



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 590 L01
HONOURS SEMINAR
FALL 2020**

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Anthony Sayers
TELEPHONE	403.220.2703
EMAIL	asayers@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS	Tuesday & Thursday 13:00 HRS, Skype/Zoom/phone
COURSE DAY/TIME	Tuesday & Thursday 14:00 – 15:15 HRS
DELIVERY METHOD	Web-based
PREREQUISITE	Admission to Political Science Honours; completion of 75 units
ANTIREQUISITE	Credit for Political Science 590 and 499 is not allowed

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Political Science 590 is a seminar course that allows Honours students to explore central questions and research methods that animate political science. On successful completion of the course, students should

- Be familiar with major themes and questions in the study of politics
- Be aware of some classic works in the study of politics
- Be able to describe the major research methods used in political science
- Have practiced reading a large body of literature for academic comprehension
- Have applied their knowledge of the discipline and its research methods to the development and completion of an Honours Thesis Proposal.

On-line classes will be held at the times listed above and consistent with the University Calendar using Zoom. Additional online meetings with the instructor and asynchronous communication methods such as email will be available to assist students who are unable to be at a scheduled meeting.

Thoughtful and engaged participation is the central requirement for success in the course. This includes being prepared and willing to engage in class discussions and to complete joint tasks and individual assignments in a timely manner. This will maximize your learning outcomes and as a wonderful corollary, those of your fellow students.

POLI 590 is reserved for fourth-year Honours students in Political Science and is complementary to POLI 591 (Honours Thesis). They form the capstone to the Honours Program. Successful completion of both elements is required to complete an Honours Degree.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Dimiter Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science* (London UK: Palgrave Macmillan). ISBN: 9781137342829.

Robert E. Goodin (Ed). *Oxford Handbook of Political Science* (Oxford UK: Oxford University Press). ISBN-10: 9780199604456; ISBN-13: 978-0199604456.

The textbooks are available via multiple channels. Occasional readings will be available from the course website.

OTHER RESOURCES

University of Calgary Library

The University of Calgary Library offers many resources that can help you in your work. A critical research skill, along with general web searches, is the capacity to use the academic search engines in the library. The Political Science Librarian, Mr. John Wright (jpwright@ucalgary.ca; Telephone: 403.220.5955), can assist you in finding your way around the various resources available the library offers.

Academic Journals

Relevant journal articles are a most impressive addition to any research paper. Electronic access to many key Political Science journals is available through the University of Calgary Library's main page.

Web Sites

Whereas most books and journal articles available through the University of Calgary library will have passed many rigorous tests of their scholarship and veracity, this is not the case for websites, which can be published with little or no checking of their content. While many websites offer useful and trustworthy information, you should not accept at face value everything you read or see on the net.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

To complete the course successfully, you will need access to a reliable internet connection, an adequately equipped and secure computer including audio and visual devices allowing online conferencing along with the software required to access the course, its meetings, and complete assignments. This includes, but is not be limited to, programs required to make a computer fully functional such as a web browser, word processor, audio-visual conferencing software, and other software such as statistical packages (either free ware or provided through the University) that may be required to complete course projects.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS, WEIGHTS, AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATE
Initial Thesis Topic Proposal	15%	October 8 th
Weekly Literature Reviews	20%	Weekly
Short Research Projects	20%	October 29 th / November 19 th
Research Essay	30%	December 9 th
Final Take Home Exam	15%	December 14 th
Total	100%	

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

COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Weekly topics and readings are outlined below, although adjustments may be made to account for changing circumstances.

Readings for the course come in three forms. The Discipline is a brief tour of the breadth of political science as presented in the *Oxford Handbook*. The Methods section addresses various ways in which we might ask and answer questions in political science as suggested by Toshkov. Themes is an idiosyncratic look at some of the perennial problems – substantive and methodological – that confront political science with reference to some classic works in the discipline.

The last few sessions are left empty for two reasons: To allow additional time for in-class presentations, and for students to introduce to the class readings, ideas, or discussions which they think are important to political science in response to what they have learned across the term.

WEEK	The Discipline	Methods	Themes
Sept 7	Introduction and Political Theory	Discussion of Expectations	What is politics?
Sept 14	Political Institutions Thesis Topic Due	Questions and Theory Text: Chapters 1 & 2	The State
Sept 21	Law and Politics	Concepts and Measurement Text: Chapters 3 & 4	Competition and cooperation
Sept 28	Political Behaviour	Causality and Communication Text: Chapters 6 and 12	Structure and agency
Oct 5	Open	Thesis Topic Presentations	Your audience
Oct 12	Contextual Political Analysis	Measurement Designs Text: Chapter 5	Ladder of abstraction
Oct 19	Comparative Politics	Experimental Designs Text: Chapter 7	Representation versus sortition
Oct 26	International Relations	Large – N Designs Text: Chapter 8	Democracy and capitalism
Nov 2	Political Economy	Comparative Designs Text: Chapter 9	Question or method?
Nov 9	Term Break ----- No Classes November 8 th - 14 th		
Nov 16	Public Policy	Single Case Designs Text: Chapter 10	Complex realities and linear models
Nov 23	Political Methodology	Mixed and Nested Designs Text: Chapter 11	Mixed Methods
Nov 30	Thomas Kuhn, <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> ; Brady, Collier, and Company	Research Presentations	The state of the discipline
Dec 7	Research Presentations	No Class	OPEN

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be completed to pass this course.

1. Participation (35% of final grade)

Participation has two main components. Weekly literatures reviews and the development of an initial thesis topic proposal. Grade split evenly between contribution in class and written work

- A. *Weekly reviews and in-class discussion (20% of final grade) loaded online by midnight prior to the relevant Tuesday class*
 - I. You are to propose a research project provoked by and referencing the readings for the week that includes the components noted in your initial thesis topic proposal. This proposal, of no more than 500 words, should be posted online by midnight the evening before each class using the approach noted below for the *Initial Thesis Topic Proposal*
 - II. The proposals should make use of the readings to situate the research question and describe the method. You are free to make use of research published in journals or methods noted in the Toshkov text to build your proposal.

- B. *Initial Thesis Topic Proposal (15%) loaded sequentially online by 12:00HRS (Noon) Thursday class each of the first 5 weeks*
 - I. Thesis topic or question (<50 words). Due Week 1
 - II. 5-10 descriptive questions and answers loaded to course website (<750 words). Due Week 2
 - III. A research question identifying a dependent and independent variable informed by existing, referenced literature (<250 words). Due Week 3
 - IV. An annotated bibliography of relevant substantive research, method of inquiry, and data/evidence sources (<1200 words). Due Week 4
 - V. An initial thesis topic proposal making use of the above components as a single document (<2000 words, excluding bibliography). Due Week 5. **All components to be submitted online by 12:00 HRS (Noon) on Thursday, October 8, 2020 in preparation for presentation in class.**
 - VI. If you are comfortable with this version of your thesis topic, you should look for a supervisor who must sign off on the proposal for it to be formally accepted as your Honours Thesis Topic Question.

2. Short Projects (20% of final grade)

You are to take two (10% each) of your weekly proposals unrelated to your thesis proposal and expand them each into a more developed research project of no more than 1000 words (excluding bibliography) with a focus on two different research methods covered in the course, using the method noted above for the *Initial Thesis Topic Proposal*.

You are to select one of these to present briefly in a class by arrangement with the instructor, providing any slides or information needed via the course website by midnight the evening

before the class in which it will be discussed.

Students are required to demonstrate the capacity to develop and provide an initial answer to a research question across distinct areas of the discipline using a variety of methods.

The first project is to be electronically uploaded by not later than **12:00 HRS (Noon) on October 29, 2020**, and the second by no later **12:00 HRS (Noon) November 19, 2020**.

3. Research Essay (30% of final grade)

1. This essay has three cumulative components. Each component will be submitted sequentially to a D2L Dropbox. In 500 words (excluding references) outline your thesis question, including what it is you hope to explain, why it is important, and how you intend to go about answering the question, which should include some indication of the literature from which it emerges and the evidence you will engage.
2. Building on part 1, in 2,500 words (excluding references) restate your thesis question and situate it in the literature from which it emerges. This should be submitted along with a signed acceptance of the topic by your supervisor.
3. Building on parts 1 and 2, in no more than 5,000 words (excluding references) restate your Honours thesis question, explain how it is situated in the literature, describe the method you will use to respond to your question, referencing appropriate examples, indicate the character of the evidence you will use to make your case, and provide the basic structure of your argument currently constructed. You will present an outline of this paper to the final class. Your submission should include a document signed by a faculty member indicating their willingness to supervise what will be your Honours Thesis Topic Question. All three components are to be submitted to the D2L Dropbox by **21:00 HRS December 9, 2020**. You may wish to discuss your efforts with the class.

4. Take-Home, Open Book Final Examination (15% of final grade)

You will complete 5 five short answers as part of the take home exam. The exam will be made available at 21:00 HRS on December 9, 2020 to be submitted electronically via the D2L Dropbox by 21:00 HRS, December 14, 2020.

Grading Scheme

A+= 90-100 = 4.00	B+ = 77-79 = 3.30	C+ = 67-69 = 2.30	D+ = 55-59 = 1.30
A = 85-89 = 4.00	B = 74-76 = 3.00	C = 64-66 = 2.00	D = 50-54 = 1.00
A- = 80-84 = 3.70	B- = 70-73 = 2.70	C- = 60-63 = 1.70	F = 0- 49 = 0.00

LATE PENALTIES

A penalty of 3% per day beginning the moment after the time at which an assignment is due will be applied to any late assignment.

Requests for extensions to any deadlines due to illness or similar reasons *must be made to the Instructor before the due date and must be supported by suitable documentation* (see Supporting

Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration below) *Please keep an electronic backup of all your work to insure against loss or other difficulties.*

Writing

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses. The quality of writing, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity and organization, will all be considered in assigning a grade to submitted work. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre at https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview, located on the third floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

Online Etiquette

We are all adapting to our changed world, including online classes. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cellphones or avoid other distractions while engaged in an online class. Being distracted by electronic tasks such as texting, emailing, or web browsing, and the presence of others may affect your learning and that of others. There is a presumption that audio-visual sessions are limited to those registered in the class. While circumstances beyond your control may intervene, please do your best to abide by these conditions.

There is a fuller statement of the conditions attached to video conferencing for the course in the News section of the course website.

Recording of Lectures

The unavoidable presence of students requires us to be sensitive to the preferences of others before recording any online event. Please contact the instructor before recording any online session.

Recording of online sessions may be permitted for individual private study for those who have requested and received relevant academic accommodation and for others at the discretion of the instructor. Any other use of recording constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

INSTRUCTORS 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. **All meetings will be held virtually.**

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>

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/>.