



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 201 Lecture 01

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Fall 2021

The Faculty of Arts, the Department of Political Science and the instructor reserve the right to change the delivery of this course [or seminar] from in person to online if it is determined that the situation warrants such a change.

INSTRUCTOR: Comfort Kwarteng

TELEPHONE: 587-800-3177

OFFICE: SS705

EMAIL: comfort.kwarteng@ucalgary.ca

COURSE D2L: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 14:30-15:30 via Zoom/or by appointment

COURSE DAY/TIME: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 13:00-13:50

DELIVERY METHOD: In-person

COURSE LOCATION: KNB 132

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: TBA

TUTORIAL/SEMINAR: DAY/TIME/LOCATION

TUT 1	MONDAYS	10:00 - 10:50	MS 319
TUT 2	TUESDAYS	14:00 - 14:50	KNB 131
TUT 3	TUESDAYS	09:30 - 10:20	EDC 278
TUT 4	THURSDAYS	09:30 - 10:20	EDC 278
TUT 5	FRIDAYS	11:00 - 11:50	KNB 131
TUT 6	FRIDAYS	10:00 - 10:50	SH 157

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. The course will introduce students to the four main fields of political science: Canadian politics, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory. 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to help students develop a number of important skills towards becoming informed and critically engaged citizens and political observers in a dynamic and complex world. Upon completion, students will have begun to develop those conceptual skills plus two key capacities.

Conceptual:

- Communicate using a “conceptual vocabulary” of terms important to the political world in which we generally live, work, and play.
- Be able to participate intelligently and knowledgeably in ongoing debates about the role of government in society.
- Understand how 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’ 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. Applying concepts to everyday problems, situations, or issues requires a focused brevity that zeros in on the heart of the relationship between a concept and a lived problem. In order to hone these skills, students will be asked to deploy concepts in assignments with strict space constraints. These types of assignments encourage students to consider, first, what parts of a concept apply the most to a particular problem, and second, how to communicate this relationship clearly and convincingly in a limited space.
- 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 one’s 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, tutorial attendance is mandatory, and students should arrive at each session ready to practice contributing to the discussion and actively listening to and respectfully considering the viewpoints of others.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

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

Please note: you must use the Second Canadian Edition of this textbook. It is available in both new and used formats in the University of Calgary bookstore. Other supportive reading materials and assignment materials will be made available to students through the Desire to Learn (D2L) course website.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Participation (<i>Tutorial & TopHat</i>) Tutorial Participation (15%) Tutorial Attendance (5%) TopHat quizzes & surveys (5%)	25%	Throughout
Mid-term Exam	20%	Oct 13 th
Written Assignment	20%	Saturday, Nov 13 th (D2L Dropbox, 23:59)
Final Exam	35%	TBA
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS & TUTORIAL SCHEDULE: (Note: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises).

Week # / DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS — Textbook Chapters & Tutorial Schedule
Weeks 1-2 Sep 6 8, 10,	Welcome to the course & introduction to the study of politics and government	Textbook “Introduction” “No Tutorials”
	Political Concept & Ideas	
Week 3 Sep 13, 15, 17	Studying politics, sovereignty, and & the state	Chapter 1 “No Tutorials”
Week 4 Sep 20, 22, 24	Power, authority, & democracy	Chapters 2 & 3 “Tutorial 1”
Week 5 Sep 27, 29, Oct 1	Freedom & justice in the Western traditions	Chapters 4 & 5 “Tutorial 2”

Week 6 Oct 4, 6, 8	Critical challenges to those Western traditions	Chapter 6 <i>"Tutorial 3"</i>
	Canadian & Comparative Politics	
Week 7 No Class On Thanksgiving, Oct 11, Oct 13, 15	Mid-Term Exam Comparative Politics I: Historical foundations of the contemporary nation-state	Mid-Term – Wednesday, Oct. 13th Friday, Oct. 15th: Chapter 7 <i>"No Tutorials this week"</i>
Week 8 Oct 18, 20, 22	Comparative Politics II: Constitutions & Types of Political Systems	Chapters 8 <i>"Tutorial 4"</i>
Week 9 Oct 25, 27, 29	Legislatures	Chapters 9 <i>"Tutorial 5"</i>
Week 10 Nov 1, 3, 5	Comparative Politics III: Voting, Elections, & Political Parties	Chapter 11 <i>"Tutorial 6"</i>
Week 11 (Nov 7-13) Nov 13	READING WEEK Written Assignment Due	NO CLASS Submit by Saturday, Nov. 13th 23:59 (11:59 PM)
	International Relations	
Week 12 Nov 15, 17, 19	International Relations I: Anarchy & Theories of International Relations	Chapters 14 & 15 <i>"Tutorial 7"</i>
Week 13 Nov 22, 24, 26	International Relations II: Security & Insecurity	Chapters 17 <i>"Tutorial 8"</i>
Week 14 Nov 29, Dec 1, 3	International Relations III: International Organizations & Global Political Economy	Chapters 19 & 20 <i>"Tutorial 9"</i>
FINAL EXAM	SCHEDULE BY REGISTRAR	TBA

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

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT (due date: Saturday, November 13th)

Students will write a short essay (about 1000 words plus reference list) on one of the questions that will be posted on D2L. Detailed instructions will be available on D2L. I will inform students once the essay questions are posted on D2L, and full details will be discussed in class and tutorials.

Here is the REST Rubric for the written assignment:

Research: 5 – Meets research requirements and uses appropriate, consistent citations.

Execution: 5 – Covers style, spelling, grammar, punctuation, & attn to detail (proofread!).

Structure: 3– Good introduction, logical flow/paragraphs.

Thinking: 7 – How well do you make your point through evidence, logic, and argument?

Total: /20

Submission: The written assignment must be uploaded to D2L by **23:59 (11:59 PM)** on **Saturday, November 13th**. Never hand in a copy of your paper to your TA, or to a mailbox or by email. D2L will give you a confirmation message and send a confirmation email once the file has been successfully uploaded. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you **do not** receive a message that the upload is successful, and **do not** receive an email confirming that it is successful, then the upload was likely **NOT** successful. Please try again. Not successfully uploading your assignment and missing the deadline **will result** in late penalties. Please hold onto your confirmation email until the end of term. You will be asked to upload both your original document plus a PDF version.

Essay Style and Formatting:

Students must use an in-text (author, year, page number) citation style such as APA or Chicago in-text and include a reference list. Teaching Assistants (TAs) will help you learn how to find and evaluate sources, use them in your work, and cite and reference properly. They will always be available for additional guidance, so take advantage of their office hours or make an appointment.

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). This is specifically for the written assignment. A note of caution: computer failure is not grounds for an extension. Always back-up your work in order to avoid last-minute catastrophes.

PARTICIPATION (25%)

You will earn class participation marks in three ways.

1) TopHat (5%) – TopHat is an online application that allows students to answer questions in class, in real time, via smart phones, iPads, and laptops. There can be questions that have points assigned to participation and/or correctness. TopHat keeps an average percentage score for you during the term. At the end of the term, that score is converted into a grade out of 5. So, if your average in TopHat at the end of the term is 80%, you'll get four out of five.

2) Tutorial attendance (5%) and quality participation (15%) – In addition to lectures and course readings, the course includes weekly discussion groups called 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 (and often controversial) elements of course material (lectures, readings, films 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. In this way students will practice building **informed** oral arguments in the weekly tutorials. Tutorials will deploy discussion techniques like small group discussions, brainstorming sessions, large group roundtables, simulations, and debates. 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 (the core characteristic for all social and natural sciences). As such, students should attend each tutorial having completed all readings for the theme under discussion. The contributions in tutorials will be assigned by your TA: 20% of your final grade will come from tutorials: 5% for attendance, and 15% for the quality of your participation.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (20%)

The mid-term exam will be done in class, on **October 13th**. The exam will be multiple-choice tests done on computer scored sheets and be scheduled for 50 minutes.

FINAL EXAMINATION (35%)

A Registrar-scheduled Final Exam (2 hours) in multiple-choice format will be cumulative for the whole course but weighted more heavily on topics after the mid-term. Avoid making any travel plans prior to posting of the final exam schedule by the Registrar.

Note: Mid-term and the final exam will all be closed book: no notes, laptops, cell phones, digital watches, etc., will be allowed.

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 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 (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (95+)	B+ (80-84)	C+ (66-69)	D+ (54=57)
A (90-94)	B (75-79)	C (62-65)	D (50-53)
A- (85-89)	B- (70-74)	C- (58-61)	F (0-49)

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students with questions about material or other aspects of the course should make use of the office hours of the instructor or contact the instructor directly via email. If you have sent the instructor an email but have not received a reply within 24 hours, please resend. Students may use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course, though there will be times when you'll be

asked to turn the technology off. No recording of lectures (audio and/or video) is permitted without prior approval of the instructor, with exceptions of course made in the case of approved accommodations. Please be considerate of others and switch off all phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing social media is extremely disruptive to others, and your own performance will also suffer.

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

Foreign Affairs

foreignaffairs.com

Foreign Policy

foreignpolicy.com

OpenCanada

opencanada.org

The Atlantic

theatlantic.com

Harpers

harpers.org

The New Yorker

newyorker.com

Arts and Letters Daily

aldaily.com

The Nation (liberal)

thenation.com

National Review (conservative)

nationalreview.com

New Left Review (liberal)

newleftreview.org

Commentary (conservative)

commentarymagazine.com

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

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 Commissioners 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>.

Reappraisals

The University Calendar states that for reappraisals of graded term work:

“A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work reappraised as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor **within ten business days** of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall take the matter to the head of the department offering the course **within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor**, who will arrange for a reappraisal of the work **within the next ten business days**. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

The University Calendar states that for reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades):

“A student may request a reappraisal of a final grade. The only element that will be considered is the final assessment(s) that makes up the final mark (e.g., final examination, final project, and final paper). The exception is when a grade for a piece of graded term work is made available to students after the last day of classes for the term in which the course is scheduled; that grade may also be considered in a reappraisal of the final grade.”

“A student seeking a reappraisal of a final grade should first attempt to review the final assessment with the department or faculty offering the course. After which the student shall obtain a Reappraisal of Final Grade form from ucalgary.ca/registrar (under Student Forms). The student must indicate exactly what error was made in marking the final assessment and/or in computing the final grade. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” More information is available at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

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-ow.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031

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-material-protected-by-copyright.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.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email 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] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Tower, MT 116..

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

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/>.