



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 623 – L01
Canadian Political Process
Fall 2018

INSTRUCTOR	Melanee Thomas
TELEPHONE	(403) 220-5992
OFFICE	SS 714
EMAIL	thomasm@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS	Wednesday 2-5 pm, Thursday 11 am – 12 pm (https://thomasm.youcanbook.me) or by appointment (email to arrange)
COURSE DAY/TIME	W 9 – 1145 AM
COURSE LOCATION	SS 729

COURSE DESCRIPTION

POLI 623 is designed to give students the opportunity to examine the literature investigating the social, cultural, behavioural, and electoral foundations of the Canadian political process. Students will be exposed to classic and cutting-edge research, and use it to form a comprehensive assessment of politics in Canada. For PhD students, the course will be a good foundation for the comprehensive exam, though by no means will it cover all the literature on which the comp will be based.

By the end of this course, students should:

- Be able to identify, compare, and contrast the main arguments in the literature.
- Synthesize research to produce unique arguments.
- Demonstrate and adapt their research, writing, and verbal presentation skills.
 - PhD students should be able to write a cogent comprehensive exam response.
- Provide constructive feedback to their colleagues.

REQUIRED READINGS

All the readings listed on D2L are required. All are available for free from a University of Calgary Internet connection (ebook or journal article), from the University Library, or directly from Dr. Thomas.

COURSE FORMAT

Depending on enrolment, this course will be conducted as a reading course (1-2 students), or as a seminar (3+ students).

ACCOMMODATIONS

I endeavour to ensure that this course is inclusive of people with a variety of learning styles and abilities. Nonetheless, some students may require additional accommodations.

Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation **must** be registered with the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to be eligible for formal academic accommodation. They can be contacted at (403) 220-8237 or access@ucalgary.ca. If you are a student seeking formal academic accommodation through SAS, please come discuss your needs with me *as soon as possible* after the start of term. Note well that students can ask for accommodations at any point during the term.

Accommodations for acute illness and emergencies, as well as accommodations on protected grounds (race; colour; ancestry; place of origin; religious beliefs; gender — including pregnancy and gender identity; physical disability; mental disability; marital status; family status; source of income; and sexual orientation) will be addressed on a case by case basis in accordance with University of Calgary policy (see http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course emphasizes reading and requires students to digest a large amount of material, and is designed to provide students with a firm foundation in the Canadian politics literature. The three course requirements reflect this goal.

Your grade is distributed as follows:

- Weekly reading responses
 - 15% total
 - Due on D2L by or before 5 pm the day each Tuesday before class.
- Discussion paper
 - 15%
 - Due to D2L by or before 19 October 2018
- Active class participation
 - 20%
 - In class, every class
- Research paper proposal, presentation, and peer review
 - 24% total
 - Paper proposal: D2L, 4 November 2018 (8%)
 - Paper presentation: in class, 5 December 2018 (8%)
 - Peer review: in class, 28 November and 5 December 2018 (8%)

- Research paper
 - 26%
 - Due 14 December 2018

Weekly reading responses

These are short written assignments, to be completed for each assigned reading and submitted on D2L by 5 pm each Tuesday before class. For each reading, answer the following questions:

1. What is (are) the reading's research question(s)?
2. What is (are) the answer to said research question(s)?
3. What method(s) is used to answer the research question(s)?
4. What is the most important insight you gleaned from this reading?
5. What is the most powerful critique you have of this reading?
6. What outstanding question do you have for the authors?

For **journal articles**, answer each question with **ONE SENTENCE ONLY**. For books, answer each with **THREE SENTENCES**. This is a hard limit; the goal is to read with these goals in mind, and to learn to write economically.

Each reading response will be assessed as follows:

- ✓ = competent, complete, within space restrictions (good/very good)
- ✓+ = excellent, complete, within space restrictions (excellent/outstanding)
- ✓- = over the space limit and/or satisfactory over all

A ✓ average will be assessed as an A- (3.7); a ✓+ average will be given an A (4.0); a ✓- will be assessed as a B or B+ (3.00-3.30). A ✓- can be offset by a ✓+.

Discussion paper

This short paper should be 6-8 double-spaced typed pages and is due on D2L on or before 1159 PM on 19 October 2018. Students should use the readings to craft their argument, but are also free to incorporate additional sources into their arguments. Students are expected to engage deeply with the readings they choose to use for this assignment. These papers should be seen as position papers or a like a comprehensive exam answer, rather than as a research essay.

Potential options include:

- "Is diversity an analytically useful concept for the study of Canadian politics?" Discuss.
- "We are better off studying provinces than regions." Discuss.
- "Why do electoral coalitions in Canada change?"
- "Identify and critique the primary rationales that scholars of Canadian politics have used to select their conceptual approach." Discuss.
- "Canadian political science is made better by the comparative turn." Discuss.

- “The classic studies in Canadian politics provide a useful lens to view the contemporary field.” Discuss.
- Canadian politics comprehensive exam questions may also be a good option. If this option is chosen, please vet the topic with Dr. Thomas first.

Late discussion papers will not be accepted, and extensions will not be granted.

Participation

POLI 623 is a seminar, and students are expected to participate extensively in the weekly meetings and to take the lead in the discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having done the readings and ready to discuss them. You are not expected to agree with the material: each reading will have its strengths and weaknesses, and the research may be missing something you think ought to be included. These strengths, weaknesses, and holes should form the basis of your classroom participation.

Student participation will be assessed through the rubric on D2L.

I encourage students to use their reading responses to guide their participation. Thus, you may wish to bring a copy of your responses for your own reference to class.

Technology typically does not facilitate a seminar class. As a result, students are asked to avoid bringing computers, phones, tablets, etc to this class. Any student who chooses to use technology and drifts during class sessions (i.e. texts, emails, surfs the Internet, YouTube, etc) will be assessed a **ZERO** for participation that class.

Research Paper/paper proposal presentation

The research paper will be no more than 6000 words, including notes and references. Students can approach this paper in two broad ways:

1. Select an empirical question or puzzle about Canadian politics, defend its conceptual and empirical significance, and describe in general how you'd go about answering it.
 - a. Students with skills in empirical research techniques *may* but are not required to go about empirically testing their chosen puzzle/question.
2. Substantively reinterpret an existing literature in Canadian politics.

For both approaches, students should provide a literature review that situates the puzzle, question, or reinterpretation in a clear scholarly context and indicate some sense where future inquiry might lead. Students who have tentatively identified thesis topics are encouraged to write papers on questions, literature, theories, and concepts relevant to their topics.

The paper proposal is due by 4 pm on Friday, November 4 by digital dropbox on D2L. The paper proposal will include the following components:

- A clear statement of the research **question** (not topic) you have chosen. The answer to this question should form your paper's thesis statement.
- A one page explanation of why the research question is relevant and of interest.
- A 1-2 page explanation of how you plan to conduct your research.
- A preliminary bibliography that includes at least 12 **academic** sources. Academic

sources are books and journal articles; websites, blogs, and newspaper/magazine articles may be useful to you, but they are **not** academic sources.

The paper proposal is a pass/fail assignment. The penalty for not submitting the assignment, or for failing the assignment is a deduction of a **full letter grade** on the research essay.

The purpose of your proposal is to ensure that your paper topic is workable. If I am not satisfied with the first version of the proposal, I will send it back to you for revisions. You will fail the assignment if you do not produce an acceptable proposal after receiving **TWO** sets of comments.

One class (November 28) will be dedicated to peer reviews of your paper drafts. That class, please bring at least 3 copies of your paper with you. On December 5, class will be dedicated to short student presentations on their paper progress. During both of these classes, students will be assessed on their peer review according to the rubric on D2L.

The final paper is due via digital dropbox on D2L by 1159 PM on 14 December 2018.

LETTER GRADES

Each component of this course will receive a letter grade. An A on an assignment is worth 4 points; an A- is worth 3.7 points, etc. To calculate your final grade, I will multiply the grade points you earned on each assignment by the relative weight of that assignment (i.e. 20% for reading responses, so your points would be multiplied by 0.2). Then, I will add all the scores together to calculate your final grade-point average. That average will determine your final letter grade for the course (see below).

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, 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 (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>	<i>Grade Range</i>
A+	4.0	>3.85
A	4.0	>3.85
A-	3.7	3.51-3.85
B+	3.3	3.16-3.50
B	3.0	2.86-3.15
B-	2.7	2.51-2.85
C+	2.3	2.16-2.50
C	2.0	1.86-2.15
C-	1.7	1.51-1.85
D+	1.3	1.16-1.50
D	1.0	0.85-1.15
F	0.0	<1.0

Though the A+ and the A are worth the same grade point value, students must consistently produce simply **outstanding** work throughout the term to earn an A+. As per the grading system outlined in the University Calendar, work that is consistently excellent, shows superior performance, and demonstrates comprehensive understanding of the material will receive an A. For more information, see “distribution of grades” (graduate) at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/archives/2005/what/fac/GS/faculty_regulations.htm,

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: a small number of readings may be added/removed as the course unfolds.

A detailed schedule with readings is available on D2L.

PART ONE: Introduction + Social Bases of Canadian Politics

Week One – September 12: Introduction and Course Overview

- Select reading for next week

Week Two – September 19: Quebec

Week Three – September 26: Multiculturalism

Week Four – October 3: Indigenous Politics

Week Five – October 10: Gender

Week Six – October 17: Political Culture

Discussion Papers are due on or before 1159 PM on 19 October 2018

Week Seven – October 24: Regionalism

PART TWO: Bridging Civil Society and the State

Week Eight – October 31: Civil society, civic engagement

Week Nine – November 7: Parties and party systems

Week Ten – READING WEEK NO CLASS

Week Eleven -- November 21: Elections and electoral coalitions

Week Twelve – Peer Review: November 28, 2017

- Bring 3 drafts of your paper to circulate to your classmates

Week Thirteen – December 5: Student Research Presentations

December 14: Student Research Papers Due

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) 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-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

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 Library Block.

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: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources:

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

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