academic and Life Wellness Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/academic-and-life-wellness-services) <https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/academic-and-life-wellness-services>.

### **Texts:**

1. PSCI 100 Custom Courseware (packaged with *The Nelson Guide to Research and Writing in Political Science*) (Required)
2. Simpson, J. (2012). *Chronic condition: Why Canada's health care system needs to be dragged into the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. Toronto: Allen Lane Publishing. (Required)

Both required texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.

All other readings listed in the outlined are required and are available on the Internet or through the library's electronic course reserve system.

## Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

### Assignments:

#### ***Annotated Bibliography (15%):***

Students will put together an annotated bibliography on a specific subject matter. The purpose of this assignment is to increase your ability to find good information on a subject, assess several themes and arguments on the selected topic, and write a short excerpt detailing the merits of the scholarly source. More details about the assignment will be provided after the first week of class. **Due by 4pm on October 8<sup>th</sup>.**

#### ***Book Review (15%):***

Students will write a book review (critical analysis) of Jeffrey Simpson's *Chronic Condition*. A separate assignment sheet will be distributed in class. **Due by 4pm on November 19.**

#### ***Tutorial Participation (15%):***

All students are expected to attend and engage in meaningful participation in their tutorial groups. Tutorials provide a chance for students to get together in smaller groups, discuss and examine issues at a deeper level, and begin to develop skills regarding critical inquiry. If you are not prepared for the tutorial, or neglect to participate, this diminishes the purpose of pursuing a university education and what it can provide by facilitating academic debate. Tutorials will begin the second week of class. Discussion questions for the tutorials (in the first half of the course) will be posted on the course website on LEARN.

### Tests & Examinations:

#### ***Midterm (25%):***

There will be a midterm on October 17 that will cover all material discussed in the first half of the course. **This exam will take place in class.** More details about the midterm will be available closer to the date.

#### ***Final Examination (30%):***

There will be a final exam scheduled during the normal examination period. The final exam will cover material from the second half of the course. **Please note: Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.**

### **Extra Credit/Make-up Work:**

Unlike high school, it is rare that a university-level course would allow for make-up work to help improve a grade. There is no extra credit or make-up work offered in PSCI 100. The requirements of the course are set out at the beginning and students are expected to work hard and well in order to earn marks. It should also be stated that students don't start off with an "A" and lose marks on assignments. Everyone hands in their assignments and the assumption is that marks are earned – that is, you go from a zero up to the assessed value of the work as evaluated by the professors or tutorial assistants.

It should also be clear that at the post-secondary level, it is expected that everyone will work hard. “Working hard” on your assignments does not mean you have earned or deserve a high grade if key elements of the assignment are missing. We will not entertain appeals of grades on the basis that you “worked hard” on it and therefore deserve more marks.

## **Other Course Policies:**

### **Course Website**

The course outline, detailed assignments, class announcements, grades, etc. will be available on the course website on LEARN . If you have questions about when assignments are due, late policies, sickness accommodation, etc., your first source of information is the course outline. Users can login to LEARN via: [Learn http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/](http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/). Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password.

### **Class Attendance and Participation**

The professor will not be taking attendance at lecture but attending lectures is crucial if you are hoping to do well in the course. If you are sick or must be away from class, find a friend from whom you can borrow notes. While lecture slides MAY be posted on the class website, there is no obligation on the professor to do so, nor will she be supplying any of her lecture notes to the class.

### **The Head TA**

PSCI 100 has a Head TA – David Lark. Mr. Lark will manage the administration of the course which will include, among other things, assignment extensions, the organization of marking among the TAs, grade appeals, the course website on LEARN, and ensuring tutorials run efficiently. If you have an issue in the course, your assigned TA is your first point of contact. If your TA is unable to resolve the situation, you should make an appointment to see Mr. Lark who, in consultation with Dr. Esselment or Dr. Macfarlane, will resolve the problem in the best way possible. Drs. Esselment and Macfarlane are also available to see students but, given the size of the course, are dependent on the Head TA and TAs to help the students in PSCI 100 as much as possible.

### **Late Penalties**

All late assignments (that is, assignments submitted after 4:00pm on their due date) will be penalized 3% a day (including weekends). A waiver of this penalty will only be considered in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance (this does NOT include a note from your mother). See “Extension Policy” below. Late assignments can be placed in the professor’s drop box in the Department of Political Science. This is cleared out daily.

### **Final Submission Date for Assignments**

The final submission date for assignments is one week (7 days) after their due date (with the imposition of late penalties). The instructor WILL NOT accept the assignment for grading after one week has passed without a documented extenuating circumstance. If an extenuating circumstance may prevent you from submitting an assignment by its submission date, please contact the professor at the earliest possible convenience and be prepared to provide him or her with official documentation concerning your situation.

### **Extension Policy for Assignments**

All requests for assignment extensions must be directed to the Head TA. Your assigned TA does not have the authority to grant extensions.

The Head TA will only consider granting an extension in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance (that is, serious personal illness, critical personal or family crisis, etc.). If a situation arises that may prevent you from completing an assignment, contact the professor as early as possible, ideally before the assignment is due.

The UW Verification of Illness Form can be found at: [Health Services www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health\\_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html). Please note that midterms will not be deferred. Instead, the final exam will be re-weighted appropriately.

### **\*Computer Problems**

Students are expected to back up their written work and lecture notes (on a USB stick, by emailing them to yourself, by printing them out, by saving them on an app like DropBox, etc.). Extensions will NOT be granted for computer-related issues. Furthermore, students will be responsible for finding replacement lecture notes where they fail to back-up their files.

### **Grade Appeals**

If you are concerned that your assignment was not graded fairly, you should first meet with the TA who marked your work.

To request a review of your assignment from your TA and, later, the Head TA if required, you must provide a 1 page explanation as to why you think your assignment was improperly graded (i.e. what do you think you did that should have been given more weight?). The explanation, the original assignment, and a clean copy of the assignment should be submitted to your tutorial leader no later than 3 weeks after the assignment was **made available for return**. If you are unsatisfied after consulting and discussing the matter with your TA and Head TA, the assignment will be passed on to the Professor for final grading.

**NOTE:** Students must take responsibility for picking up their marked work in a timely manner. No appeals will be considered more than 3 weeks after the assignment/exam was made available for return. *Grades may be either raised, stay the same, or lowered on appeal.* Students who wish to appeal an examination grade should follow the same procedure noted above for assignments.

## **Schedule: Canadian Politics in Comparative Perspective**

### **PART I – Introduction**

#### **WEEK 1**

September 10 - Introduction to Course with Discussion about Power and Politics

*Reading:* Courseware, Intro

### **PART II – Political Systems**

September 12 – Classification of Political Systems and Liberal Democracies

*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 1

#### WEEK 2 (Tutorials Begin!)

September 17 – Parliamentary and Presidential systems

*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 2

September 19 – Visit from Janey Forgay, Political Science Research Librarian at Dana Porter Library. Explanation of Annotated Bibliography Assignment.

*Reading:* Nelson Guide to Research and Writing, Chapters 1-3 and pages 80-84.

Tutorial Readings:

**The Clinton Impeachment Affair** (because of an affair and other things)  
Borga Brunner, “A Short History of Impeachment: High Crimes and Misdemeanors” –  
available at: [Tutorial Readings http://www.infoplease.com/spot/impeach.html](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/impeach.html)

*Report of the Independent Counsel to Congress (the Starr Report)* – available at:  
<http://www.gooddocuments.com/icreport/introductionintro.htm>  
(Please read all 5 pages/screens of the “Introduction” to this report)

#### WEEK 3

September 24 – Unitary and Federal Systems

*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 3

### **PART III – Institutions**

September 26 – Representative Assemblies

*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 4

Tutorial Reading:

Andrew Coyne, “McGuinty prorogation shows Canada’s parliamentary democracy becoming increasingly ceremonial”. *National Post*, October 19, 2012. Available at:

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/10/19/andrew-coyne-mcguinty-prorogation-shows-canadas-parliamentary-democracy-becoming-increasingly-ceremonial/>

#### WEEK 4

October 1 – Political Executive  
*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 5

October 3 – The Judiciary  
*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 6

Tutorial Readings:

GeorgiaLee Lang, “Why it’s time to elect our judges”. Available at: [Tutorial Readings  
http://www.canada.com/news/time+elect+judges/4689085/story.html](http://www.canada.com/news/time+elect+judges/4689085/story.html)

Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin “Judging, Politics, and why they must be kept separate” (Speech to the Canadian Club in Toronto, 2003). Available at: [Tutorial Readings  
http://www.canadianclub.org/Libraries/Event Transcripts/2887 pdf.sflb.ashx](http://www.canadianclub.org/Libraries/Event%20Transcripts/2887_pdf.sflb.ashx)

### **PART IV – Competition and Regionalism**

#### WEEK 5

October 8 – Political Parties and Elections **(Annotated Bibliography Due!)**  
*Reading:* Courseware, Chapters 7A & 7B

October 10 – Regionalism in Canada and elsewhere

*Readings:* Bickerton, J., & Gagnon, A. (2009). Regions and regionalism. In Bickerton, J., & Gagnon, A. (Eds.), *Canadian politics* (pp. 71-96). Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (On 1-hour reserve at Dana Porter Library)

Ascherson, Neal. 2012, February 26. Will Scotland go its own way?. *New York Times*. (Available on course website).

Tutorial Readings:

David Cameron (British PM). (2011, April 30). Why keeping first past the post is vital to democracy. *The Telegraph*. [Tutorial Readings  
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/av-referendum/8485118/David-Cameron-why-keeping-first-past-the-post-is-vital-for-democracy.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/av-referendum/8485118/David-Cameron-why-keeping-first-past-the-post-is-vital-for-democracy.html)

Fair Vote Canada. This is Democracy?. Found at [Tutorial Readings  
http://www.fairvote.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/This-is-Democracy.pdf](http://www.fairvote.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/This-is-Democracy.pdf)

#### WEEK 6

October 15 – Catch up and Midterm Review

October 17 – Midterm (in class)  
**\*No tutorials this week\***

## **Schedule: Canadian Public Policy in Comparative Perspective**

### WEEK 7

October 22 – Public Administration in Canada  
*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 8

October 24 – Policy Networks and Communities  
*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 9

Tutorial reading: Simpson, Introduction, pp. 1-17

### WEEK 8

October 29 – The Policy Cycle  
*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 10

October 31 – Advocacy Groups  
*Reading:* Courseware, Chapter 11

*Reading:* *The Nelson Guide*, Chapters 4 and 6

Tutorial reading: Simpson, Chapter 1, pp. 21-52

### WEEK 9

November 5 & 7 –The Welfare State & Social Policy

*Reading:* Rianne Mahon and Deborah Brennan, “Federalism and the ‘New Politics’ of Welfare Development: Childcare and Parental Leave in Australia and Canada,” *Publius* 43(1): 90-108.

*Reading:* Gerard W. Boychuk, “Grey Zones: Emerging Issues at the Boundaries of the *Canada Health Act*,” C.D. Howe Institute Commentary No. 348: 1-18.

Tutorial reading: Steven Lewis and Terrence Sullivan, “How to Bend the Cost Curve in Health Care,” IRPP Insight, May 2013

### WEEK 10

November 12 & 14 –Multiculturalism and Immigration Policy

*Reading:* Keith Banting and Will Kymlicka, “Canadian Multiculturalism: Global Anxieties and Local Debates,” *British Journal of Canadian Studies* 23(1) (2010), pp. 43-72.

Tutorial reading: Stephen Tapp, “PBO 2.0: Seize the opportunity,” *Policy Options*. July-August 2013, pp. 4-7.

## WEEK 11

November 19 –Environmental Policy (**Book Review due!**)

*Reading:* Ramseur et al., *Oil Sands and the Keystone XL Pipeline: Background and Selected Environmental Issues*. Congressional Research Service. [Tutorial Reading](#)

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42611.pdf> (note: this is also a tutorial reading)

November 21 – Courts and Public Policy

Additional tutorial reading: Jatin Nathwani, “Beyond Keystone: Canada’s Clean Electricity,” *Policy Options*. June 2013., pp. 27-28.

## WEEK 12

November 26 & 28 – Catch-up & Review

No tutorials this week.