

The University of Western Ontario

Political Science 1026F 001 (Fall 2026)
POLITICAL POWER AND PARTICIPATION

Syllabus version date: September 1, 2026

Course Time:	Tuesdays 11:30am – 1:30pm and Thursdays 11:30am – 12:30pm
Instructor:	Prof. Martin Horak
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm (in person)
Office	SSC 7237
Email:	mhorak@uwo.ca

Antirequisites

Political Science 1020E, Political Science 1021F/G, and Political Science 1022F/G.

Land Acknowledgement

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples. This acknowledgement is particularly significant for students of political science, since politics is grounded in land. Recognizing and illuminating the historical and continuing realities of dispossession and disempowerment experienced by Indigenous peoples in London, Ontario and Canada can help scholars and students of politics to build a foundation for right relationships and just coexistence among all who live here.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is a broad introduction to the study of politics. Our media landscape is dominated by stories about political violence, the mobilization of hatred, abuses of authority, and deep disagreements over policy, so it is easy to become cynical about politics. But politics is also an essential foundation for much of what we value and hold dear. The well-being and security that so many Canadians enjoy today is made possible by our political institutions, which underpin a stable framework of law and provide essential public goods – ranging from roads to legal currency to public education – without which our societies and economies could not function.

This course will help you to understand the conflict and division that marks contemporary politics, but also the ways in which politics enables people to work together to pursue their needs, aspirations and capacities. You will be introduced to key concepts that political scientists use to understand the world of politics: power, legitimacy, polarization, parties, elections, democracy, the state, territory, and many more. You will also learn how to ask *why* questions in politics, and how to develop thoughtful, evidence-based answers to these questions. Why has populism been on the rise? Why are some countries democracies, others dictatorships? What

factors influence whether people choose to vote, and how they vote? Why do liberal democracies produce unequal outcomes, even though they are built on the principle of political equality? Throughout the term, we will engage with these and other explanatory questions.

POL1026 has a particular focus on the *institutions* that structure political power, such as parliaments, electoral systems and economic systems; and on political *participation* – how people come together to influence political outcomes. We will pay special attention to the ways in which young adults mobilize around issues that are important to them. The course features a lot of Canadian content, but we will also place Canada in comparative perspective by exploring politics and political systems in other countries around the world.

This course will also teach you some basic academic skills. You will learn to apply concepts to understanding real-world cases, to use evidence to support arguments, to distinguish reliable from unreliable sources of information, and to properly reference sources.

POL1026 does *not* focus on international relations, global politics, war and conflict studies, political philosophy (= normative theory) or critical political theory, since these subjects are covered in POL1025. Those of you who would like to continue into any Political Science program stream at Western must take **both** POL1025 and POL1026. The two courses can be taken in either order. *Taking both courses at the same time is strongly discouraged.*

Course Format

POL1026 is built primarily around **in-class learning**. Classes take place on Tuesdays (11:30am – 1:30pm) and Thursdays (11:30am – 12:30pm). **To succeed in this course, you must attend class regularly.** The required readings are necessary preparation for the lectures and they will give you a good foundation of understanding, but testable material will come from both the readings and the lectures, and a significant proportion of testable material will be covered in class only.

Tuesday classes will usually consist of two *Lectures* (45 – 50 minutes each) that cover core material. Thursdays are devoted to the *Politics Lab*. In Lab sessions you'll have an opportunity to learn research and writing skills, engage with guest speakers, work with partners, and more.

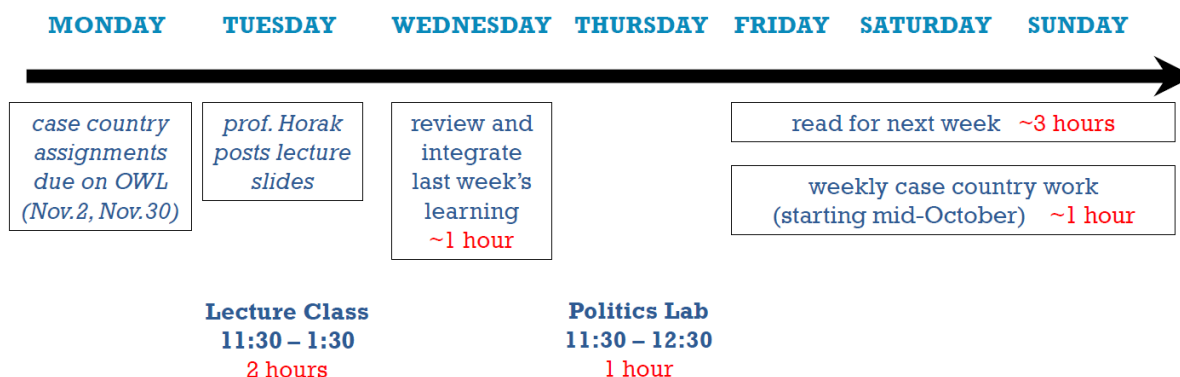
The course has 21 Lectures and 11 Labs in total. For details, please see the “Weekly Topic and Reading Schedule” below. Please read the schedule carefully – there are a few exceptions to the Tuesday / Thursday rhythm outlined above.

Time Commitment and Workflow

Learning about political science for the first time is challenging. You will be exposed to a lot of new ideas and information, and to succeed in this course you must commit the necessary time to it. While different people learn at different paces, a reasonable recommended time commitment is about **8 hours per week**. This chart should help you to plan your time:

POL1026: WEEKLY WORKFLOW

time commitment = 8 hours per week



Course Materials

The POL1026 reading load is significant – about 30-35 pages per week. The recommended weekly reading time is approximately 3 hours. You should do all of the reading in advance of the relevant lecture. There is one required **textbook**:

Heywood, Andrew and Matthew Laing. 2025. *Politics, 6th edition*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

The textbook is available from the Western Bookstore in hard copy (\$79.05) and ebook (\$70.00).

This course also features some **additional readings** that are not in the textbook. These are listed in the Weekly Topic and Reading Schedule below and are available either on OWL under “Course Readings,” or through hyperlinks embedded directly in the Syllabus. *Note that some additional readings for Politics Lab sessions may be added to the Syllabus throughout the term.*

Methods of Evaluation

POL1026 features four evaluation components: in-class pop quizzes, case country assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam, structured as follows:

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT
Pop Quizzes	You will complete seven short multiple-choice quizzes on OWL. Your course quizzes grade will be the average of your top five of seven quiz scores (5 quizzes x 3% weight each). Each quiz will take place at a previously unannounced time during Tuesday and/or Thursday classes. You will have five minutes to complete it (up to ten minutes for accommodated students). Quizzes will test your understanding of basic terms and concepts. Questions will be drawn from a pool so different students will see different questions.	15% of course grade
Case Country Assignments	In early October you will choose two case countries from a list of 12-14 possible countries. You will complete a series of short assignments through which you will learn about politics in these countries and practice some basic research and writing skills. Your case country knowledge will be useful in the final exam. <i>Fact Sheets:</i> You will fill out a template to answer questions about politics in your countries. You will complete two Fact Sheets, one due on November 2 and the other on November 23. <i>Current Events Logs:</i> You will regularly read news articles about politics in your case countries and put together Current Events Logs, in which you will cite and briefly summarize the articles that you've read. You will complete two Current Events Logs, one due on November 2 and the other on November 23. All Case Country Assignments will be graded on a pass/fail basis using a grading rubric. They will be weighted as follows: Fact Sheet #1: 3% of course grade Fact Sheet #2: 6% Current Events Log #1: 2% Current Events Log #2: 4% <i>Further instructions and details for case country assignments will be posted on OWL and discussed in class in early October.</i>	15% of course grade
Midterm Test	You will write an in-person, closed-book midterm test on OWL during our regular class time (11:30-am – 1:30pm) on Tuesday October 27. The test will be timed, with only one attempt allowed per question. You will have 50 minutes (unless you have AE-approved accommodation). The midterm will have two sections: 1. Multiple choice. Questions will be drawn from a pool so different students will see different questions.	25% of course grade

	2. Short answers. You will be shown several <i>key terms</i> (drawn from a longer list – see below). You will choose three, and define them and explain their significance for the study of politics. <i>Further instructions will be discussed in class in late October.</i>	
Final Exam	The final exam will be two hours long, closed-book, handwritten, and in-person. It will be cumulative (that is, it will test material from the whole course). It will have two sections: 1. Short answers. As in the midterm test, you will be shown several <i>key terms</i>. This time you will choose four, and define them and explain their significance for the study of politics. 2. Short essays. You respond to two essay question prompts (out of a choice of four to six options in total). <i>Further instructions for the final exam will be posted on OWL and discussed in class in early December. Our exam review class on Dec. 8 will include training on how to write essay responses.</i> Please note that writing the Final Exam is a necessary condition for passing this course.	45% of course grade

Key Terms

Throughout the course, Prof. Horak will develop and post a list of *key terms* to OWL (under “Key Terms” in “Content” on the OWL site). Understanding these terms will help you build foundational knowledge for the study of politics. *Key terms* will be discussed in the lectures and readings. About 8-10 key terms (on average) will be added to OWL each week. Your understanding of key terms will be tested in all elements of course evaluation – pop quizzes, case country assignments, midterm and final exam.

Tips for Success in this Course

1. Use a planner or app to keep track of your course work and deadlines (for this and all other courses). Schedule weekly time for reading and review of course material.
2. Make a habit of checking our OWL site regularly to ensure that you have seen everything posted. Additional materials will be posted throughout the term.
3. Do the readings before class. As you read, take notes and write down questions that you have. You can ask these during class (see below), talk about them with your classmates, or take them to your TA or Prof. Horak during office hours.
4. Come to all of the lectures and labs and take notes. Prof. Horak will post the lecture slides before class each Tuesday and you can take notes directly on these.
5. Make a weekly habit of reviewing your reading and lecture notes together.

6. Be an **engaged learner** – in other words, ask questions and have conversations with others about the course material. This can feel intimidating, especially in a large class, but the more you do it, the easier it will be. Here are some ways in which you can do this:

- *Connect with your classmates.* Try forming a study group and meet weekly for support, and/or find a buddy with who you can share and compare notes and ideas.
- *Ask questions in class.* Prof. Horak will pause sometimes during Tuesday lectures to ask questions and invite questions from you.
- *Post on The Question Forum on OWL.*
- *Participate in Thursday labs.* Our labs will feature some interactive segments, such as exercises in which you can talk about politics with your classmates, and our guest speakers will always leave time for questions and discussion.
- *Connect with your TA.* You will be assigned to a Teaching Assistant. Your TA is a great go-to person to check in about course concepts and materials. You can **e-mail** your TA or go to their **office hours** to connect in person. E-mail addresses and office hours for TAs are posted on the OWL site under “TA and Instructor Contacts” in “Content”.
- *Connect with Prof. Horak.* Prof. Horak is happy to talk to you about course concepts and readings, questions arising from the lectures, connections between course material and current events, and your interests in political science. E-mail him or visit him in person during his office hours.

Note: If you e-mail your TA or Prof. Horak, you can usually expect a response within 48 hours (weekends excluded). However, at times your TAs and Prof. Horak may have a high volume of emails to deal with, so please be patient.

Understanding Course Requirements and Policies

It is your responsibility to read the Syllabus carefully, and to check the OWL site regularly or information, resources, and updates. While your TA and Prof. Horak are happy to talk to you about course content, please do **not** come to them with questions about things that are already explained in the syllabus or on the OWL site (such as deadlines, accommodations policies, etc.). This will just waste their time and make them crabby! Do not rely on your classmates or other secondhand sources for information about course requirements and policies – it may be inaccurate. Read the syllabus and other materials on our OWL site.

Elements of the syllabus such as readings and special guests may be revised during the term, and additional information on assignments and other course components will be communicated and posted throughout the course. **The current version of the syllabus will always be posted under “Course Syllabus” on the OWL site.**

WEEKLY TOPIC AND READING SCHEDULE

Notes:

- Pay attention to **assigned page numbers** in the textbook. You don't need to read the whole book! Also, read the assigned pages **in the order listed**.
- Readings that are not from the textbook will either be posted on the OWL site or hyperlinked from this Syllabus – see the schedule below for specifics.
- Readings are subject to change during the term. Additional (brief) readings may be posted during the term where the schedule notes "TBD". **Always consult the current version of the Syllabus** posted on the OWL site under "Syllabus".

LECTURE or LAB #	DATE	TOPIC	READING (with page numbers)
Lecture 1	Thurs Sep. 10	Introduction: Politics, Political Science, and this Course	no reading
Lecture 2	Tues. Sep. 15	Politics and the State	Patrick O'Neil. 2024. <i>Essentials of Comparative Politics</i> , 32-45 <i>*Posted on OWL in 'Course Readings'*</i>
Lecture 3	Tues. Sep. 15	What Do States Do?	O'Neil, 50-51 and 54-55 <i>*Posted on OWL in 'Course Readings'*</i>
Lab 1	Thurs Sep. 17	Reliable Information in the Age of Fake News	'Evaluating Nonacademic Sources' and 'POL1026 Information and News Links' <i>*Posted on OWL in 'Course Readings'*</i>
Lecture 4	Tues. Sep. 22	Political Ideologies: A Brief Introduction	Heywood and Laing, 31-53 (from "Classical ideological traditions" to "Green ideology," inclusive)
Lecture 5	Tues. Sep. 22	Political Economy: Varieties of Capitalism	Heywood and Laing, 72-78 ("The role of the state") and 171- 181 ("Varieties of capitalism")
Lab 2	Thurs Sep. 24	Science and Power in Political Research	Heywood and Laing, 19 and 11 ("Faces of power" inset only)

Lecture 6	Tues. Sep. 29	Nations and Nationalism	Heywood and Laing, 146-163
Lecture 7	Tues. Sep. 29	Multilevel Politics	Heywood and Laing, 426-435
Lab 3	Thurs Oct. 1	Un-Settling the Nation-State: Indigenous Politics in Canada <i>Special guests:</i> Victoria Bomberry Prof. Chris Alcantara	Justin Brave Noisecat, 2024. "Mary Simon is Leading Indigenous Peoples to New Heights". <i>The Walrus</i> . Read here: https://thewalrus.ca/mary-simon/
Lecture 8	Tues. Oct. 6	Varieties of Democracy	Heywood and Laing, 86-89 (stop at "Legitimation crises") 97-101 (stop at "Models of democracy") 107-114 ("Democracy in practice: rival views", plus box on p.114)
Lecture 9	Tues. Oct. 6	Political Regimes	Heywood and Laing, 124-143 (skip "debating" box on p.132)
Lab 4	Thurs Oct. 8	Understanding Politics Through Cases	'Case Country Assignment Guidelines' <i>*Posted on OWL*</i>
October 12 – 16: Reading Week			
Lecture 10	Tues. Oct. 20	The Changing Social and Economic Foundations of Politics	Heywood and Laing, 181-185 (stop at "Neoliberalism in crisis?")
Lecture 11	Tues. Oct. 20	Political Culture and Identity	Heywood and Laing, 192-200
Lab 5	Thurs Oct. 22	Is Liberal Democracy in Crisis? (+ intro to midterm test)	VDem Democracy Report 2026 – read the Executive Summary (p.4-5), and scan the next few pages for a sense of the content. <i>*Posted on OWL in 'Course Readings'*</i>
Tuesday October 27: Midterm Test – in person, in class, 11:30am			

Lab 6	Thurs Oct. 29	Making Democracy Work: A Life in Politics <i>Special guest:</i> London City Councillor Skylar Franke	TBD
Monday November 2: Fact Sheet #1 and Current Events Log #1 due by 9:00pm on OWL			
Lecture 12	Tues. Nov. 3	Elections	Heywood and Laing, 249-265
Lecture 13	Tues. Nov. 3	Voting Behaviour, Public Opinion and Media	Heywood and Laing, 265-269 and 223-240
Lab 7	Thurs Nov. 5	Understanding the US Mid-Term Elections <i>Special guest:</i> Prof. Matt Lebo	TBD
Lecture 14	Tues. Nov. 10	Parties and Party Systems	Heywood and Laing, 272-295
Lecture 15	Tues. Nov. 10	Populism	Cas Mudde. 2021. "Populism in Europe", 577-593 <i>*Posted on OWL in 'Course Readings'*</i>
Lab 8	Thurs Nov. 12	Gender and Political Attitudes <i>Special guest:</i> TBD	TBD
Lecture 16	Tues. Nov. 17	Interest Groups	Heywood and Laing, 298-314
Lecture 17	Tues. Nov. 17	Social Movements and Contentious Politics	Heywood and Laing, 315-318 <i>*Plus another reading, TBD*</i>
Lab 9	Thurs Nov. 19	The Politics of Climate Change	TBD

Monday November 23: Fact Sheet #2 and Current Events Log #2 due by 9:00pm on OWL			
Lecture 18	Tues. Nov. 24	Constitutions, Rights, Citizenship and the Law	Heywood and Laing, 321-335 (stop at “The question of international law”) and 337-343 (the whole section on “The judiciary”)
Lecture 19	Tues. Nov. 24	Political Executives	Heywood and Laing, 346-363
Lab 10	Thurs Nov. 26	Youth in Politics: Why Your Voice Matters, and How to Use It <i>Special guests:</i> Prof. Laura Stephenson Prof. Kate Graham	TBD
Lecture 20	Tues. Dec. 1	Legislatures and Legislation	Heywood and Laing, 373-388 (stop at “Performance of Legislatures”)
Lecture 21	Tues. Dec. 1	Policy Processes, Bureaucracy and Governance	Heywood and Laing, 403-417 (start at “Stages in the policy process”, stop at Botswana box)
Lab 11	Thurs Dec. 3	Understanding Canadian Housing Politics	TBD
Final Exam Review	Tues. Dec. 8	How to Write an Exam Essay; Key Terms Review	Resource document to be developed.

COURSE POLICIES

Note: There are a lot of course policies, in part because this is a large course. But you are responsible for being familiar with them, so **please take the time to read them carefully.**

Section I: Accommodation and Grading

Non-Medical Accommodation and Flexibility in Assessment

Students may face unanticipated challenges, and those of you in first year are learning to navigate a new and sometimes challenging University environment. To support your learning, *flexibility in assessment* is built into the POL1026 evaluation framework. Specifically:

1. Only the top five out of your seven pop quiz scores count towards your grade.
2. All four pass/fail case country assignments have a one-week flexibility window. In other words, you have *exactly one week* after the due date of each assignment to submit it on OWL without penalty. *You do not need to e-mail the instructor or your TA to let them know that you are submitting within the flexibility window.* However, if you do not submit within the one-week flexibility window, you will receive a “fail”, which is noted as a grade of zero (0), for that assignment.

Given flexibility in assessment, ***the pop quizzes and case country assignments are not eligible for undocumented absence requests.***

The midterm test is the designated assessment for POL1026, so it is also not eligible for undocumented absence requests. If you miss the midterm and do not have documented medical accommodation (see below), you will receive a grade of zero (0) on the midterm.

Medical Accommodation

If you require accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds that goes beyond the course’s flexible assessment provisions, please submit a documented request for accommodation through Western’s Student Absence Portal:

https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html#supporting

Prof. Horak will process your request once he has received it from Academic Counselling. Teaching Assistants will **not** handle accommodation requests, so please don’t approach them about these.

In the case of pop quizzes and case country assignments, documented and approved requests for accommodation will result in a reweighting of your assessments, as follows:

- if you miss more than two pop quizzes with approved medical accommodation, your quiz grade will be your average grade for all quizzes that you did *not* miss. however, if you

miss all of the quizzes (which means you will have been absent from class at least seven times), you will receive a zero (0) for the quiz component, regardless of medical accommodation.

- if you miss the flexible assessment window for any case country assignment with approved medical accommodation, the weighting of that assignment (2%, 3%, 4% or 6%, depending on the assignment) will be added to the weighting of your final exam.

For the midterm test in POL1026, students with documented accommodation due to a medical or other emergency will be eligible to write the **make-up mid-term** in person (room to be confirmed) on **Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30pm**. Students with documented accommodation who miss the make-up midterm will receive a grade of zero (0), as per Faculty of Social Science policy (see below), unless their circumstances clearly warrant transferring the weight of the midterm test to the final exam, which *may* be done at Prof. Horak's discretion.

Social Science Makeup Exam Policy and POL1026

As of September 1, 2026, the Faculty of Social Science has a new makeup assessment policy: "Students are entitled to **one makeup assessment opportunity** for a missed test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam supported by approved academic consideration. **No additional makeup opportunities will be provided.** Makeup assessments represent the final opportunity to complete a missed course assessment."

In POL1026 this policy applies only to the midterm test and final exam since, as permitted by Faculty of Social Science regulations, pop quizzes are subject to re-weighting (as opposed to a make-up assessment) in response to medical accommodation (see above).

For further details on the Faculty of Social Science makeup assessment policy, please see: https://www.advising.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/exams/makeup_exam_policy.html

Grading Policies and Grade Adjustments

The Department of Political Science has a policy that undergraduate final course percentage grades will only be rounded up to the next whole grade if they end at 0.5 or higher; otherwise, they will be rounded down.

All grading this course will be done by the TAs and Prof. Horak (other than multiple-choice questions, which will be graded automatically), and is guided by rubrics that will be shared with you on OWL. If you would like a grade for a particular item to be reconsidered, you will need to present concrete reasons why you think that the evaluation mis-applied the relevant rubric and standards. *No grade change requests will be considered simply on the grounds that you feel that deserve or need a higher grade.* TAs have no authority to consider grade change requests, which must go to Prof. Horak. If Prof. Horak accepts your request, he will re-evaluate the work in question and your grade may go up *or down* as a result. If you choose to pursue a request for a grade change, please about the process here:

https://www.advising.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html

Please note that to ensure that comparable standards are applied across Political Science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Social Science Academic Policies

For further information on Social Science academic policies, students registered in Social Science should refer to <https://www.advising.ssc.uwo.ca/index.html> , which contains detailed 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.

Section II: Academic Integrity and Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken very seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of a Scholastic Offence, here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences_26SEP.pdf

Plagiarism

You will not be writing an out-of-class essay in this course, so the potential for you engaging in plagiarism is relatively low. However, we will be learning the basics of academic referencing, the guiding principle of which is to transparently and accurately identify source materials for your work. Plagiarism violates this principle, and as such, it is worth discussing in some detail.

Plagiarism involves reliance on the work of another author without attribution. Students must compose their own essays and assignments, in their own words. Whenever students incorporate an idea, or a passage, or data from another author, they must fully acknowledge this by using quotation marks where appropriate and by properly citing the borrowed material. Plagiarism can be direct, involving straightforward copying of an author's work without providing both attribution and quotation marks. It can be less direct, involving lightly paraphrasing an author's work, rearranging their sentences while maintaining the same general structure and meaning — these would count as plagiarism even with the source or sources identified, as they rely too heavily upon the way the author or authors chose to present their ideas. Take note that students may satisfactorily write up an author's ideas in their own words but then neglect to cite the source or sources of the ideas, which also counts as plagiarism. And students may plagiarize themselves by submitting work they have previously submitted in other courses.

Multiple-Choice Tests and Cheating

Computer-graded multiple-choice tests and/or exams in this course may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns among students that may indicate cheating.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Generative AI can be a useful time-saving tool to support certain aspects of learning. However, it cannot replace learning. Recent research suggests that *productive use of AI in workplace settings is only possible if users have already understood and mastered the tasks that they are asking AI to perform for them*. Accordingly, you may use AI in this course in limited ways to *support* your learning, but you may not use it in ways that *replace* your learning.

The following uses of AI are **allowed** in this course:

- you may use AI-powered searches to do initial research for your Fact Sheet assignments.
- you may use AI-powered grammar and spell-checking tools to support a final edit of your writing on Fact Sheets and Current Events Logs.

The following uses of AI are **not allowed** in this course:

- you may not use AI as a source for any of your Case Country Assignments. You may use AI to *find* sources, but you need to use reliable non-AI sources to complete your work.
- you may not use AI to write **any** work for you. Attempting to pass off AI-generated writing as your own is dishonest and an academic offense. It also undermines your learning and makes it less likely that you will succeed on the final exam.
 - relatedly, please note that reliance on false citations (i.e., AI hallucinations) will also be considered as an academic offense. Although this doesn't involve plagiarizing from a specific author, it does involve inclusion of AI-generated material without proper attribution, and which simply may not exist to properly attribute.

The following uses of AI are not forbidden, but are **discouraged** since they will negatively impact your learning (and, most likely, your performance) in this course:

- relying on AI-generated summaries of the course readings, rather than completing the reading yourself. Such summaries may miss the elements of the reading that are most important in the context of our course and rob your learning of nuance and detail.
- asking AI to define key course terms and/or to generate study questions for you. Since AI tools do not have access to our full in-class content and this course is centred on in-class learning, the content generated is unlikely to be accurate.

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work

All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner and will never be left unattended in public areas.

Section III: Electronic Device Policies

Use of Electronic Devices

You are expected to **bring a laptop computer to every class** and to use it to take notes and to do other course-related activities. Please be respectful of your classmates and the learning environment and do not engage in disruptive or distracting use of electronic devices in class. If you do so, Prof. Horak and/or the Teaching Assistants may ask you to leave the classroom.

The **midterm test** is on OWL and is open-book, so you will use electronic devices. *We strongly recommend completing the midterm test on a laptop computer and not on a cellphone*, since OWL quiz formatting on cellphones is not good. By contrast, the **final exam** will be in person and handwritten, and *no electronic devices of any kind (including smart watches) will be permitted*.

Recording

Video or audio recording of classes in POL1026 is **not allowed** unless you have accommodations Western's Accessible Education Office (see below) that allow you to audio record lectures.

Section IV: Accessibility and Inclusion

Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register as soon as possible with Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing:

https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/register.html

The AE Office will securely share information on recommended student accommodations with your professors. If you have AE-approved additional time on timed assessments, Prof. Horak will instruct OWL to give you additional time as per your accommodations for the pop quizzes and the midterm test. If you have AE-approved accommodation for flexibility with assignment deadlines, this is already built into the POL1026 case country assignments (see above).

Furthermore, 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, please contact Western Accessibility: <https://accessibility.uwo.ca/index.html>

A Welcoming and Inclusive Classroom

The POL1026 classroom should be a safe space for discussion and debate. The readings, class lectures, and Prof. Horak's lectures will, at times, suggest perspectives that may differ from yours. We encourage you to disagree with perspectives that you do not share, even as we encourage you to also be open to amending your own point of view. All disagreement and debate in POL1026 must be based on mutual respect. Prof. Horak will not let bigoted or hateful statements go unchallenged, and if necessary, students that make such statements may be asked to leave the classroom.

Section V: Support Services and Resources

Academic Advising

Social Science students seeking guidance on university policies, degree and program planning, and other academic matters are encouraged to make an appointment with the academic advising team: [Social Science Academic Advising - Western University](#)

Writing Support

Even if your university journey is just beginning, it's never too early to get support with developing and improving your academic writing skills! To get feedback and support on academic writing, we encourage you to contact the Western Writing Support Centre: [Writing Support Centre - Western University](#)

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html> Don't wait to act – the support is out there!

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.