

Political Science 2230E
The University of Western Ontario
Canadian Government and Politics
Course Outline

Type: Summer Evening Course (Essay); May 7 to July 25/13 (final exam is after this)

Place: SSC 3024

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays; 7-10pm

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson Office: SSC 4141

Home E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 6-7pm; Fridays 10.30am-11am (until June 14)

Required Readings: (available at U.W.O. bookstore)

1/ Stephen Brooks. Canadian Democracy. 7th Edition. (Oxford, Don Mills, Ont.: 2012.)

Structure: **Canadian Government and Politics 2230E** is an introductory course in the field of Canadian politics. Each class will have a lecture and a discussion component. Participation is strongly encouraged. There will be a mid-course test, a final exam and one essay.

As well, 5 in-class comprehension assignments will be given. These will be about 1 hour in length and will feature your understanding of a short piece of Canadian political writing/opinion. The minimum length of these is 3 pages double-spaced. Grades will be pass/fail on all of these 5 assignments. All will begin at 7pm – please note dates below.

In general, the course is not based around all current political events, although some will be discussed.

Topics: All readings are from the Brooks text (7th ed.). The lecture may deviate, at times, from the text. It may prove difficult at times to keep to the schedule below but every effort will be made to follow it.

Tues. May 7 - course outline; course expectations (no readings)

Thurs. May 9 Canadian history and the development of the state (Ch.1)

Tues. May 14 - Canadian political culture (Ch. 2)

Thurs. May 16 – assignment #1

Tues. May 21 – Poverty and Gender politics (Chs.3, 15)

Thurs. May 23 - Language politics and the Media (Chs.12, 13)

Tues. May 28 – Aboriginal politics (Ch.16)

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Thurs. May 30 – assignment #2

Tues. June 4 - the Canadian Constitution and constitutionalism in Canada (Ch. 5)

Thurs. June 6 - last day con't (Ch. 5)

Tues. June 11 - Canadian federalism (Ch. 7)

Thurs. June 13 – assignment #3

Tues. June 18 – regionalism in Canada (Ch. 4)

Thurs. June 20 - **in class test 7-8pm (essay format)**

Tues. June 25 – regionalism con't (Ch.4)

Thurs. June 27 – assignment #4

Tues. July 2 – the Canadian executive (Ch. 8)

Thurs. July 4 - the Canadian legislature (Ch. 8)

Tues. July 9 – the Canadian bureaucracy (Ch.9)

Thurs. July 11 –**essay due (in class, 7pm)**

Tues. July 16 - the Canadian courts (Ch.8)

Thurs. July 18 – political parties in Canada (Ch. 10)

Tues. July 23 - elections in Canada (Ch.10)

Thurs. July 25 – assignment #5

Grade Breakdown:

Final Exam: 40% (essay, on whole year, TBA)

Mid-course test: 20% (essay style, Thursday, June 20/13)

Essay: 35% (8-10 double-spaced pages, due Thursday. July 11/13)

Assignments: 5%

Late Penalty for Essay: 15% flat rate; after 2 weeks late (including weekends), paper gets a zero. Computer breakdown is not an excuse. You must have a backup copy of your paper. DO NOT E-MAIL PAPERS

DR. JONASSON'S GENERAL COURSE RULES

The following rules are to be taken very seriously. They will be strictly enforced. Every student must be treated fairly; the rules below will ensure that all students will be treated in a just manner. If you follow the rules laid out here, you will have a much better chance of doing well in the course. If you break the rules, you will suffer certain consequences.

1/ Do not be disruptive in class. After one warning, you will be asked to leave. Continual behavioural problems may lead to more severe consequences (eg. removal from the course).

2/ All grade values in the course outline are 'set in stone'. There will be no re-weighting or bell-curving. No extra assignments will be given. No items will be omitted from the final grade.

3/ All due dates (eg. essays, assignments, tests, exams) in the course outline are 'set in stone', unless they are moved to a later date by myself. Nothing will be made due earlier than the dates indicated in the course outline.

4/ All essays must be handed to me in class on the due date. Once the class is over, the paper is late.

5/ All late papers must be handed to me directly. Please let me know if this is not possible ASAP.

6/ The late penalty is 15% flat rate (see above).

7/ I have never lost a paper. *A claim of a lost paper is not valid.* Do not let other students hand in your late papers; they may not be reliable. **YOU MUST HAVE A BACKUP COPY OF YOUR PAPER.**

8/ **E-MAILED ESSAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** I will simply hit the delete button.

9/ As indicated in the policy of the dept., there are some legitimate excuses which may allow students to get limited extensions for essays, tests and exams. **ALL EXCUSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE** (eg. doctor's note). Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. **I must have the counselor's permission within 2 weeks of the missed essay or test. The note must be produced immediately in the case of the final exam. Failure to produce the proper documentation within the time period will result in a grade of zero on the missed essay, test or exam.**

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10/ The longest extension given for an essay or a test, for some valid excuses, will be two weeks. Most extensions will actually be shorter than this (eg. if a doctor's note says that you were sick three working days after the essay was due and you hand it in five working days late, your extension is for 3 days and the paper is 2 days late) Try to see the counselor before something is due, if possible.

11/ No essay will be accepted after two weeks late (10 working days), without a proper excuse.

12/ I take all marking very seriously and I am unwilling to change a grade unless I have made a real error (eg. marked you down for a statement which is not wrong; marked you down for a grammatical error which is not wrong). Subjective feelings are not a valid basis for an appeal (eg. "I think you are too hard on me"; "I have never had a mark this low"). **All appeals must be put into writing. I may take a day or more to make my decision. Even if you just want to discuss the grade, you must put your concerns into writing.**

NOTE: If you are a student with a serious concern, whether valid or not, and you are unable to keep up with the course for a period of longer than one month (for summer evening) or two weeks (for intersession) , I strongly advise that you drop the course. It is my experience that students who get too far behind do not finish in any case or receive an uncharacteristically low grade. Sometimes unfortunate events occur in our lives; try to persevere, but if you cannot, it is no shame to reduce your course load in certain situations.

13/ I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers' college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 2 courses (half or full) with me and have a grade of 80% or better (as an average in the courses).** However, good character is an important consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (eg. those who ask for higher grades without merit) or those with 'entitlement' attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks notice for any deadlines and always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a term.**

14/ Do not ask me for final grades (or final exam grades). These must be released by the Registrars Office first.

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POL.SCI. 2230E ESSAY
The University of Western Ontario
Dr. Jonasson

Length: 8-10 pages double-spaced

Due date: Thursday, July 11/13 (hand in it in during class)

Lost Assignments: It is your responsibility to have other copies of your paper.

Bibliography: You must include a bibliography. Failure to do so will result in an "F" grade.

Citations: In a paper of 12-15 pages, I expect 25-35 citations. Please use at least 3 books.

Appeals: You may see me about your grade, but be aware that I mark carefully! **YOU MUST PUT ALL CONCERNS IN WRITING.** I will only change a grade if you prove to me that I am in error about certain pieces of factual information in your paper (bring documents to prove!). I will not accept arguments for appeal which are of a subjective/judgmental nature (eg. "I think you were too hard on me; I always get better marks than this with other professors."). Always be courteous! Please remember that I do not give grades according to your personality - try not to be personally offended by what you consider a poor grade.

Essay questions/ thesis statements

Choose one as the core argument of your paper (you may take the reverse of each).

1/ Canada should consider a different electoral system at the federal level.

2/ The separatist movement in Quebec is still powerful and remains a threat to Canadian unity.

3/ Canadian Medicare is threatened by a weak federal role in health care.

4/ Courts in Canada are too activist and are usurping the powers of elected legislatures in Canada.

You may do your own topic but you must give me a thesis statement for approval.

ESSAY TIPS

Introduction

- half – 1 page double spaced
- come to thesis statement quickly (first 3 or 4 lines)
- avoid prose ('flowery' or colloquial writing)
- outline the major points (at least 3) which support your thesis statement
- do not elaborate on the points
- avoid quotations

Thesis statement - one line which clearly sets out the argument. Take a stand! Do not write a discussion paper looking at all the angles. All thesis statements must be of the type where the statement can be proven or refuted.

Body of paper

- (whatever length assigned; usually 7-11 double spaced pages)
- divide into several paragraphs based on the major points in the introduction
- use statistics, quotations and other support material (always cite these)
- on average, you should have 3 citations per page in the body of the essay
- do not discuss anything which weakens your thesis statement
- avoid going off on tangents

Conclusion

- half – 1 page double spaced
- should not be identical but should be a reiteration of your introduction
- sum up: say that you have proven your thesis statement

NOTE: Avoid first person ('I'); try to say things like 'this essay' or 'this author' instead

CITATIONS: Always cite direct quotes. Always cite statistics right away. Try to cite major theories which are clearly not your own. When in doubt, cite – but do not cite every line of your paper. Do not paraphrase. **If a quote is longer than 25 words, centre the quote on every line, indent both sides of it (do not double space) and do not use quotation marks (use double marks for the shorter quotes).**

You may use footnote or endnote or bracket style. Every citation must be numbered (even brackets). Use the consistent referencing style you are used to. All sources should have: author, title, publisher, place published, date and page no. Net sources must have Web address (I realize that the author is not always given).

WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR:

- 1/ *good style* (spelling, grammar, proper academic writing);
- 2/ *proper structure* (see above);
- 3/ *good content* (did you prove your essay?);
- 4/ *research* (good citations)

**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.

Mental Health at Western: If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.