

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3370G 001**  
**“The Politics of Western Canada”**

**COURSE OUTLINE, Winter term, 2015**

**Classroom:** #4112, SSC

**Class time:** Wednesdays 10:30-12:30 pm

**Instructor:** Dr. Cristine de Clercy, Email: C.Declercy@uwo.ca

**Office:** SSC 4135, telephone 661-2111 ext 85163

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 1:30-3 pm; and by appointment.

**An Important Notice About Course Requirements and Antirequisites**

*It is your responsibility to ensure that you have successfully completed all prerequisite courses, and that you have NOT taken an antirequisite course. A lack of a prerequisite course may not be used as the basis for an 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 requisites to take this course, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period.*

**Course Description**

The course supplies an analysis of the political institutions and governmental processes within the four Western provinces of Canada appropriate to a third year seminar course. Attention is given to subjects such as party system development, leadership patterns, enduring public policy debates, and characteristic provincial political culture. We will focus on factors common to this region’s governments and politics, along with factors that serve to distinguish the provinces from each other. As well, some consideration is devoted to understanding how “the west” has been traditionally defined within and beyond its boundaries.

**Course Expectations**

Students are expected to attend all seminars, to do the readings each week and to participate actively in class discussions. Seminar classes only work where students are prepared for class, willing to share with each other and to learn from each other. You are encouraged to contribute your views during class discussions, and also to treat all class members with courtesy and respect. You are expected to pay due attention and refrain from distracting the other students, and to turn off all electronic devices during class time (of course, with the exception of those used for any anticipated emergency or medical situation). The course instructor claims material and image copyright. Please consult *The University of Western Ontario Code of Student Conduct* (at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>) for more detailed rules and procedures.

**Required texts:**

Berdahl and Gibbins, Looking West, UWO Bookstore.

**Recommended texts:**

Paul Thomas et al. *Manitoba Politics and Government*.

Jene Porter (ed), *Perspectives of Saskatchewan*. University of Manitoba Press. Check UWO Bookstore; also on reserve at DB Weldon.

**\*\* Check Course Reserve List at DB Weldon for additional texts\*\***.

**Additional useful sources:**

Canada West Foundation, especially its publications such as: Canada West Foundation, *State of the West 2010*, available free at [http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/StateWest2010\\_Full\\_Publication.pdf](http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/StateWest2010_Full_Publication.pdf)

The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan (electronic resource) at <http://www.esask.uregina.ca/>

Government of Alberta website

Government of British Columbia website

Government of Manitoba website

Government of Saskatchewan website

*Prairie Forum*, a scholarly journal concerning the prairies (<http://www.cprc.ca/prairieforum>)

**Grading Structure**

Article presentation	15%
In class participation:	15%
Book review	10%
Research paper	30%
Final Exam:	30%

**Details of Grading Structure**

***Article Presentations and Critiques***

Worth:	15% in total
Due:	As scheduled.
Miss penalty:	Students who are not in class on the day they are to present receive a grade of zero, except in the case of <u>documented</u> extenuating circumstances where the penalty may be waived at the Professor’s discretion.

On a minimum of three occasions (more in the case of smaller classes), students will be responsible for introducing an article to the class. Each time, you will give a brief summary of the article, highlight its main points, discuss it with reference to other articles under discussion that day and in prior classes, evaluate its overall argumentation, and identify key weaknesses and omissions. Marks are awarded based on overall understanding of the article’s arguments, merits and weaknesses, context and value for

studying politics. In the case of books and longer readings, students may be asked to introduce parts of the work, depending on class size.

### ***In Class Participation***

Worth: 15%  
Due: Every class.  
Miss penalty: Students who are not in class and who do not submit documentary evidence of extenuating circumstances will not accumulate credit for participation on such days.

Every seminar day, students will sign a register of attendance. The instructor will take note of the quality and quantity of verbal contributions, and will award marks based on the intellectual content and evidence of learning contained within such remarks. The total grade will be calculated as the sum of marks obtained in all the sessions beyond the first introductory class. Because this is a seminar course, class participation is mandatory. Zero class participation will result in a grade of "0" for each such session. Attendance is mandatory; undocumented absences negatively will affect grades.

### ***Book Review***

Worth: 10%  
Due: Wed Feb 4, 2015, in class  
Length: 3 pages minimum; 5 pages maximum (where a page equals 250 words in 12 point font)  
Late penalty: 3% per working day, to a maximum of ten working days late, after which the essay will not be accepted for grading, except in the case of documented extenuating circumstances.

This essay's specific focus, expectations and requirements will be communicated in a separate assignment handout distributed in class.

### ***Research Paper***

Worth: 30%  
Due date: Wed March 25, 2015  
Length: 16 pages minimum; 20 pages maximum (where a page equals 250 words in 12 point font)  
Late penalty: 3% per working day, to a maximum of ten working days late, after which the essay will not be accepted for grading, except in the case of documented extenuating circumstances.

As with all such essays, it is to be original work that relies on high quality sources of information and informed analysis. The essay's specific focus, expectations and requirements will be communicated in a separate assignment handout distributed in class.

Students are to submit an electronic copy to the TurnItIn portal on the class OWL site (see for more information <http://turnitin.uwo.ca/index.htm>), and one identical, written copy in class. This “required paper 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 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.” All acts of plagiarism are serious academic offences and will be dealt with as per UWO’s articulated sanctions. **Your essay won’t be counted as submitted on time unless a copy is submitted both to Turnitin and in class at the start of class on the due date.** Papers that are late will lose 3% of the assigned mark for each working day the paper is late. Papers more ten working days late will not be accepted for grading. Extensions may be granted only in the case of documented extenuating circumstances, at the Professor’s discretion.

### ***Final Exam***

Worth:	30%
Date:	as scheduled in April by the Registrar.
Length:	2 hours

This is a closed book exam, held in the final exam period. No electronic devices of any sort are allowed in the exam room. Note that “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.”

### **Required Readings and Reading Schedule**

At the start of the term, the instructor will distribute in class the term’s “Reading Schedule,” which lists each week’s mandatory readings. The Schedule will indicate where students can retrieve the assigned readings beyond the mandatory course text. Some additional, suggested readings will be listed. The materials will be available on the web, JSTOR or at the DB Weldon Library. The instructor may change the readings occasionally. In this case, students will be informed a minimum of two weeks prior to any such change.

### **Additional Notes and Information**

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.

The course instructor claims material and image copyright. So, please ask for permission if you want to audio record or video record any part of the course.

The Professor will do their best to reply to queries during normal business hours (9 am-5 pm) within 72 hours (excluding weekends). Do note that university policy precludes the Professors and T.A.s from responding to email messages that were not sent from a Western email account. Note, also, that grades may not be discussed via email and that no assignments will be accepted via email. Also, please do not send email messages via OWL. *Note owing to large volumes of email, if you need an unusually quick response from us, drop by my office or call the office line- ext 85163.*

**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](mailto:ssaco@uwo.ca)  
Office hours: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help from people available right here at UWO. These people are dedicated health professionals who go to great lengths to help students cope with academic and personal stresses.

**Finally, remember to keep in touch! I'm always very willing to go over tests and work you have written during office hours to help you to improve future grades. Have a great term!**

**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.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto: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.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.