

POLI 201 L01 (Introduction to Government and Politics)

Pre/Co-Requisites: None	
Instructor: Dr. Ricardo Vernet	Lecture Location: SB 103
Phone: 403-542-1498	Lecture Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 am
Email: ricardo.vernet@ucalgary.ca	Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 or by appointment
Office: SS 721	
Instructor Email Policy: Email is the best way to contact the instructor. If you need assistance with course materials and assignments, please come see the instructor during office hours or schedule an appointment.	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

POLI 201 is a survey of the field of Political Science. The course introduces students to basic concepts, theories, languages, and institutions of the field. It familiarizes students with ideas and institutions associated with what we commonly refer to as “government”. Broadly, the course critically analyzes these notions through various subfields of political science. These subfields include political philosophy, comparative politics, and international relations. The course briefly considers other related subfields, such as, security studies, international political economy, environmental politics, and indigenous politics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course is designed to help students develop a range of skills to become critically engaged citizens and political observers in a complex and rapidly changing world. Upon completion, students will have begun to develop several key conceptual, analytical, and communicational skills:

Understand how politics matters across different dimensions: from the local to the international, and from the personal to the environmental.

Learn a disciplined conceptual vocabulary and a set of sharp analytical tools about politics broadly understood.

Because research is critical to our discipline, you will have the opportunity of developing research skills by carefully referencing sources and documenting written work

Because writing is necessary to communicate complex ideas in Political Science, the course will give you the opportunity to improve your writing skills. A critical thinker needs not only listening, observation, analysis, and research skills, but also the ability to communicate ideas clearly and concisely. Students will be asked to submit two short writing assignments to develop their research and analytical skills. The assignments encourage students to consider how best to apply concepts to a particular problem, and how to communicate this relationship clearly and succinctly in a limited space

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald, Introduction to Politics, 3rd Canadian Edition (Oxford University Press, 2022)

Other required readings are available as links in this syllabus and for download from D2L, either directly from the course site or as external links to other sites.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Tophat (participation)	5%	During class
Midterm (2 X 20%)	40%	Feb 9 and March 14
Review Assignment	10%	Feb 16
Research Assignment	20%	March 21
Final Exam	25%	Set by Registrar
Total	100%	

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

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1 Jan 10/12	Course overview What is politics and should we study it?	Garner et al, Introduction
Week 2 Jan 17/19	Political Concepts and ideas Power, Authority and the State	Garner et al., Chapters 1-2 Taiaiake Alfred, Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto (Oxford, 2009), "Native American Political Traditions," pp 24-30, and "Sovereignty: An Inappropriate Concept," pp. 55-69, available on D2L
Week 3 Jan 24/26	Freedom and Justice	Garner et al, Chapters 3-4
Week 4 Jan 31/Feb 2	Political Ideologies I	Garner et al, Chapters 5-6
Week 5 Feb 7/9	Political Ideologies II	Garner et al, Chapters 5-6 (Midterm 1, in class on Feb 9)
Week 6 Feb 14-16	Comparative Politics: Institutions and States	Garner et al, Chapters 7-8 Article review due on D2L, Feb 16 by 11:55 pm
Week of 19-25	Term Break-No Classes	No Classes
Week 7 Feb 28/Mar 2	Voting and Legislating Paper Workshop	Garner et al, Chapters 9-11 Workshop (First 25 min of class, March 2)
Week 8 Mar 7/9	Democratic and Non-Democratic Politics	Philippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, What democracy is... and is not, Journal of Democracy, Vol 2, No 3, pp 75-88: https://muse-jhu-edu.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/article/225590 ; Erica Frantz, Authoritarianism: What Everyone needs to Know, Chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2 (Understanding Authoritarian Politics): https://ebookcentral-proquest-

		com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=5457393&ppg=34
Week 9 Mar 14/16	International Relations: IR Theories I	(Midterm II, in class, March 14) Garner et al, Chapter 15-16
Week 10 Mar 21/23	IR Theories II	Garner et al, Chapters 15-16 (Research Assignment due on D2L, March 21 by 11:55 pm)
Week 11 Mar 28/30	Security and Foreign Policy	Garner et al, Chapter 17
Week 12 April 4/6	International Political Economy	Garner et al, Chapter 20
Week 13 April 11	Global Green Politics: An Introduction Concluding Remarks and Review	Derek Wall, No-nonsense Guide to Green Politics, (New Internationalist: 2010), "Global Green Politics", Chapter 1, available at https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=4789795&ppg=7
Exam Period (April 15- 26)	Final Exam	Date set by Registrar

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

REVIEW ASSIGNMENT

This assignment is designed to help you use your critical thinking skills to evaluate an argument. In addition to TopHat, the review assignment provides you a unique opportunity to engage in the course. You will choose a chapter or an article and submit a short review (No more than 600 words and double-spaced) on D2L. This not an essay. You do not need to conduct extensive research to write the review. You may want to explore a couple of sources to strengthen your critique. You should also connect your review to relevant course materials where possible. The chapter or article for this will be posted on the D2L early in the term. **The review assignment is due on February 16 by 11:55 on D2L.** The review should be succinct and well-written. The assessment of the review will be done according to the following criteria:

1. **Summary of argument:** You need pinpoint the argument the author(s) tries to make in the piece. What is the main argument? How does the author defend this argument? What is the logic? Why does this matter? Are there connections to relevant course materials? (4 points)
2. **Contribution of the author(s):** Tell us what the author's contribution is in the piece. Does anything strike you at all? What is it? And why? What does the author do well in the piece? Is it convincing? (3 points)
3. **Critical reflections:** Tell us whether you identify gaps and contradictions in the argument. Is there something missing? Are there contradictions in the piece? Is there a way to remedy or rescue the piece? Does it matter? What do other critics say? What would you say? And Why? (3 points)

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

Students are required to write a short research assignment. For this assignment, you will choose one question from the list below and **submit an 800-word paper on March 21st by 11:55 on D2L.** To help you write this paper, a **special paper workshop** will be held in the first 25 minutes of class on March 2. We will review all you need know (requirements, formatting, argumentation, structure, referencing, etc.) before

you submit the paper. We strongly encourage you to attend this. This will be an opportunity for you ask questions and raise concerns about the assignment.

Research questions:

1. Should voting be mandatory?
2. Is it better to have competitive elections or to have political representatives be selected to serve at random, as they do in jury duty?
3. Should Canada abandon first-past-the-post voting in favour of proportional representation?
4. Should the nation-state continue to be the fundamental political unit?
5. Can the United Nations reconcile both respect for international human rights and for state sovereignty?
6. Can a country be democratic without a strong state?
7. Should Canada promote democracy abroad, or should other countries be left to make their own choices regarding what regime to pursue?
8. Is it better for a country to be democratic or for it to be rich?

The research assignment will be evaluated according to the following:

1. One introductory paragraph, which articulates a clear thesis statement in one complete sentence. The thesis is the essay's central claim or argument. The more this goes beyond mere description and offers sharp analytical clarity and original insight, the better.
2. Two body paragraphs that offer different, but related points supporting your thesis. A good way to support your thesis is to discuss – to give specific reasons – why it may or may not be true.
3. Connective sentences that clearly link one body paragraph to the next.
4. One concluding paragraph that summarizes the core argument. This needs to clearly connect to the central thesis.
5. Conform to the formatting requirements listed below:
 - Be no more than 800 words, formatted into double spaced pages, with 1-inch margins in 12- point font.
 - Cite at least three (3) scholarly sources that are not the textbook (but which may include suggestions found in the textbook, or other sources in this syllabus outside the textbook).
 - Citations must be in Chicago Style:
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

The assignment will be assessed according to the **REST** rubric:

Research: 20 – Meets research requirements and uses appropriate, consistent citations

Execution: 20 – Style, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and attention to detail

Structure: 30 – Good introduction and conclusion, clear flow of ideas and paragraphs

Thinking: 30 – How well you make your argument through reasoned logic and evidence

Total: /100

And based on these criteria:

A- (80-84%)→A (85-89%)→A+ (90% +)

Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; excellent organization; strong capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base. Work at this level is clearly written, with no spelling or grammar faults.

B- (70-73%)→B (74-76%)→B+ (77-79%)

Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature. Work at this level is generally clearly written, containing at most a few, if any, spelling or grammar faults.

D (50-54%)→D+ (55-59%)→C- (60-62%)→C (63-66%)→C+ (67-69%)

Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour. Work at this level is sometimes or often unclear and contains from some to many spelling and/or grammar problems.

F (0-49%)

Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature. Work at this level is usually poorly written, with numerous spelling and grammar problems.

TOPHAT PARTICIPATION

We will use Tophat throughout the term to facilitate your participation in the course. You will need to bring appropriate technologies (smartphones, tablets, ipads, and laptops) to class for this to work, but you must limit their use to answering surveys and questions. It is very important that you participate in this. In addition to helping you participate, Tophat also assists the instructor in facilitating your learning. You can only receive a maximum of 5% for your participation through tophat.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

There will be two in-class midterm exams on February 9 and March 14 respectively. The exams will be completed in one hour and will consist of multiple choice questions. The exams will be closed book with no study aid (e.g. notes, textbook, etc.) permitted.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The final exam is scheduled by the registrar and will be held in person between April 15 and April 26. The final exam is closed book with no study aid permitted (e.g. notes, textbook, etc.). The final exam will be two hours and will consist of multiple choice questions. The exam is cumulative and covers all course materials, (textbook, book chapters, articles, book chapters, powerpoint slides, etc.) between January 10 to April 11.

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>.

TECHNOLOGY STATEMENT

Students are responsible for ensuring they are registered in TopHat to participate in the course. For assistance with TopHat or related services, please visit the University's resource pages:

- IT Getting Started Guide – Students: https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031
- Getting Started with Top Hat: : <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/getting-started-with-top-hat/>

GRADING 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)

LATE PENALTIES

Students are required to submit assignments by the deadlines. Late submissions will be deducted 5 percent per day (including weekends) unless students are granted an exemption by the instructor. Assignments submitted 7 days after the deadline without an exemption will not be accepted and will receive a grade of "Zero". Computer related issues and loss of work are not grounds for exemptions. Please contact the instructor if you anticipate or face problems that may prevent you from submitting your work on time.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

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.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic 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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

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) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.

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

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/>.