



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 201 L01
Introduction to Government and Politics
Fall 2020

INSTRUCTOR: John Mitton

EMAIL: john.mitton@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 10am-11am & 2pm-3pm (via Zoom)

COURSE DAY/TIME: Recorded Lectures released every Tuesday & Thursday

DELIVERY METHOD: Web-Based (Hybrid – Asynchronous/Synchronous)

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

TUTORIAL:

Tut 1 Monday 10am-1050am

Tut 2 Tuesday 2pm-250pm

Tut 3 Tuesday 930am-1020am

Tut 4 Thursday 930am-1020am

Tut 5 Friday 11am-1150am

Tut 6 Friday 10am-1050am

All tutorials will take place live (synchronously) on Zoom.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: TBA

Course description

This course serves as an introduction to the basic language, theories and theorists, concepts, and institutions of politics and political science. It provides an overview of the ideas and institutions that make up what we conventionally call “government.” Studying politics and associated issues of government and governance is necessary for understanding: how society works, how resources are allocated (who gets what, when, where, how and why), what power *is* and how it is exercised. (And, really, what better time to study all of these things? The year 2020 is a blinking neon advertisement about why all things political are important to our daily lives.) In the pursuit of this knowledge, the course will introduce students to the four main fields of political science: political theory, Canadian politics, comparative politics, and international relations.

The purpose of the course is to provide the foundation for academic and analytical engagement with the political world. Whether students plan to pursue further study in political science or simply desire a basic understanding of politics and government, the concepts, theories and

processes studied in this course are fundamental to civic knowledge.

The course includes a hybrid of asynchronous (lecture) and synchronous (tutorial) components. Recorded lectures (two per week) will be released on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the semester. Students will meet once a week, over the Zoom platform, in tutorial groups with their peers (guided by a TA). All assignments (including examinations) will be submitted via the D2L platform in specified Dropbox folders.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to help students develop a number of important skills. Fundamentally, is it intended to help them become informed and critically engaged citizens and political observers in a dynamic and complex world. Upon completion, students will have begun to develop these conceptual skills as well as two key capacities.

Conceptual:

- Communicate using a “conceptual vocabulary” of terms important to the political world in which we live.
- Be able to participate intelligently and knowledgeably in ongoing debates about the role of government in society.
- Understand the way in which political institutions and key actors have shaped the development of Canadian society, other countries, and international politics.

Capacities:

- The course also seeks to improve students’ communicative writing skills. To be a critical and aware person requires sharp listening, research, and observation skills, and, subsequently, clear and concise communication of understanding, ideas, and analysis. The assignments and examinations of the course will develop these capacities, as students will be required to connect concepts and theories to real world issues, and to engage in close reading and critical examination of complex texts. Students will also develop basic research and writing skills and learn to communicate ideas in concise and straightforward ways.
- Tutorial sessions, led by a team of excellent Teaching Assistants (TAs), will provide students an opportunity to reflect on the course material, and then express those reflections in conversations with peers. This is a critical building block for developing your own views on course content and an opportunity to engage with and learn from your peers. As such, students should arrive at each session ready to contribute to the discussion and should actively listen to and respectfully consider the viewpoints of others.

Required Textbook:

Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald, *Introduction to Politics (Second Canadian Edition)*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

Please note: you must use the Second Canadian Edition of this textbook. It is available new and used in the University of Calgary bookstore. **There is also an option to ‘rent’ a digital copy of**

the textbook for 180 days (six months) through the U of C bookstore website. Other supportive reading materials and assignment materials will be made available to students through the Desire to Learn (D2L) course website.

Required Technology:

Computer device with internet connection. Web-camera and microphone for participation in Zoom tutorials. Microsoft Office (or similar software e.g. OpenOffice) for word processing and reading presentation slides.

Course Component Weights & Dates

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DATES
Tutorials (participation)	10%	Throughout
Writing Response	20%	Due Oct 9 th
Midterm Exam	30%	Oct 22 nd
Final Exam	40%	TBA
Total	100%	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch with the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Schedule & Topics:

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Sep 8	Welcome to the Course/Thought Experiments	None
	Political Concepts & Ideas	
Sep 10	Studying Politics	Introduction
Sep 15	Politics & The State	Chapter 1
Sep 17	Power & Authority	Chapter 2
Sep 22	Democracy	Chapter 3
Sep 24	Freedom & Justice	Chapter 4
Sep 29	Ideology	Chapter 5
Oct 1	Ideology II	Chapter 6
	Canadian & Comparative Politics	
Oct 6	Institutions & States	Chapter 7
Oct 8	Laws, Constitutions & Federalism	Chapter 8
Oct 13	Legislatures & Legislators	Chapter 9
Oct 15	Policy-Making	Chapter 10
Oct 20	MIDTERM REVIEW	
Oct 22	MIDTERM EXAM	

Oct 27	Elections	Chapter 11
Oct 29	Civil Society	Chapter 12
Nov 3	Political Culture	Chapter 13
	International Relations	
Nov 5	The International Order	Chapter 14
Nov 10	READING WEEK	
Nov 12	READING WEEK	
Nov 17	Theories of IR	Chapter 15
Nov 19	Theories of IR II	Chapter 16
Nov 24	Security & Insecurity	Chapter 17
Nov 26	Diplomacy & Foreign Policy	Chapter 18
Dec 1	International Organizations	Chapter 19
Dec 3	International Political Economy	Chapter 20
Dec 8	EXAM REVIEW	

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

Tutorial Schedule & Topics:

DATE	TOPIC
Week 1 (Sep 7-11)	<i>No Tutorials</i>
Week 2 (Sep 14-18)	Understanding Political Power
Week 3 (Sep 21-25)	Power & Authority
Week 4 (Sep 28-Oct 1)	On the Nature of Freedom & the Nature of Justice
Week 5 (Oct 5-9)	Political Ideology
Week 6 (Oct 12-16)	The System
Week 7 (Oct 19-23)	<i>No Tutorials (Midterm Week)</i>
Week 8 (Oct 26-30)	Making Policy
Week 9 (Nov 2-6)	Elections & Civil Society
Week 10 (Nov 9-13)	<i>No Tutorials (Reading Week)</i>
Week 11 (Nov 16-20)	Political Culture
Week 12	The International System

(Nov 23-Nov 27)	
Week 13 (Nov 30-Dec 4)	Security & War
Week 14 (Dec 7-Dec 11)	<i>No Tutorials</i>

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

Lectures (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

As mentioned, the lectures for the course will be pre-recorded and released on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the semester (beginning on Tuesday, September 8th and ending on Tuesday, December 8th).

Each lecture will be approximately 70 minutes long. *The lectures themselves will be audio-only* (Podcast-style). Prior to each lecture, a set of PowerPoint slides will be also be released. Students can then listen to the lectures while they follow along with the presentation slides. The audio file (mp3 format) and the PowerPoint slides will be uploaded to D2L. (The audio file can either be downloaded or streamed in D2L via its audio player.)

Writing Response Assignment (due date: October 9th)

Students will write a short (approx. 800-word) response to *On Liberty* (“Introduction”) by John Stuart Mill (reading will be made available in PDF on D2L). Mill is an important and central figure in political philosophy and is discussed directly in the textbook (see for example pp. 76-78). This assignment challenges you to read Mill in the original, engage directly with his arguments, and draw your own conclusions.

For this assignment, you will be asked to discuss your understanding of the argument Mill is making with respect to the role of government vis-à-vis society and individual citizens. What, according to Mill, are some of the tasks that responsible government should fulfil? What are some potential dangers related to government behaviour? Is Mill’s argument applicable to the political organization of society today? If so, how? If not, why not? **Please use direct quotations from the reading to support your interpretation/analysis.** The assignment should demonstrate that you have engaged with and understood Mill on his own terms.

Further details and the opportunity to ask questions about the assignment will be provided in the weeks leading up to the due date.

No secondary research is *required* for this assignment, but you may wish to consult other sources to get a better understanding of Mill’s arguments. If other sources are consulted, *you must cite*

them and list them in a bibliography. Remember, Wikipedia is not acceptable as an academic source, nor is Spark Notes or other similar websites. If you're uncertain as to what sources are suitable to cite and use, please ask the instructor or a TA.

All assignments must be:

- Typed
- Double Spaced
- Size 12 Times New Roman Font
- Left and Right Margins set at 1" or 2.54 cm
- Top and Bottom Margins set at 1.25" or 3.17 cm

Students must submit an electronic copy of their assignment on D2L before 11:59pm on the due date (Friday, October 9th).

Late Penalties

Deadlines will be treated seriously. It is unfair to students who meet deadlines if those who have taken extra time are treated equally. Late papers (those without an extension granted by the instructor) will be docked 5% per day (including weekends). A note of caution: computer failure is not grounds for an extension. Always back-up your work in order to avoid last-minute catastrophes.

Writing Statement

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

Tutorials/Participation

Participation marks in this course are earned through the tutorials.

These tutorials will be led by your TA. The purpose of these discussion sessions is to create an environment to talk about and work/think through the key elements of course material (lectures, readings, etc.) with your peers. Tutorials are an important tool for realizing both the conceptual vocabulary and capacity goals of the course. For example, just like learning a language, one needs to practice *using* the key terms in the correct context to better understand the concept. Also, in order to develop one's critical thinking skills, one must develop one's own ideas about the concepts we are studying. Students will be asked to actively listen to their peers, and to consider the strengths and weaknesses of viewpoints they may not share, and practice weaving together one's ideas with the readings and lecture material, and the viewpoints of one's peers.

Agreeing or disagreeing with an idea is a start, but the tutorial is a chance for you to hone your ability to succinctly say *why* you agree or disagree using course material, and potentially be convinced by new arguments or evidence. As such, students should attend each tutorial having completed all readings for the theme under discussion.

Marks for participation will be awarded at the discretion of the TA. The emphasis will be on the *quality* and consistency of participation and not on the *quantity*. You do not need to dominate the discussions in order to receive top participation marks. Regular contribution to discussion that indicates preparation and effort is all that is required.

The realities of Zoom tutorials will be new to most, if not all, of us. It may take some time to calibrate our familiarity and comfort with this platform. Any adjustments that are required to improve tutorial dynamics will be assessed throughout the semester, in consultation between the TAs and the instructor, as well as with the students. It won't be perfect and there may be some frustration, but feedback from the Winter 2020 semester (in which many classes transitioned to Zoom sessions on the fly) suggests that this format can work well. Patience is appreciated, and leeway will be similarly afforded in considering participation grades.

Mid-Term Examination (October 22nd)

The mid-term will take place on Thursday, October 22nd. The format of the exam will be multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions. The exam will be online and administered through D2L. You will have 70 minutes (plus 35 minutes to deal with technological issues) to complete the exam. You will also have a 24 hour window to start the exam. More details will be provided in the weeks leading up to the exam, and the Tuesday prior to the exam (October 20th) will be dedicated to midterm exam review.

Final Examination (Exam Period)

The registrar-scheduled final exam will take place during the exam period (December 12th – December 23rd). (The precise date will be announced at a later time.) The format of the exam will be multiple choice, true/false and long-answer (essay) questions. The exam will be online and administered through D2L. You will have two-hours (plus 1 hour to deal with technological issues) to complete the exam, for a total of 3 hours. You will also have a 24 hour window to start the exam. More details will be provided prior to end of the semester. The final day of class (December 8th) will be dedicated to exam review.

GRADE SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

Communicating with the Instructor

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor.

Instructor office hours will take place over Zoom on Wednesdays of each week (from 10am-11am and from 2pm-3pm). This will be on a ‘first-come-first-served’ basis (you can enter the Zoom ‘lobby’ and if I’m free you’ll be shown right in or if I’m already with a student you may have to wait). If, for some reason, these time slots don’t work for you it may be possible to schedule a Zoom meeting for another specified time. All meetings will be held virtually.

In addition to office hours, and given the realities of asynchronous lectures, you may want to contact me with questions about course content or assignments. There will be a discussion thread/board on D2L for making such inquiries. *Please refrain from emailing me directly with questions unless there is some extenuating circumstance.*

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioner for Oaths, visit ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Required Access to Technology

Please see the University's resource page at https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031

Copyright Legislation

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy."

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625].

Important Contact Information

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

Useful reading:

Newspapers and Magazines

The Globe and Mail

globeandmail.com

The National Post

nationalpost.com

The New York Times

nytimes.com

The Wall Street Journal

wsj.com

The Washington Post

washingtonpost.com

The Economist

economist.com

The Guardian

theguardian.co.uk

Le Monde

lemonde.fr

<i>Foreign Affairs</i>	foreignaffairs.com
<i>Foreign Policy</i>	foreignpolicy.com
<i>OpenCanada</i>	opencanada.org
<i>The Atlantic</i>	theatlantic.com
<i>Harpers</i>	harpers.org
<i>The New Yorker</i>	newyorker.com
<i>Arts and Letters Daily</i>	aldaily.com
<i>The Nation</i> (liberal)	thenation.com
<i>National Review</i> (conservative)	nationalreview.com
<i>New Left Review</i> (liberal)	newleftreview.org
<i>Commentary</i> (conservative)	commentarymagazine.com