

**Canadian Government and Politics
Political Science 2230E
The University of Western Ontario
2011-2012**

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Course Time: Tuesday 2:30-4:20 p.m.
Classroom: SH 3345

Prerequisite: Political Science 1020E or 020E
Antirequisites: 2130, 2133a/b, 2155f/g, 130, 133a/b, 155f/g

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE PREREQUISITES/ANTIREQUISITES

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have **not** taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be **ineligible** for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. **This decision cannot be appealed.** If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Course Description:

Canada is one of the most unique countries in the world. Often overshadowed by its southern neighbour, Canada is a country that blends elements of socialism with market liberalism, freedom with deference, and leading with following. Canada's political system has its roots in the United Kingdom, but it has come to be much more – an experiment of ethnic conflict management, Aboriginal self-rule, and governance of a diverse, multicultural people within a vast land mass. Canada is also a country that has faced, and continues to face, numerous challenges to its confederation. This course will familiarize students with the basic concepts, institutions, processes, issues, political cleavages and challenges in Canadian governance and politics.

Course Philosophy:

The subject of politics, inevitably, is controversial. There are many different opinions about the questions it raises, and evidence for these opinions is conflicting. While the Professors have

their own points of view, students are not asked to share those views. What is important is to recognize the assumptions from which an argument proceeds and to be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses both of the logic of the argument and of the evidence that is presented to support it. Student evaluation in this course will be based not on the conclusions of arguments, but on how those conclusions are formed, presented, and substantiated.

Required Readings:

The MacIvor and Brooks texts are required and are available from the UWO Bookstore.

Four required readings are taken from the Brodie and Trimble text cited below. Copies of this text have been placed on reserve at Weldon library.

MacIvor, Heather. *Parameters of Power: Canada's Political Institutions*, 5th edition. Toronto: Nelson, 2006.

Brooks, Stephen. *Canadian Democracy*, 6th edition. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Brodie, Janine and Linda Trimble, eds. *Reinventing Canada: Politics of the 21st Century*. Toronto: Pearson Education, 2003.

Evaluation:

Tutorial Participation: 10%

Critical Analysis: 10% DUE: October 11, 2011

Annotated Bibliography: 10% DUE: November 22, 2011

First Exam: 25%

Research Paper: 20% DUE: February 7, 2012

Final Exam: 25%

Participation in Tutorials:

Tutorials are an integral component of the course and materials covered in tutorial will be examined. The structure of tutorials will vary weekly, from discussion to debates to group activity. Tutorial will commence in week 2 of the course. Attendance is compulsory. Should circumstances arise that prevent you from attending your assigned tutorial, meet with the professor from that term to discuss your situation. If the circumstances are medical, the professor may ask you to submit the appropriate documentation to Social Science Academic Counselling.

Assignments:

See special instructions below.

Exams:

The mid-year and final exams will take place during the scheduled exam periods.

Exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer and/or essay-style questions. The exams will cover all lectures, assigned readings, materials posted in the course web site, AND materials covered in tutorials. More specific information will be given prior to the exams.

Email:

The Professors and Teaching Assistants will respond to email and will do their best to reply within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Do note that university policy precludes the Professor and T.A.s from responding to email messages that were not sent from a UWO email account. Note, also, that grades may not be discussed via email. Please do not send email messages via WebCT.

Web Site:

There is a web site set up for this course, available at www.webct.uwo.ca. Copies of the syllabus, assignment information, and lecture outlines will be made available on the web site. Students must also go through the web site to submit their work to Turnitin.com before handing in their assignments. Class announcements will be posted there. Accordingly, students should check the web site regularly.

Resources:

Students are encouraged to visit the library and use the services of the reference librarians for help with their critical analysis, annotated bibliography and research paper. Bruce Fyfe, the research librarian for political science, will visit the class during the first term. The Writing Support Centre at UWO is available to help students with their assignments (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/index.html?main>).

Students can also make use of the Martin Westmacott Political Science Resource Room, located in SSC 4109. The room has a variety of resources (videotapes, books, journals and newspaper articles) and program information about undergraduate programs offered by the department. The room is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Various support services are also available through UWO. You can access information about the Registrar's Office at <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca> and Student Development Services at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments are due in class (the lecture). Assignments may be submitted before or at the end of lecture (by 4:20 p.m.), or during the break in the lecture. **The professor will not be in the classroom to accept assignments after the end of class (4:20 p.m.).** Assignments may not be submitted by fax or email, outside of class time (the lecture), or while the lecture is in progress.

All assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference

database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). Assignments **must** include a copy of the originality report generated by **Turnitin.com** to be accepted. Students must submit their work to Turnitin through the course web site, in the folder labelled “Submit Assignments to Turnitin”. A paper copy of the assignment, including the Turnitin originality report, must be handed in during class.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> .

Late penalty:

Late assignments may be handed in during class 1 week following the original due date with a 15% deduction. Assignments that are more than 1 week late will **not be accepted** for grading.

Extensions:

Extensions are not given. Students are able to hand assignments in late subject to the stated policy above. However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances, you may seek academic accommodation, as detailed below. If you fail to hand in an assignment, but are pursuing academic accommodation, **please advise your professor immediately**.

A Note Regarding Computer Problems:

Students are expected to back up their written work and lecture/tutorial notes. Furthermore, students will be responsible for finding replacement lecture/tutorial notes where they fail to back-up their files.

Academic Accommodation:

If a situation should arise where you require accommodation because of a medical or personal issue, Social Science Academic Counselling (located at SSC 2105/2114) is available to help you. You can talk to a counsellor, who can then pass along any recommendations for accommodation. Their contact information is:

Telephone: 519 661-2011

Recorded information: 519 661-2052

Fax: 519 661-3384

Email: ssaco@uwo.ca

Office hours: 9:30am - 4:00pm

This procedure means that you do not have to provide your instructor or T.A. with any details of your situation, but ensures that the proper documentation has been provided. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SPEAK WITH A COUNSELLOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER AN ISSUE ARISES.** Academic accommodation will **ONLY** be provided if you speak with an Academic Counsellor and provide them with documentation of your issue and if the issue is brought to their attention in a timely fashion. While academic accommodation may be

warranted, students should not assume that a full week's extension will be granted. Instead, the accommodation will reflect the seriousness of the situation. For example, if a student produces medical documentation detailing that s/he was sick for two days, a two-day extension normally will be granted. Therefore students should submit their work accordingly, even if the academic accommodation process is still underway.

Note Regarding Medical Illness:

Please be aware that the policies regarding medical documentation have changed. The following is an excerpt from the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students (S.08-113).

Documentation from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following web site:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. Hard copies are available from Academic Counselling in the Faculties.

Documentation from Student Health Services

Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a "release of information." This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student's home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student's home Faculty Academic Counselling service.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Grade Appeals:

If you are concerned that your assignment was not graded fairly, you should first discuss the grade with the T.A. who marked your assignment. After that meeting has occurred, you may ask to have your assignment reviewed.

To request a review of your assignment, you must provide a 1 page explanation as to why you think your assignment was improperly graded (i.e. what do you think you did that should have been given more weight?). The explanation, the original assignment, and a clean copy of the assignment should be submitted to your Professor **no later than 3 weeks** after the assignment was **made available for return**. A second reader will then grade your paper. If the second reader assigns a grade that is less than 5% higher or lower than the original grade, the original grade will stand. If the second marker assigns a mark that is 5% (or more) higher or lower than the original grade, the assignment will be passed on to the Professor for final grading.

NOTE: Students must take responsibility for picking up their marked work in a timely manner. **No appeals will be considered more than 3 weeks after the assignment/exam was made available for return.** Grades may be either raised or lowered on appeal.

Students who wish to appeal an examination grade should follow the same procedure noted above for assignments.

Use of Electronic Devices:

Students are not permitted to use any electronic devices during exams. Students are asked to turn off their cell phones during lectures and tutorials. Laptops are permitted during lectures and tutorials ONLY for the purpose of note-taking; if students use their computers for other activities their laptops may be confiscated for the remainder of the session.

Assignment Instructions

Critical Analysis:

Students are to provide a critical analysis of ONE of the scholarly works listed below. The articles are from the Canadian Journal of Political Science and are available online from <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=CJP&bVolume=y> or in the library (call number H1.C36).

The criteria for critical analysis provided in Part 2 of “What is Expected of the Student?” should guide your work. Students are expected to use the information gathered through their critical reading of the article to write their analysis. The paper should be structured in 3 parts. The first part, the introduction, should contain background information about the article, including the full citation and a statement of the topic, as well as a thesis statement about the student’s overall evaluation of the piece. The second part should be a concise summary of the article, describing the author(s)’ argument and what evidence is provided as support. The third section should include the student’s analysis of the article, referencing concepts, assumptions, structure, evidence, logic and conclusions and their appropriateness.

Your critical analysis should be approximately 2000 words (excluding endnotes, parenthetical notes, and bibliography), typed and double-spaced, using a standard 12 point font and standard (1"/2.54 cm) margins. Cover pages are not necessary for this assignment. At the top of your assignment, please include your name, student number, and the name of your T.A., as well as the title of the article you have chosen to analyze.

Students will be graded on their understanding of the article, the strength of their critical analysis, and their organization and writing style (including grammar and proper use of citation).

Articles for Review (Choose one)

- Bilodeau, Antoine, Stephen White and Neil Nevitte. 2010. "The Development of Dual Loyalties: Immigrants' Integration to Canadian Regional Dynamics." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 43 (3): 515-44.
- Saurette, Paul and Shane Gunster. 2011. "Ears Wide Shut: Epistemological Populism, Argutainment and Canadian Conservative Talk Radio." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 44 (1): 195-218.
- Wesley, Jared. 2009. "In Search of Brokerage and Responsibility: Party Politics in Manitoba." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 42 (1): 211-236.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Students may choose to use other sources in preparing their critical analyses, but are not required to do so.

2. Each analysis must include endnotes or parenthetical notes and a bibliography, organized according to the Chicago Style. Help with using the Chicago Style can be found at the following UWO library resource:

<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/Chicago.pdf>

NOTE: ALL CITATIONS (whether using footnotes, endnotes or in-text citation) MUST INCLUDE REFERENCES TO PAGE NUMBERS. Students *will* be penalized for incorrect citation style.

3. Analyses **must** include a copy of the turnitin receipt generated by **Turnitin** to be accepted. Students can submit assignments to Turnitin through the course web site, in the folder "Submit Assignments to Turnitin."

4. The critical analysis is due on October 11, 2011 and may be handed in at the lecture (before class, at the break, or at the end of class only). Assignments may not be submitted by fax or email or outside of class time (the lecture). Late assignments may be submitted during class on October 18, 2011 with a 15% deduction in accordance with the policy on late penalties set out above. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted for grading.

Annotated Bibliography:

In the first term, you are required to submit a descriptive annotated bibliography of sources that you will use when writing your paper (to be submitted in the second term). Choose one of the paper topics listed below (under "Research Paper"). Please note that students will not be allowed to change essay topics once their annotated bibliography has been handed in; choose your topic wisely. An annotated bibliography contains a complete citation and concise summary of the source, including its main argument (approximately 50-100 words). For guidance on how to write an annotated bibliography, go to <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/annotated-bibliography> or make an appointment with your TA.

Students are expected to include 8-10 scholarly sources. **No more than 2 web-based documents** may be counted towards your use of scholarly sources, and their relevance for your research topic must be clearly evident. (Note that journal articles housed in the library's electronic databases are not considered web-based documents.)

The annotated bibliography is expected to be no more than 5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced, using a standard 12 point font and standard (1"/2.54cm) margins. Cover pages are not necessary for this assignment. At the top of your assignment, please include your name, student number, and the name of your T.A., as well as the essay topic you have chosen.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Citations must be organized according to the Chicago Style. Help with using the Chicago Style can be found at the following UWO library resource:

<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/Chicago.pdf>

NOTE: Students *will* be penalized for incorrect citation style.

2. Annotated bibliographies **must** include a copy of the turnitin receipt generated by **Turnitin** to be accepted. Students can submit assignments to Turnitin through the course web site, in the folder "Submit Assignments to Turnitin."

3. The annotated bibliography is due on November 22, 2011 and may be handed in at the lecture (before class, at the break, or at the end of class only). Assignments may not be submitted by fax or email or outside of class time (the lecture). Late assignments may be submitted during class on November 29, 2011 with a 15% deduction in accordance with the policy on late penalties set out above. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted for grading.

Research Paper:

Essays should be between 3000 and 3500 words (excluding endnotes, parenthetical notes, and bibliography), typed and double-spaced, using a standard 12 point font and standard (1"/2.54 cm) margins. Papers that are significantly over or under the specified length will receive deductions.

The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate your ability to write a research essay with a clear and concise argument and to demonstrate an understanding of the subject of enquiry. To write a successful paper you must take a position, construct an argument and marshal evidence to support your position. Students also must consider the arguments against their own position and, where possible, rebut those counter arguments. Your objective is to present and defend an argument in a clear, logical, and organized manner.

Students will be graded on their understanding of the topic, the quality of their critical analysis and argumentation, and their organization and writing style (including grammar and proper use of citations).

Papers must present a clear and logical argument (thesis) based on scholarly research. To do so, you must use no fewer than 8 **scholarly sources**. **No more than 2 web-based documents** may be counted towards your use of scholarly sources. (Note that journal articles housed in the library's electronic databases are not considered web-based documents.) Deductions will be taken where students fail to incorporate between 8 and 10 academic sources in their papers. Deductions also will be taken where students rely too heavily on one or two sources.

Please include **the name of your T.A.** on the cover page of your essay.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Students **must** write on one of the assigned topics. Requests to write on special topics will not be entertained. Essays submitted on a topic that is not listed in this course outline will be assigned a grade of "0." Students are not allowed to change their topic from the one used for the Annotated Bibliography. It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.

2. Students should consult Part 3 of "What is Expected of the Student?" as well as the writing guide posted on the course web site before beginning their research papers. Students also are encouraged to attend writing clinics offered by the Writing Support Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>) throughout the year to improve their writing skills.

3. Each essay must include endnotes or parenthetical notes and a bibliography, organized according to Chicago Style. Help with using the Chicago Style can be found at the following UWO library resource: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/Chicago.pdf>

NOTE: ALL CITATIONS (whether using footnotes, endnotes or in-text citation) **MUST INCLUDE REFERENCES TO PAGE NUMBERS**. Students *will* be penalized for incorrect citation style.

4. Papers **must** include a copy of the turnitin receipt generated by **Turnitin.com** to be accepted. Students can submit assignments to Turnitin through the course web site, in the folder "Submit Assignments to Turnitin."

5. Papers are due on February 7, 2012 and may be handed in at the lecture (before class, at the break, or at the end of class only). Papers may not be submitted by fax or email or outside of class time (the lecture). Late assignments can be submitted during class on February 14, 2012 with a 15% deduction in accordance with the policy on late penalties set out above. Papers more than 1 week late will not be accepted for grading.

Research Paper Topics

1. Interest groups, also known as advocacy groups, are important actors in the Canadian political system. However, their role is highly contentious. In your view, do interest groups contribute to, or undermine, Canada's liberal-democratic system?
2. Multiculturalism is often cited as an important aspect of Canada's national identity and praised as a policy that promotes equality among cultural groups. However, some critics argue that multiculturalism is 'bad for women'. In light of these criticisms, is multiculturalism a policy that is worth preserving?
3. Liberal-democratic ideals require that elections be free, fair, and based on universal suffrage where every individual's vote is accorded equal weight. Prior to 2004, there were no federal limits on political contributions made to parties and candidates so long as the monies came from eligible contributors (ie. not a foreign interest). However, political financing changed dramatically with amendments to the *Canada Elections Act* in 2003 and the enactment of the *Federal Accountability Act* in 2006. These changes, which included a per-vote subsidy to parties, were aimed at addressing corruption in election financing and encouraging parties to engage individual voters, rather than relying so heavily on wealthy corporate and union contributors. It was hoped that these changes would enhance the fairness and transparency of elections, equalize the ability of parties to compete for power, and encourage democratic engagement with citizens. Nonetheless, the political financing regime has received significant criticism and remains hotly contested, with the current government planning to phase out the per-vote subsidy over the next five years. Keeping in mind the democratic function of elections and the other basic provisions of Canada's federal political financing regime, should the per-vote subsidy to political parties be eliminated?
4. In 1989, former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney stated, in reference to section 33 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, that the Canadian Constitution "is not worth the paper it is written on." Should the notwithstanding clause be removed from the *Charter*?
5. Should Canada's Indigenous peoples be recognized as sovereign, self-governing nations by the Canadian state?
6. Do you agree with the following statement?

"At present, few government or opposition MPs have any real opportunity to put their constituents first in votes in the House of Commons. Real power is concentrated in the hands of the party leaderships. Canadian democracy itself would benefit if we put our present mind-numbing party discipline where it belongs - in the history books."
7. Despite comprising 51% of the Canadian population, the percentage of women sitting in the House of Commons has hovered around 20% since 1997. In 2011, women secured only 24.7% of the seats in the House of Commons, earning a world ranking of 38th when it comes to the representation of women in national parliaments and lagging behind countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Rwanda, and Uganda. What do you think explains

the underrepresentation of women in Canadian politics? What, if anything, do you think should be done to address this gender imbalance?

Lecture Schedule

TERM I

Week 1: September 13

Introduction

- No readings assigned

Week 2: September 20

Constitution as Master Institution

- MacIvor pp. 3-25, 65-72, 76-80, 555-614
- Brooks pp. 126-35

Week 3: September 27

The Executive (Formal and Political) I

- MacIvor pp. 259-93
- Brooks pp. 230-51

Week 4: October 4

The Executive (Formal and Political) II

- Same as Week 3

Week 5: October 11

*****CRITICAL ANALYSIS DUE*****

Parliament

- MacIvor pp. 205-58
- Brooks pp. 138-47, 257-69

Week 6: October 18

Federalism

- MacIvor pp. 81-131, 575-82
- Brooks pp. 194-229

Week 7: October 25

Federalism

- Same as week 6

Week 8: November 1

Researching for Your Annotated Bibliography

Megaconstitutional Politics I

- MacIvor pp. 133-68, 600-14
- Brooks pp. 148-60

Week 9: November 8
Megaconstitutional Politics II

- Same as Week 8

Week 10: November 15

Political Parties

- MacIvor pp. 363-417
- Brooks pp. 280-93, 302-7

Week 11: November 22 *** Annotated Bibliography Due ***

Elections, Electoral Systems and Reform

- MacIvor pp. 419-47
- Brooks pp. 293-302, 307-11

Week 12: November 29

Participation, Voting, and Citizen Engagement

- MacIvor pp. 448-77

Week 13: December 6

Catch-Up / Review for Exam

- No readings assigned

WINTER BREAK

TERM II

The Legal Context

Week 14: January 10

The Judiciary

- MacIvor, chapter 10

Week 15: January 17

Essay Research and Writing Workshop

- Part 3 of “What is Expected of the Student?”
Essay writing guide (course web site)

Week 16: January 24

The Charter

- Brooks, chapter 6

The Societal Context

Week 17: January 31

Canada and the World

- Brooks, chapter 15

Week 18: February 7 *RESEARCH PAPER DUE*****

Quebec

- Brooks, chapter 12

Week 19: February 14

Regionalism

- Brooks, chapter 4

READING WEEK

Week 20: February 28

Indigenous Politics I

- Brooks, chapter 14

Week 21: March 6

Indigenous Politics II

- Brodie and Trimble, chapter 3 (Ladner)

Week 22: March 13

Gender Politics

- Brooks, chapter 13 (pp. 424-447);
- Brodie and Trimble, chapter 8 (Trimble)

Week 23: March 20

Multiculturalism, Race and Ethnicity

Student Exercise: Take the *Race Implicit Association Test* at: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

- Brooks, chapter 13 (pages 412-424);
- Brodie and Trimble, chapter 7 (Smith)

Week 24: March 27

Sexual Minorities

- Brodie and Trimble, chapter 10 (Filax and Shogan)

Week 25: March 3

Interest Groups and Social Movements

- Brooks, chapter 10

Week 26: April 10

Catch-Up

- No assigned readings

What is Expected of the Student?

1. THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The subject of politics, inevitably, is controversial. There are many different opinions about the questions it raises and evidence for these opinions is conflicting. While the instructors have their own points of view, the student is not asked to share any of those views. What is important is to recognize the assumptions from which an argument proceeds and to be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses both of the logic of the argument and of the evidence which is presented to support it. The student's evaluation in this course will be based not on the conclusions of arguments but on how those conclusions are formed and presented. The objective of the course is to help students develop the skills of critical analysis.

2. CRITERIA FOR CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF READINGS

Given this objective, particular emphasis will be placed on the student's ability to deal critically with assigned readings. Some of the questions you will need to consider in approaching the readings are listed below. Others may occur to you in the course of your studies. It is not necessary that you attempt to answer all of these questions. Some will be more appropriate to your analysis than others.

Objectives

- What specific purposes does the author have?
- Do these purposes serve some broader purpose? For example, does the author wish to defend or attack a particular theory or ideology?
- Are the purposes (both kinds) clearly stated?
- Does the author formulate the questions to be answered in a way which makes the conclusions inevitable?

Concepts and Assumptions

- What concepts are adopted in the analysis? Are they clearly defined? Are they specifically stipulated to suit the author's purpose or are they generally accepted?
- What basic assumptions and premises enter the analysis? Are they made explicit or are they hidden? Are they generally accepted or are they contestable?

Structure, Evidence, Logic

- What is the method of argument? Does the author propose hypotheses which are to be tested or does he/she develop a thesis?
- What kind of evidence is used? (For example, official documents, newspaper accounts, survey research, personal interviews, aggregate economic or social data.) What are the strengths and weaknesses of analysis with evidence of this kind? Has the author taken account of the weaknesses?
- Is the presentation of the evidence consistent with the method adopted? For example, if hypotheses are to be tested, is that what the author really does?
- Is the argument internally consistent? Does it follow logically?
- Is the interpretation of evidence reasonable?
- What, if any, are the alternative interpretations and/or explanations for the findings the author presents? Does the author anticipate and effectively respond to alternative interpretations and/or explanations?

Conclusions

- What are the author's conclusions? Are they reasonable? Or does one of the questions suggested above serve to call them into question?
- What implications do the conclusions have for the general subject you are dealing with? What implications do they have for the broader subjects of the course?

3. RESEARCH PAPERS

Students should apply the same criteria in their own written work. Of course, assignments cannot be based on the kind of original research to be found in published literature. But neither are they meant to be just a summary of what you have read. Take a position and make the best case you can for it -- taking into account the strength and weaknesses of your sources.

The best procedure is to prepare an outline summarizing the paper's thesis, the basic structure of the argument supporting the thesis, and the conclusions. In your outline include brief references to the evidence supporting the points you raise. The outline should serve as your basic guide in writing.

The first paragraph of the essay should present a clear and concise statement of the purpose of the paper: What is the question which the paper addresses? What thesis will it develop?

Each subsequent paragraph should have a clear function in the development of the argument. In presenting your case ensure that you substantiate each point. To assert something is not to demonstrate it. The test is whether you have supporting evidence and whether that evidence is credible. Therefore, it is important that you cite the source or sources for each piece of evidence you present.

To be convincing you must be able to deal with counter-arguments. What are the alternative interpretations of the evidence? Why do you think your interpretation is more convincing?

The conclusion should be brief and be clearly linked to the question raised and the thesis proposed in the first paragraph. What is the significance of your argument for the larger issues to which the essay topic is addressed?

In preparing your assignments you should be very careful in how you use sources. Students are responsible for complying with the University's policy on plagiarism, which is attached.

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Accessibility at Western

Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.