

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POL 214 H1F: CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

SYLLABUS

SPRING-SUMMER 2021 (MAY-JUNE)

CLASS TIME: **MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, 6PM–8PM**
CLASS LOCATION: **ONLINE** (SEE QUERCUS PAGE FOR LOGIN)

INSTRUCTOR: Ludovic Rheault

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OFFICE HOURS: Online (see Quercus page at beginning of term.)

Course Description

This course introduces students to Canadian politics. The field of Canadian politics has long been a foundational component of the teaching curriculum in the Department of Political Science. More than just a self-centred exercise, the aim is to draw important lessons about politics. Many of the topics under scrutiny in this course have relevance in other parts of the world, from the integration of minorities and the treatment of Indigenous peoples to the judicialization of politics. In fact, the Canadian experience on issues like multiculturalism and the entrenchment of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has had a global influence.

At the end of this course, students will have acquired essential knowledge about the Canadian political system. There are three principal modules. We will start by studying the political organization of the Canadian society, by looking at classical and contemporary issues such as regionalism, Indigenous peoples and diversity. The next module focuses on political actors—political parties and voters. The third module focuses on Canada's institutional pillars, including the executive, parliament and the Charter.

Course Format

Given the ongoing concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic, the semester will take place online.

Classes will be synchronous. Synchronous lectures are delivered during class time and the recording is made available asynchronously for students who cannot join during class hours. This is the default format.

If too many students experience issues joining the lectures in real time during the semester, I will consider pre-recording them and posting them online at class time.

There will be 11 lectures and a review session.

Four tutorials will take place synchronously on Zoom, about once a week starting on May 10. Tutorials are not recorded. Information about tutorial times is available on your ACORN schedule,

depending on the group you joined at the time of registration. Each tutorial will focus on a specific reading related to the topics under study in the course.

Marking Scheme

Midterm test (take-home)	30%	Due May 21
Reading summary	25%	Due June 14 (last day of class)
Final exam (take-home)	35%	Due June 21 (Final Assessment Period)
Tutorial participation	10%	Four discussion tutorials

Readings

The required readings for this course comprise a textbook and four papers associated with the tutorials.

Textbook:

– Cochrane, Christopher, Kelly Blidook and Rand Dyck. 2021. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches. 9th Edition. Toronto: Nelson-Top Hat.

The textbook can be bought in electronic format at reduced price [from the publisher](#) and on [Vital-Source](#). It should also be available at the UofT Bookstore. Copies of earlier editions are available at the Robarts library; editions 7 or 8 of the textbook are acceptable substitutes.

Tutorial readings:

There will be four tutorial readings representing influential texts that have marked the field of Canadian politics in recent decades. These four readings will be made available on Quercus, free of charge.

Evaluations

Evaluations in this course have been tailored to the intensive pace of summer semesters. Aside from participation during tutorials, the course comprises only three evaluations: a take-home midterm test (halfway in the semester), a reading summary (due at the end of the term), and a take-home final exam during the final assessment period (due on June 21, during the period reserved for final exams by the Faculty of Arts and Science, after the end of the term).

Students can submit all three evaluations on the Quercus page for the course.

The late penalty for written work is 2% per day, including weekends.

Participation in Tutorials

Students will be invited to join discussions about readings during tutorials. Attendance and participation in tutorial discussions is worth 10% of the grade. There are 4 discussion-based tutorials in total.

Reading Summary

Four readings will be featured during the tutorials. Students are asked to choose one of them and write a critical summary of that reading. The summary should start by providing an exposition of the central argument in the reading. Next, students are asked to engage in a critical assessment of that argument, and to discuss the evidence and conclusions. The reading summary is due on June 14, 2021. Students submit their summary on Quercus. The reading summary is worth 25% of the final grade.

Midterm Test and Final Exam (Take-Home Format)

The midterm test (May 20 to May 21) and the final exam (during the final assessment period, specifically from June 17 to June 21, 2021) are done remotely; they are “take-home” evaluations. Both of them consist of essay questions about the topics under study during the semester. Students will be required to choose one or two questions from an available set of questions and answer them in essay format. The midterm is worth 30% of the final grade, and the final exam is worth 35%.

Typically, each answer will take 2 pages double-spaced, in essay format. The questionnaires will be distributed on Quercus and answers must be uploaded before 11:59PM at the due date.

Students who cannot write the final take-home exam must register to a makeup exam through their college registrar, similar to the procedure for final exams during the regular term.

Class Schedule

Textbook chapters associated with each class are indicated in the third column.

Date	Topic	Textbook	Assignments
May 3	Current issues & brief history	Ch. 2	
May 5	Regionalism and provinces	Ch. 3	
May 10	Indigenous politics	Ch. 4	
May 12	Multiculturalism and diversity	Ch. 6	
May 17	The political economy of Canada	Ch. 8	
May 19	Political parties	Ch. 13	Midterm test (20–21)
May 24	<i>Statutory holiday—No classes</i>		
May 26	Voters and elections	Ch. 14	
May 31	The Canadian Constitution	Ch. 16	
June 2	The judicialization of politics	Ch. 18	
June 7	The executive	Ch. 19	
June 9	Parliament	Ch. 21	
June 14	Review		Reading summary due
June 17–21	Final assessment period		Final home exam

Note: Topics and dates mentioned on this syllabus may be adjusted slightly based on progress or due to unforeseen circumstances. Consult the version on Quercus for updates.

Tutorial Schedule

Dates	
May 10–May 12	Tutorial 1
May 17–May 19	Tutorial 2
May 24–May 26	Break
May 31–June 2	Tutorial 3
June 7–June 9	Tutorial 4

Note: Details on the tutorial readings will be available at the beginning of the term.

Policies

Illnesses and late work

In response to the COVID pandemic, the University of Toronto launched a unique and centralized tool to report illnesses, the **Absence Declaration**. For any situations affecting your ability to complete term work in time (COVID, cold, flu, other illness or injury, family situation), please fill in the Absence Declaration on [ACORN](#). You will be able to save a copy. Attach the copy of your Absence Declaration to your work, and it will be taken into consideration by the TAs.

The procedure is as simple as that. *There is no need to contact the instructor or the TA about illnesses and no need to share personal details about medical conditions.* Everything is done using the online Absence Declaration.

No late work can be submitted after five business days following the end of the Final Assessment Period (that is, past the date of July 7). If you have an illness or similar situation and cannot complete term work by that date, you need to initiate a [petition process](#) through your college registrar.

Plagiarism

To ensure a fair evaluation for all students, the University has strict guidelines regarding plagiarism. Please make sure to consult the University's documentation on plagiarism to avoid any unpleasant experiences. In particular, this guide is a useful reference:

<https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/>

Turnitin

Submission to Turnitin is done when uploading written work using the UofT portal (Quercus). The statement from the University regarding the use of Turnitin reads as follows:

“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.”

Appealing a mark

Demands for appeal regarding a mark are to be justified in writing (250 words maximum) and submitted to the TA who marked the work. The policy of the Faculty of Arts and Science reads:

“If a TA originally marked the work, the remarking request should go first to the TA and any appeal of that should go to the course instructor.

Such a request entails a remarking of the work. Hence, if a remarking is granted, the student must accept the resulting mark as the new mark, whether it goes up or down or remains the same. Continuing with the remark or the appeal means the student accepts this condition.”