

PSCI 100: Canadian Politics and Public Policy in Comparative Perspective

Spring, 2014

AL 211, 10:30am-12:20pm

Instructor: Ajay Sharma

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Office Location: Hagey Hall 351

Office Hours: Monday, 12:30pm-2pm

Contact Policy: Email is the most efficient way to contact the instructor or the TAs outside of scheduled office hours. Please note the following when emailing:

- ***Please use your official University of Waterloo email.*** The Instructor/TAs will not reply to emails send from a non-UW account.
- Please allow 24-48 hours for a response to your email.
- The Instructor/TAs will not respond to emails after 5pm on weekdays or on weekends.

Teaching Assistants:

Contact information for the TAs will be circulated in the first week of class.

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;
- Be able to Identify and distinguish between political systems generally – for example, parliamentary vs. presidential, federal vs. unitary, etc.
- Be able to evaluate major policy areas – for example, social policy, immigration policy, and environmental policy, etc.
- Be more skilled in researching scholarly information and identifying broad themes and questions in academic books and journals;
- Develop the necessary skills to critically analyse academic literature and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

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, 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, Student Petitions <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult Student 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, Student Appeals <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

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

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office
<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.

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: [Counselling Services https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/academic-and-life-wellness-services](https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/academic-and-life-wellness-services)

Texts:

PSCI 100 Custom Courseware (packaged with *The Nelson Guide to Research and Writing in Political Science*) **(Required)**

The text is available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.
The text will also be placed on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter Library.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments, Tests, and Examinations:

1. Annotated Bibliography (10%): Monday 2nd June 2014

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.

In the second week of class, Jane Forgay, the Political Science Research Librarian at the Dana Porter Library, will provide advice and direction in regards to how students should approach this assignment. Please note, attendance will be taken for this session.

Late annotated bibliographies will be penalized 15 percentage points if they are not received by the deadline. Assignments will be assigned a mark of zero if they are not submitted at the start of class on Monday 9th June 2014. Technical problems, such as hard drive crashes, are not grounds for an extension - please ensure that you routinely 'back-up' your work.

2. Reflective Writing Assignment (15%): Monday 21st July 2014

Your reflection, which should be 4-5 double-spaced pages, can articulate what you think of a particular topic, reading or development in Canadian politics. How you compose this assignment can be varied. For example, did you find a particular tutorial reading compelling? Did it raise specific issues that you would like to discuss in tutorial? Did the reading(s) complement other readings that were assigned for a particular topic? Alternatively, your reflection can discuss current events that relate to the subject matter of the course – you determine the path you wish to take.

The Reflective Writing Assignment is due at the start of class on Monday 21st July 2014. Detailed instructions will be issued in class on Monday 2nd June 2014.

Late assignments will be penalized 15 percentage points if they are not received by the deadline. Assignments will be assigned a mark of zero if they are not submitted at the start of class on Monday 28th July 2014. Technical problems, such as hard drive crashes, are not grounds for an extension - please ensure that you routinely 'back-up' your work.

3. 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 third week of class. Discussion questions for the tutorials will be posted on the course website on LEARN.

4. Mid-Term Examination 20% Monday 16th June 2014 – Held in class.

The Mid-Term exam will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings. You will be tested on material up to and including Monday 9th June 2014. The format will be short answer.

5. Final Examination (40%) :

The final examination will be held during the examination period. The date/time/location will be determined by the Office of the Registrar. The exam will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings for the semester. The format will be short answer and essay format.

Other Course Policies:

Course Website

The course outline, detailed assignments, class announcements, grades, etc. will be available on the course website on LEARN. Users can login to LEARN via: [Learn http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/](http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/). Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password.

Lecture 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 he be supplying any of his lecture notes to the class.

Extension Policy

Extensions will be granted only on **humanitarian grounds or on medical grounds (for which written proof of substantial distress must be provided in accordance with university policy)**.

Technical problems, such as hard drive crashes, are not grounds for an extension - please ensure that you routinely 'back-up' your work.

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 you must provide a 1 page explanation as to why you believe 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.

If you are unsatisfied after consulting and discussing the matter with your TA, the assignment will be passed on to the Professor for final grading. Please note that grades *may be either raised, stay the same, or lowered on appeal*. Students who wish

Schedule of Weekly Lecture Topics and Required Readings:

May 5

Introduction

- Course overview and expectations.
- The study of politics.
- Competing approaches to political analysis.

Required Reading

- Courseware, Ch1.

May 12 ***Tutorials Begin ***

Political Systems

- Classifying Political Systems and Liberal Democracies.
- Parliamentary and Presidential Systems.
- Unitary and Federal Systems.

Required Reading

- Courseware, Ch2 and Ch3.

Library Research Information Session

- Visit from Jane 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.
- Attendance will be taken by the Professor.

May 19

NO LECTURE - Victoria Day Long Weekend

May 26

Institutions

- Representative Assemblies.
- Political Executive.

Required Reading

- Courseware, Ch4 and Ch5.

June 2 – *Annotated Bibliography Due at the Start of Class *****

Law and Politics

- The Judiciary.

Required Reading

- Courseware, Ch6.

June 9

Competition and Regionalism

- Political Parties and Elections.
- Regionalism in Canada and Abroad.

Required Reading

- Courseware, Ch7A and Ch7B.

June 16 - *Midterm Examination*****

No Tutorials This Week

June 23

Canadian Public Policy in Comparative Perspective I

- Public Administration in Canada.
- Policy Networks and Communities.

Required Reading

- Courseware, Ch8 and Ch9.

June 30

NO LECTURE - Canada Day Holiday

July 7

Canadian Public Policy in Comparative Perspective II

- Advocacy Groups.
- The Policy Cycle.

Required Reading

- Courseware, Ch10 and Ch11.

July 14

Canadian Public Policy in Comparative Perspective III

- The Welfare State.
- Social Policy.
- Multiculturalism.
- Immigration

Required 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.

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

July 21 - *Reflective Writing Assignment due at the Start of Class*****

Canadian Public Policy in Comparative Perspective IV

- Environmental Policymaking.
- The Politics of Climate Change.
- The Dynamics of Multilevel Governance.
- The Tragedy of the Commons.

Required Reading

- No Assigned Reading

July 28

Course Review and Final Examination Preview