

**The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3348F: “FEDERALISM”  
Course Outline, Fall term 2021**

Classroom: Via Zoom meetings/or AHB 2B04  
Class time: Wednesdays 1:30-3:20 pm  
Instructor: Dr. Cristine de Clercy E-mail: C.Declercy@uwo.ca  
Office: SSC 4135  
Office Hours (Fall): TBA

**Course Description**

This course presents a deep treatment of the subject of Canadian federalism, appropriate for a senior undergraduate seminar class. Students encounter the subject from a variety of perspectives, including constitutional, comparative, institutional and theoretical analysis. The first section of the course focuses on some enduring theoretical issues, and the particulars of the Canadian case, while the latter part focuses on federalism within the constitution. The general theme of the course emphasizes the central effect of the federal system in all areas and levels of Canadian politics. To understand Canadian federalism is to understand Canada.

**Course Expectations, Attendance, and Conduct**

All students are expected to attend all class meetings, to do the readings each week (and accomplish them before each meeting), and to participate actively in class discussions. You'll learn more when you prepare for each class, share views with your colleagues and are willing to learn from them. 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, refrain from distracting the other students, and turn off all electronic devices during class time (of course, with the exception of those used for class, or any anticipated emergency or medical situation).

**Class attendance is mandatory.** For each meeting student attendance will be recorded. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic meeting may be held synchronously on Zoom or in person. Note that students who miss more than six classes without documented, extenuated circumstances may be debarred from writing the final exam.

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 governing all classes conducted at Western University.

*An Important Notice About Course Requirements and Antirequisites*

The University administration reminds you “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.”

**Required texts and readings:**

- A-G Gagnon and Johanne Poirier. *Canadian Federalism and Its Future-Actors and Institutions*. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2020.

This is available at the UWO Bookstore, and also as an e-book (at <https://www.mqup.ca/canadian-federalism-and-its-future-products-9780228001973.php> )

**Recommended reading:**

- Hans Michelmann and Cristine de Clercy (eds.) *Continuity and Change in Canadian Politics: Essays in Honour of David E. Smith*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006 (at Weldon).

**Course Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course students will

- 1) have a deeper, critical ability to understand the theory of federalism;
- 2) have a more sophisticated understanding of the pragmatic constitutional and intergovernmental effects of federalism;
- 3) be more polished and practiced in terms of participating in class discussions and giving verbal analyses;
- 4) demonstrate an improved capacity to communicate clearly in written arguments.

### Summary of Grades

Class participation	30%
Reading introductions	5%
Analytical essay	20%
In-class test:	20%
Take-home final exam:	25%

### Details of Grading Structure

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

Worth:	30%
Due:	Every class meeting.
Miss penalty:	Students who are not in class and who have not applied for accommodation will not accumulate credit for participation on such days.

Every meeting day, students' attendance will be recorded by the instructor. An attended class is defined as one where the student is present at the beginning of the class through to its end. 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 every session, across all the sessions beyond the first introductory class.

**\*\*\*\* The following is a critical piece of information: zero class participation will result in a grade of "0" for each such session.**

**Attendance is mandatory; undocumented absences negatively will affect grades.**

#### ***Reading Introductions***

Worth:	5% in total
Length:	Up to 10 minutes of verbal commentary.
Due:	As scheduled, in the class.
Miss penalty:	Students who are not in class on the day they are set 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 two occasions (depending somewhat on class size), each student will be responsible for introducing an article, or a section of a reading, to the class. We will set up a presentation schedule in the class early in the term. Each presenter will give a brief verbal summary of the article (5-10 minutes max), that highlights its main points, discusses it with reference to other articles under discussion that day and in prior classes, evaluates its overall argumentation, and identifies key weaknesses and omissions.

**Analytical Essay**

- Worth: 20%
- Length: Eight to ten pages (minimum 2000 to maximum 2500 words) of analysis in essay form. The essay must be submitted to TurnItIn as well as via one paper copy for marking. Both submissions are due at the start of the class.
- Due: At the start of class on Wednesday, **November 17, 2021**.
- Late penalty: 5% per day (where a day is defined as each 24 hour period beginning on the due date, at the start of class) , to a maximum of ten days late, after which the paper will not be accepted for grading.

More information about this assignment will be handed out in the class, via an "Essay Assignment Instruction Sheet." Each student is to prepare and submit an analytical essay. Marks are awarded based on overall understanding of the subject, critical analysis of its merits and weaknesses, and broader reference to the theme(s) engaged with respect to the subject of federalism.

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>). 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.

**In-class Test**

- Worth: 20%
- Date: **Wednesday, October 27, 2021**
- Miss penalty: Students who do not write the test and who

do not apply for accommodation will accrue a mark of "0" for the test.

**Take-home Final Exam**

Worth: 25%

Date: **Due Wednesday December 22, 2021 by 4:00 pm  
Submitted to the class OWL site upload link.**

Late penalty: Exams submitted late will not be accepted for grading, and so a grade of "0" will be recorded as the final exam grade, except in the case of accommodation.

This is an open book, take-home exam. The Pol 3348f "Final Exam Question Sheet" will be handed out in the last class of the term. More specific instructions for completing this exam will appear on the Pol 3348f "Final Exam Question Sheet." The exam answer may be submitted to OWL, and can be submitted much earlier than the final deadline day.

The exam is to be submitted electronically via the class's OWL TurnItIn site not later than the due time and date above, to be accepted for grading. Computer difficulties or technological limitations are not acceptable grounds justifying late exam submissions.

To be sure the exam answer is submitted without problem, plan to submit it well before the very last minute.

The final exam essay is to be an original work that communicates your individual thoughts and insights in your own words. **These are not group-authored projects.** Students are not permitted to collaborate with any other person in the formulation of the answer. **All acts of plagiarism are serious academic offences and will be dealt with as per UWO's articulated sanctions.**

**All material that is borrowed from other sources must be appropriately acknowledged through using quotations and/or proper reference citations. Be aware that The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Your final essay exam may be reviewed via such software for the purpose of plagiarism checking.**

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**Class Format, Class Schedule**

Each class follows the Class Reading Schedule, provided at the first meeting. It is the responsibility of students to read the assigned material beforehand, prepare for class and contribute actively to class discussion.

**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 prior to any such change.

### **Additional Notes and Information**

Students are expected to back up their written work and class notes. Furthermore, students will be responsible for finding replacement 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.

**E-mail rules:** The Professor will try to reply to email 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 the OWL system.**

**Extensions:** Extensions are not given. Students are able to hand assignments in late subject to the stated policies set out above in some cases where late penalties are applied.

However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances, you may seek academic accommodation, as detailed below. If you fail to hand in an assignment, but are pursuing academic accommodation, please advise your professor immediately.

### ***Academic Accommodation***

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.

Students are encouraged to contact the Social Science Academic Counselling (located at SSC 2105/2114), which is available to help you with these issues. Their contact information is:

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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

Please do check Appendix B below for further information.

Finally, remember to keep in touch! I'm very willing to go over tests, notes, and work you have written to help to improve your grades and learning.

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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.**

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

### **Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.**

Students registered in Social Science should refer to [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html) 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.

### **University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct**

**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. [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

## **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**

- The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca)
- Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:

<https://westernusc.ca/your-services/>

- Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://sdc.uwo.ca/>
- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration**

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:  
Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

- For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are **not** an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration **is not** normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing

disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability.

Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). These students should access support through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

### **Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the **online Self-Reported Absence portal**. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities **within 48 hours or less**.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances: Students will be allowed:

- a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;
- a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

Any absences in excess of the number designated above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

- The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- Self-reported absences **will not be** allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period;
- Self-reporting **may not be** used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

### **Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence**

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

## **Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence**

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.