

Political Parties  
POL 3316G  
Winter 2016 Course Outline

Course Instructor and Location:

Instructor: Rob Leone  
Office Hours: Thursday – 13h00 to 14h00 (please e-mail for an appointment)  
Office: SSC 4140  
Telephone: 519-661-2111 ext. 84929  
E-Mail: [rleone@uwo.ca](mailto:rleone@uwo.ca)  
Web site: [www.robleone.com](http://www.robleone.com)  
Twitter: @robleone  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RobLeone.PhD](http://www.facebook.com/RobLeone.PhD)

Lectures: Wednesday 12h30 to 14h20  
Classroom: SSC 3018

Course Overview & Learning Objectives:

Political parties are often considered the engines of modern democracies. They are the organizing agents of our political system as they help aggregate public opinion, select candidates for office, choose leaders, and allow for a smooth functioning of legislatures. Despite their significant institutional importance, people are losing faith in political parties, and some even argue that political parties are in decline. These negative sentiments about political parties present a major concern for democracy: if political parties are nearing the end of their period of prominence, what might replace them as organizing agents of our political system?

By the end of the course, students will meet the following learning objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse theories and methodological approaches in political science
2. Apply knowledge of key political institutions, actors and ideologies to analysis of political issues in research papers and presentations
3. Demonstrate an understanding of Canadian political systems in a comparative context
4. Discuss the research and knowledge in Political Science is informed by research in other Social Sciences
5. Apply their understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods in political science to critically evaluate current research
6. Demonstrate an awareness of how power, culture and history condition/influence knowledge formation in Political Science
7. Recognize the limits of their own political knowledge, in light of exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience
8. Recognize the ambiguity and uncertainty of Political Science; and understand the ubiquitous and controversial nature of politics
9. Be able to situate knowledge historically and contextually
10. Be able to assess evidence critically

11. Communicate in a variety of formats, including written and verbal (position papers, reports and research papers)
12. Communicate in an analytic and clear fashion
13. Communicate to a variety of relevant audiences
14. Recognize the importance of listening
15. Demonstrate well developed, independent information literacy and research skills (such as those articulated by the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries)
16. Use organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence
17. Work effectively with others, demonstrating the skills of giving feedback to peers , responding to feedback, and resolving conflict and use of active listening
18. Be able to identify goals for their own professional development and further learning

### Course Format

A. This course is seminar based and is primarily based on discussion by all seminar participants.

### Assessment of Learning

Policy Brief:	10%
Group Seminar:	20%
Participation:	20%
Democratic Audit:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

### Expectations:

Students are expected to attend seminars, read the required readings, and complete all of their tasks to the best of their ability, on time, and honestly. The principles of Western's policy on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students should be aware of what constitutes an academic offence, and they should also be aware of other aspects of appropriate student conduct. It is expected that students attend every seminar, preferably on time.

Students who cannot complete any of the course requirements due to medical illness or bereavement are expected to follow university policies as early as possible. Students should be aware of the rules for acceptable practices in this regard.

### Policy Brief:

The Trudeau government is engaging in a series of democratic reforms designed to alter the way Canadian democracy functions. Among the lingering institutional problems that have persisted for decades is the Canadian Senate. Given the litany of scandal and questionable ethics that have plagued Canada's upper chamber, Prime Minister Trudeau campaigned, in part, to reform the Canadian Senate. His policy objective is to turn the Canadian Senate into a non-partisan institution full of merit-based appointments rather than appointments based on patronage and party affiliation.

There has been some degree of contestation about this plan. The purpose of this assignment is to get a better sense of what the policy proposal is and what it means for Canadian democracy. You

are asked to write a policy brief on the topic and evaluate whether you think the plan has merit or whether it needs a rethink.

A document will be posted on OWL with information about what a policy brief is, how to write one, and gives you a template that you should use. The **policy brief is due by 4:00 pm on January 19<sup>th</sup>** and it is worth 10% of your mark. After 4:00 pm, there will be a 5% late penalty applied, but your brief must be submitted no later than 12:00 pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Briefs will not be accepted beyond 12:00 pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>, and you will be awarded a zero for the assignment. Students are requested to submit their assignments via Dropbox on OWL. Please ensure your file opens properly.

### Group Seminar:

There are three seminars that students will sign up to lead. The topics will be about three of our larger political parties at the federal level: Liberal, Conservative, and NDP. We will evaluate these parties based on criteria that the group will create. Your group will have to develop this criteria and provide the class with some readings to prepare your class mates for the discussion. You should come on your assigned date prepared to present some thoughts and engage the class in a discussion. **You must submit a presentation outline, a series of discussion questions, and suggested readings one week prior to your presentation.** All members of the group should be assigned tasks to complete this project.

This assignment is worth 20% of your course grade. Each group will sign up for their presentation date. You will be assessed on the quality of your preparatory work, your presentation, and the ability to sustain a discussion for the seminar period.

### Participation:

Attendance will be recorded each week and the participation grade will be based on an assessment of each student's contribution to class discussion and attendance at seminars. Please note that **regular participation in class discussions is essential.** The participation grade will be assigned in April. Participation is worth 20% of your course grade.

### Book Review:

It has been more than a decade since leading Canadian political scientists engaged in an audit of Canadian democracy. Students are asked to read the book *Political Parties* by William Cross (UBC Press, 2004) to see how he audited political parties. Write a book review on the audit. Book reviews are short reviews of the key take aways from the book, what was good and bad from the reader's perspective.

The book review should be 1250 to 1500 words long, or 4-5 pages (excluding title page and bibliography), and be written with an acceptable 11 or 12 point font with standard margins. The assignment **must be completed before 12:00 pm on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.** Students who submit it after 12:00 pm will receive a 5% late penalty. Assignments submitted after 12:00 pm on Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 will not be accepted and a zero will be awarded. The book review is worth 20% of your course grade, and should be submitted via OWL.

## Final exam:

Final exam will be scheduled for the Winter exam period. The exam will cover the entire course. Students will be provided with guidance on how to prepare for the final exam during the last day of class. The final exam will be a written exam, and is worth 40% of your course grade.

## Required Texts:

- o MacIvor, Heather (ed.) *Election*. (Toronto: Emond Publications, 2010)
- o Cross, William. *Political Parties*. (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004)

## Schedule of Lectures:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of Lecture</b>	<b>Assigned Reading</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	January 6	Introduction to the Course	None assigned
<b>Week 2</b>	January 13	Do we need electoral reform?	Chapter 3 and 5
<b>Week 3</b>	January 20	Partisanship and the Senate	Guest Lecture
<b>Week 4</b>	January 27	Political Culture and Ideology	Chapter 13 and 14
<b>Week 5</b>	February 3	Understanding Voter Motivation	Chapter 11 and 12
<b>Week 6</b>	February 10	Who wants to run anyway?	Chapter 6 and 7
<b>Week 7</b>	February 24	Parties and the Message	Chapter 9 and 10
<b>Week 8</b>	March 2	Rules, Money and Politics	Chapter 4 and 8
<b>Week 9</b>	March 9	Liberals: The winning formula?	Group Seminar
<b>Week 10</b>	March 16	Conservatives: What next?	Group Seminar
<b>Week 11</b>	March 23	The NDP: Orange Crush or Crash?	Group Seminar
<b>Week 12</b>	March 30	Revisiting the democratic audit	Parties Book
<b>Week 13</b>	April 6	Conclusion and Exam review	No Readings

## **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:

- o the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- o 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/>*

## **PLAGARISM\***

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.