



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 623 – L01
Canadian Political Process
Winter 2022**

INSTRUCTOR:	Melanee Thomas
EMAIL:	thomasm@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Book via thomasm.youcanbook.me or email for an appointment.
COURSE DAY/TIME:	Wednesdays, 2-445 pm
DELIVERY METHOD:	In-person
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:	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 (FoS) 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.

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 2000 words. Each is due to a D2L Dropbox on or before **4 pm** on February 11, March 18, and April 15.

The February 11 paper **must** address content presented in class from the start of term to February 2. The

March 18 paper **must** address content presented in class from February 16 to March 9. The April 15 paper **must** address content presented in class from March 23 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 expected to avoid drifting during class sessions (i.e., texts, emails, surfs the Internet, YouTube, etc.) will be assessed a **ZERO** for participation that class. The best strategy may be to bring analog material only (e.g., paper notes, reading response copies, physical copies of readings) to class.

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 considered 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).

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>	<u>Grade Range</u>
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. 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).

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.

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). 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).

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](https://www.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=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031

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/>.