



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 623 – Lecture 01  
Canadian Political Process  
Winter 2021**

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Melanee Thomas
<b>EMAIL:</b>	<a href="mailto:thomasm@ucalgary.ca">thomasm@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Book via <a href="http://thomasm.youcanbook.me">thomasm.youcanbook.me</a> or email for an appointment. All meetings will be held online
<b>COURSE DAY/TIME:</b>	Wednesdays, 2:00-4:45 pm
<b>DELIVERY METHOD:</b>	Web-based synchronous
<b>COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:</b>	None

**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. It also highlights for students the areas where Canadian political science excels, falls flat, or ignores as a field. Students will be exposed to classic and cutting-edge research, and use it to form a comprehensive assessment of both politics in Canada, and the study of politics in Canada. For PhD students, the course will be a good foundation for the Field of Study exam, though by no means will it cover all the literature on which the FoS exam 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 AND CONTENT**

All the readings listed in the detailed schedule on D2L are required. Where you get each reading is clearly marked: they will be:

- available for free from a University of Calgary VPN Internet connection (e-book or journal article)
- from the University Library (e-book or journal article)
- directly from me when the copyright office permits it
- or for purchase, once the copyright office determines they can't get it any other way.

Where applicable, multiple ways to access the reading will be indicated in the detailed schedule on D2L.

### **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY**

A computer device with a stable enough internet connection for video use in Zoom is required for this course.

### **COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Weekly Reading/Content Responses	20%	Weekly, Tuesdays by 5 pm on D2L
Discussion Paper 1	20%	February 12 by 4 pm on D2L
Discussion Paper 2	20%	March 19 by 4 pm on D2L
Discussion Paper 3	20%	April 16 by 4 pm on D2L
Active Participation	20%	Weekly
Total	100%	

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

### **WEEKLY READING/CONTENT 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**. For a single film or podcast episode, journal limits apply. For a film podcast series, book limits apply.

These are hard limits. 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, incomplete, and/or satisfactory overall

A ✓ average will be assessed as an A-; a ✓+ average will be given an A; a ✓- will be assessed as a B or B+. One ✓- can be offset by one ✓+.

## **DISCUSSION PAPERS**

These three papers form the bulk of your grade in POLI 623. They should be about 1800-2000 words. Each is due to a D2L Dropbox on or before **4 pm** on February 12, March 19, and April 16.

The February 12 paper **must** address content presented in class from the start of term to February 10. The March 19 paper **must** address content presented in class from February 17 to March 17. The April 16 paper **must** address content presented in class from March 24 through the end of term. **Mark this well and plan for it.**

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.

Students are free to choose their own framing or guiding questions, but a list of potential options will also be available on D2L.

## **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. Given this, you may wish to have a copy of your responses handy for your own reference to class.

Technology typically does not facilitate a seminar class. As a result, students are asked to avoid drifting during class sessions (i.e. texts, emails, surfs the Internet, YouTube, etc) will be assessed a **ZERO** for participation that class. This means that students should expect to have their cameras on for the duration of our seminars.

## **WRITING STATEMENT**

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:**

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).

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>	<i>Grade Range</i>
A+	4.0	>3.90
A	4.0	3.85-3.89
A-	3.7	3.51-3.84
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 [Graduate Studies Grading System in the University Calendar](#).

## **LATE PENALTIES**

In general, late work will not be accepted in POLI 623. Without pre-arranged accommodations, all late work will be assessed at 0.

Late weekly reading/content responses will not be accepted, and extensions will not be granted. This is because the point of these assignments is to prepare students to participate in class.

Late discussion papers will not be accepted, and extensions will not be granted outside of documented circumstances that demand accommodation. Any student in need of accommodation should contact me ASAP.

## **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](mailto: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; 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)).

If you need help, please contact me ASAP by email, and/or make an appointment in office hours. If you're not available during office hours, we can certainly make an appointment at another time. This term, all appointments will be held virtually.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

*A detailed schedule with readings is available on D2L.*

**Week One** – January 13: Introduction and Course Overview

**Week Two** – January 20: Quebec

**Week Three** – January 27: Indigenous Politics

**Week Four** – February 3: Colonialism, Anti-Colonialism, and Violence

**Week Five** – February 10: REFLECTION

*Discussion Papers are due on or before 4 PM on 12 February 2021*

**Week Six** – February 17: READING WEEK NO CLASS

**Week Seven** – February 24: Race, Immigration, and Multiculturalism

**Week Eight** – March 3: Gender

**Week Nine** – March 10: Regionalism and Political Culture

**Week Ten** – March 17: REFLECTION

*Discussion Papers are due on or before 4 pm on 19 March 2021*

**Week Eleven** – March 24: Civil society, civic engagement, and social movements

**Week Twelve** – March 31: Parties and party systems

**Week Thirteen** – April 7: Elections and electoral coalitions

**Week Fourteen** – April 14: REFLECTION

*Discussion Papers are due on or before 4 pm on 16 April 2021*

## **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>.

### **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](http://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/](http://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](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](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/>.