



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 425 – Lecture 01
City Government
Fall 2021**

INSTRUCTOR: Paul Fairie

EMAIL: pfairie@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Zoom, Thursdays 16:00-17:00

COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesdays, 17:00-19:45

DELIVERY METHOD: Online, synchronous

COURSE LOCATION: Zoom (links on D2L)

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: POLI 321

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course calendar says “A study of both institutions and political processes relating to city politics.” More fully, this course will provide a lecture and discussion based introduction to municipal government and politics, primarily focused on Canada, often using Calgary as a case study. The course will cover the mechanics and institutions of local government, the political sociology of urban politics and leading political science theories explaining power in local government.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete all components of the class, including attending lectures, completing the readings and thoughtfully completing the assignments will gain:

- (a) an understanding of how municipal politics in Canada works (its institutions, its behaviours, and the breadth of what it involves)
- (b) a knowledge of the political science literature on city politics
- (c) improved skills in research and writing.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

There is no assigned textbook. All readings are available through the University of Calgary library, and are linked on D2L.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

A computer with an internet connection. A functional web camera suggested.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Election review: Written	25%	October 22, 11pm (D2L)
Election review: Presentation	10%	October 19 (in class)
Term project	25%	November 19, 11pm (D2L)
Reading quizzes (3 x 5%)	15%	[Throughout term, see below]
Final take-home exam	25%	December 11, 11pm (D2L)
Total	100%	

ELECTION REVIEW - WRITTEN (20%): Calgary has a municipal election on October 18, 2021. This written assignment will cover an issue relevant to the election, and students will produce a 1000-1500 word briefing note. This assignment may be completed alone, or in groups of up to 3. More details to be shared in class.

ELECTION REVIEW - PRESENTATION (10%): The presentation version of the written assignment described above. Students will produce a 5-7 minute presentation about their issue, and discuss what the results of the election might mean. This assignment may be completed alone, or in groups of up to 3. Presentations will take place in class time, on October 19. More details to be shared in class.

TERM PROJECT (25%): The term project will consist of a 1800-2200 word paper. More details will be provided in class, but, in brief, the term project will consist of one of (i) a paper examining how a selected neighbourhood has been influenced by city decision-making (ii) a paper synthesizing course material (including presentations by guest experts), in response to provided questions.

READING QUIZZES (3 x 5%): Short, multiple choice reading quizzes will be available on D2L, available on the Monday of the week, and due by the Friday at 11pm. They will consist of 15 multiple choice questions, and students will have 30 minutes to complete the exam once it has been started on D2L. Each quiz will cover the readings assigned since the previous week. They will occur on the weeks involving September 28, October 26 and November 23.

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM (25%): The final exam will consist of 2 essay questions, which will allow students to demonstrate an understanding of the course materials. It will be distributed via D2L on December 8, and will be due via D2L on Saturday December 11 at 11pm.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC
Sep 7	Introduction
Sep 14	The powers of cities
Sep 21	Power in Cities
Sep 28	Power in Cities
Oct 5	Voters & Elections

Oct 12	Voters & Elections
Oct 19	Election Debrief
Oct 26	City Council & City Hall
Nov 2	Finance & property taxes
Nov 9	TERM BREAK
Nov 16	Land use planning & citizen engagement
Nov 23	Indigenous communities & Canadian municipalities
Nov 30	Public policy
Dec 7	Current research & term review

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

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>.

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

The final exam and reading quizzes must be completed and submitted by the indicated due date. The presentation must be delivered on the indicated date, though accommodations may be made in emergency situations. If the written projects are submitted late, 3 percentage points will be deducted for each day late, up to a maximum of two weeks, after which the grade will be entered as 0.

Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if accommodations need to be made to these due dates.

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 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.

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](https://www.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](https://www.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=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-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/>.