



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 623 – L01
Canadian Political Process
Winter 2023**

INSTRUCTOR: Melanee Thomas
EMAIL: thomasm@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Book via thomasm.youcanbook.me or email for an appointment.
COURSE DAY/TIME: Thursdays, 930-1215
DELIVERY METHOD: In-person

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. The assigned books are available for purchase at the Bookstore. Other readings are available on D2L via Leganto.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Weekly Reading/Content Responses	20%	Weekly, Wednesday by 5 pm on D2L
Discussion Paper 1	20%	February 12 by 5 pm on D2L
Discussion Paper 2	20%	March 19 by 5 pm on D2L
Discussion Paper 3	20%	April 16 by 5 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 **5 pm** on February 10, March 17, and April 14.

The February 10 paper **must** address content presented in class from the start of term to February 2. The March 17 paper **must** address content presented in class from February 16 to March 9. The April 14 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).

<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. 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

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.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the

Associate Dean.

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>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic 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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

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) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

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/>.