POL 1030F:
A Beginner’s Guide to Canada
Fall 2023
Draft Date: 29 July 2023.

Please check the website regularly for updates.
The Final Version of the syllabus will be posted on OWL by September 5, 2023.

Course Instructor: Dr. Christopher Alcantara
Office: SSC 7308
E-mail: calcanta@uwo.ca
Course Venue/Time: Online – Asynchronous

Course Structure:
- Students must complete the assigned readings BEFORE watching the recorded lectures on OWL.
- Each week’s lectures will be released on Sunday at 6am, starting on Sunday Sept. 10 for week 1, Sunday Sept. 17 for week 2, etc. Please view the lectures sometime during that week before the next set of lectures is released.
- Students will complete three one-hour tests on OWL over the course of the term, with the first one occurring on Week 3 (Friday Oct. 6). The test can be completed anytime between 6am and 10pm on that day. See the schedule below. You are expected to complete the test with no aids, human, AI or otherwise.
- To pass this course, students must complete ALL quizzes and the final exam and achieve the minimum course grade to pass, as per university regulations. Failure to meet these requirements will result in an automatic failure in the course.
- Each Thursday from 10am to 11am, the instructor will host a one-hour live zoom meeting where students can ask questions. Students can also ask questions using the Forum tool in OWL. The zoom invite for the one-hour meetings will be available on OWL.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides international students, recent immigrants, and others with a comprehensive overview of Canada. Its purpose is to help mainly newcomers gain a better understanding of what it means to live, study, and work in Canada, with a focus on describing Canada’s political and legal system, its key policy debates, and its social and economic bases. Specific topics may include Indigenous rights and decolonization, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, capitalism, climate change, education policy, federalism, foreign policy, health care policy, housing policy, the legal system, immigration, Quebec, multiculturalism, and value change. Students will learn about the key characteristics of Canada through lectures, guest speakers, readings, videos, and other materials.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
At the end of the term, students should be able to:

- Describe the nature and evolution of Canada's political, economic and legal systems;
- Explain the historical and on-going importance of Quebec and Indigenous peoples to Canada and Canadian identity;
- Assess the relationship between Canadian policies and the unique and complex makeup of Canadian society;
- Synthesize information on Canada from a variety of sources.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

- Other readings are available through OWL, in the library, and/or online.

LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1) Two Tests on the Readings and the Lectures: 50%</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Week 4, Friday Oct. 6, anytime between 6am and 10pm: 25%</td>
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<td>- Week 7, Friday Oct. 27, anytime between 6am and 10pm: 25%</td>
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<th>2) Final Exam on OWL: 50%</th>
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<td>- To be scheduled by the Registrar’s Office.</td>
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*Total: 100% of Course Grade*

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

1) Three One-Hour Tests  50%
Students will write a test on OWL on the Friday of Weeks 4 and 7 (Oct. 6 and Oct. 27). Each test will be based on all course materials (e.g. lectures and readings) up to that date (cumulative) but with a very strong emphasis on materials since the last test. Students will have ONE hour to complete the test and may access the test at any time between 6am and 10pm on the day that the test is scheduled to occur.

Students are expected to complete the tests alone and with no aids, human, AI (e.g. ChatGPT) or otherwise.

2) Final Exam  50%
Students will write a final exam on OWL during the exam period as scheduled by the Registrar’s Office. It will assess students’ knowledge of ALL course materials, but with a very strong emphasis on course materials from the last test onwards.

To help you prepare for these tests and the final exam, I have uploaded templates that students should use and complete for each lecture and course reading. They can be
found under the “Resources” tab in OWL and are labelled, “reading template” and “week by week review”.

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Sept. 10): Course Details and an Overview of Canada
READ:
- Wright Introduction
- Wright Chapter 1: Beginnings

Week 2 (Sept. 17): Canadian Values and Value Change
READ:

Week 3 (Sept. 24): Canada’s Political System
READ:

Week 4 (Oct. 1): Canadian Political Economy
READ:

Week 5 (Oct. 8): Indigenous/Settler Relations
READ:
- Wright Chapter 2: Dispossessions

Week 6 (Oct. 15): Quebec and the West
READ:
- Wright Chapter 3: Nationalisms
Week 7 (Oct. 22): Multiculturalism and Immigration
READ:

Week 8 (Oct. 29): Fall Reading Week (No lectures or readings this week).

Week 9 (Nov. 5): The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
READ:
- Wright Chapter 4: Rights

Week 10 (Nov. 12): Research in Political Science
READ:
- Complete the module on the OWL page.

Week 11 (Nov. 19): Social Movements
READ:

Week 12 (Nov. 26): Public Policy and Racial Inequality
READ:

Week 13 (Dec. 3): Canadian Social Policy: The Education and Health Care Systems
READ:
COURSE POLICIES

Academic Offences and Plagiarism:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy about what constitutes a scholastic offence, here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

That policy reads:
“Scholastic Offences include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism, which may be defined as “The act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.” Excerpted from Black’s Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170. This concept applies with equal force to all assignments, including laboratory reports, diagrams, and computer projects. Students wishing more detailed information should consult their instructor, Department Chair, or Dean’s Office. In addition, they may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available in the University’s libraries. Information about these resources can be found at: http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html

2. Cheating on an examination or falsifying material subject to academic evaluation.

3. Submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials; or falsifying records, transcripts or other academic documents.

4. Submitting a false medical or other such certificate under false pretences.

5. a) Improperly obtaining, through theft, bribery, collusion or otherwise, an examination paper prior to the date and time for writing such an examination. b) Unauthorized possession of an examination paper, however obtained, prior to the date and time for writing such an examination, unless the student reports the matter to the instructor, the relevant Department, or the Registrar as soon as possible after receiving the paper in question.

6. Impersonating a candidate at an examination or availing oneself of the results of such an impersonation.

7. Intentionally interfering in any way with any person's scholastic work.

8. Submitting for credit in any course or program of study, without the knowledge and written approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which
credit has been obtained previously or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

9. Aiding or abetting any such offence.”

Note that point 8 refers to a situation in which a student submits a paper written for a previous or concurrent course. If you do this, you are committing a scholastic offense. Instead, you must produce new work for each class unless you have obtained the written permission of all course instructors involved.

Extensions and Academic Consideration for Student Absence:

Extensions are not generally given. When there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances, you may seek academic accommodation, as detailed below.

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at


The Student Medical Certificate is available at


Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at


Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

**Use of Electronic Devices:**

Laptops, iPads, smartphones and related devices are amazing tools, with remarkable capabilities. Among other things, they allow us to download PowerPoint slides, maintain a portable work station, keep neatly typed lecture notes, and stay in touch with friends through social networking sites, texting, and instant messaging. Because activities that provide entertainment for an individual (e.g., movie trailers, party photos, status updates) often prove distracting for others, there is a need to follow basic rules of electronic etiquette in a classroom setting. Whether you are sitting with friends or by yourself, please consider the impact of your electronic activities on those who are attempting to listen to lectures, watch class films, and participate in discussions. **All students are expected to comply with a simple principle: if it might distract someone sitting beside you or near you, don’t do it.**

**Lecture Copyright:**

*The course instructors claim material and image copyright so please ask for permission if you want to audio record or video record any part of the course.*

**Statement on Contact**

If you have questions or concerns, or wish to meet the course instructor in person, you can contact us via email or by attending posted office hours. **Please expect at least a 48 hour delay in receiving a response** to emails, although at our discretion responses may occur sooner.

**Statements concerning Online Etiquette**

Some components of this course may involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- please “arrive” to class on time
- please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- to minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- [suggested for classes larger than 30 students] In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
• [suggested for cases where video is used] please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
• unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

• if you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
• remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
• self-identify when speaking.
• remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

• Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
• Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
• Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
• Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Support Services

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: Academic Counselling - Western University (uwo.ca)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (https://uwo.ca/health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic
If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at


To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (https://learning.uwo.ca) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, https://westernusc.ca/services/.
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
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.

Absences from Final Examinations
If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Note: Missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation
When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the
Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at


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Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is http://www.registrar.uwo.ca.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

During exams/tests/quizzes, no electronic devices (e.g. a phone, laptop, iPad) are allowed and must be powered down and stored out of reach.

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 Website:


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).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

If a course uses remote proctoring, please be advised that you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including
some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of a course with remote proctoring will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western’s Remote Proctoring website at:

https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca.

**Support Services**

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University (uwo.ca)](https://uwo.ca/socialscience/counselling/)

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To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (https://learning.uwo.ca) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being:

https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC,  https://westernusc.ca/services/.
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

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.
B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.
You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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