

**School of Political Studies
University of Ottawa
POL 2101C: Introduction to Canadian Politics
Fall 2014**

Instructor: Gordon DiGiacomo, Ph.D.

E-Mail Address: gdigiaco@uottawa.ca (NOTE: I respond to student e-mails as quickly as possible)

Office Hour: TBD

Class Room and Time: Rm. UCU, Aud.; Tuesdays, 14:30 – 16:00, Fridays, 16:00 – 17:30

Prerequisite: POL 1101 or 18 university credits

Course Description:

Foundations of the Canadian political space. Constitution, parliamentary government, federalism, political parties, and elections. Overview of political forces - classes, groups, movements. (From the School of Political Studies web site).

Course Objective:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce the student to Canada's major political institutions and processes. This objective will be achieved through lectures, class discussions, small group work, testing, guest speaker(s), and self-directed study.

Political engagement will be a constant theme throughout the term.

Required Text:

E. Mintz, L. Tossutti, C. Dunn, Canada's Politics: Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government, second edition, (Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada, 2014).

Grading Assignments - (all assignments must be completed in order for the student to get a passing grade):

1. Mid-Term Test - this will be held on October . It will consist of True/False, Multiple Choice, Short Definition and Short Answer questions. It is worth **20%** of the student's final grade.

2. Final Examination – this will be held during the exam period and last about three hours. It will consist of True/False questions, Multiple Choice questions, Definitions, and Short-Answer Questions. It is worth **45%** of the student's final grade. It will include material from the entire term.

3. The Active Citizen Papers – **20%** of the student's mark will be based on what I call Active Citizen Papers. Students are asked to undertake 7 political participation activities and write a short paper – about 1.5 pages – on each. The paper should describe what the activity involved. A list of such activities is on pages 8-9 herein. More on this assignment will be said in class. The papers are due on December 2, the last class of the course.

NOTE: A representative from the University's Centre for Global and Community Engagement will present an alternative to this assignment.

4. Class Room Work – 15% of the student's final mark will be based on his/her work during classes, e.g., participation and attendance at the 3 DGs and at class, and short in-class assignments. A student who misses more than 3 classes will get zero.

Class Topics and Readings:

Class 1 – Friday, September 5 – Introduction; Some Basic Concepts

Readings:

E. Mintz et al., chapters 1, 7

Class 2 – Tuesday, Sept. 9 – Economic and Social Context; Historical Context I : Understanding Canada's Origins

Readings:

E. Mintz et al., chapters 2, 3

Class 3 – Friday, Sept. 12 – Historical Context II: Constitutional Evolution

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 11

Class 4 – Tuesday, Sept. 16 – Political Culture; Political Socialization

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 5

Class 5 – Friday, Sept. 19 – Federalism

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 14

Class 6 – Tuesday, Sept. 23 – Federalism

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 14

Class 7 – Friday, Sept. 26 - The Three Branches of Government – Executive Branch

Readings:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 15, 17

Class 8 – Tuesday, Sept. 30 - The Three Branches of Government – Legislative, Judicial Branches

Readings:

E. Mintz et al., chapters 16, 18

Class 9– Friday, October 3 – Political Parties, Ideologies I

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 9

Class 10 – Tuesday, Oct. 7 – Political Parties, Ideologies II

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 9

Class 11 – Friday, Oct. 10 – Discussion Groups

Reading Week, no classes, October 12 - 18

Class 12 – Tuesday, Oct. 21 – Mid-Term Test

Class 13 – Friday, Oct. 24 – Civic and Political Engagement; Social Capital; Social Movements; Advocacy Groups

Readings:

E. Mintz et al., chapters 7, 8

Class 14 – Tuesday, Oct. 28 – Environmental Politics

Class 15 – Friday, Oct. 31 – Discussion Groups

Class 16 – Tuesday, Nov. 4 – Diversity in Canada; the Charter

Readings:

E. Mintz et al., chapters 4, 12, 13

Class 17 – Friday, Nov. 7 – Diversity in Canada; the Charter

Readings:

E. Mintz et al., chapters 4, 12, 13

Class 18 – Tuesday, Nov. 11 – Electoral Systems

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 10

Class 19 Friday, Nov. 14 – Electoral Systems

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 10

Class 20 – Tuesday, Nov. 18 – Speaker ?

Class 21 – Friday, Nov. 21 – Speaker?

Class 22 – Tuesday, Nov. 25 – Canada in the World

Reading:

E. Mintz et al., chapter 6

Class 23 – Friday, Nov. 28 – Discussion Groups

Class 24 – Tuesday, Dec. 2 – Wrap-Up, Unfinished Business

Resources of Interest:

www.samaracanada.com

"You've Been Trumped" – a film about Donald Trump's purchase of stretches of Scotland's coastal wilderness to construct a golf course and the efforts of the local residents to resist that development. (Use Google).

For the Parliamentary legislative process:

http://www.parl.gc.ca/compendium/web-content/c_g_legislativeprocess-e.htm

For Parliament's committee process:

http://www.parl.gc.ca/compendium/web-content/c_g_committees-e.htm

For Library and Archives Canada's Forum on Canadian Democracy:
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/democracy/index-e.html

Public Policy Forum

www.ipolitics.ca

Students may wish to review other introductory texts including:

- Politics in Canada, (7th edition), by Robert and Doreen Jackson;
- Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, (7th edition), by Rand Dyck, C.Cochrane; and
- Canadian Democracy, (7th edition), by Stephen Brooks.

Of particular interest to students may be this book:

- Citizens Adrift: The Democratic Disengagement of Young Canadians, by Paul Howe. I have placed this book on reserve in the library.

The following may also be helpful:

Joan Grace, Byron Sheldrick, (eds.), Canadian Politics: Democracy and Dissent, (Toronto, ON: Pearson Education Canada Inc., 2006).

James John Guy, People, Politics, and Government: A Canadian Perspective, 7th edition, (Toronto, ON: Pearson Education Canada Inc., 2010).

George MacLean, Brenda O'Neill, (eds.), Ideas, Interests, and Issues: Readings in Introductory Politics, 2nd edition, (Toronto, ON: Pearson Education Canada, 2009).

Some Ground Rules:

1. Please try to get to class on time.
2. The student's Class Room Work mark will be affected by his/her attendance. A student who misses more than 4 classes will get zero on the Attendance portion of his/her Class Room Work mark. The only permissible reason for an absence is the student's health. If a student is absent for a health reason, a medical note from the University's Health Centre must be provided.
3. Students may use computers in the class room for note-taking purposes. **However, using electronic devices for reasons not related to note-taking is not permitted.** Students determined to be using these gadgets to browse, text, chat, facebook, tweet, etc. will be penalized. I reserve the right to penalize students heavily for infringing on this Ground Rule. Penalties will be subtracted from the student's Class Room Work mark.

Academic Fraud:

Academic fraud is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations, and other forms of academic evaluation. Academic fraud is neither accepted nor tolerated by the University. Anyone found guilty of academic fraud is liable to severe academic sanctions.

Here are a few examples of academic fraud:

- engaging in any form of plagiarism or cheating;
- presenting falsified research data;
- handing in an assignment that was not authored, in whole or in part, by the student;
- submitting the same assignment in more than one course, without the written consent of the professors concerned.

In recent years, the development of the Internet has made it much easier to identify academic plagiarism. The tools available to your professors allow them to trace the exact origin of a text on the Web, using just a few words.

In cases where students are unsure whether they are at fault, it is their responsibility to consult the University's Web site at the following address:
http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/eng/writing_tools.asp « *Tools for Writing Papers and Assignments* ».

Persons who have committed or attempted to commit (or have been accomplices to) academic fraud will be penalized. Here are some examples of the academic sanctions, which can be imposed:

- a grade of « F » for the assignment or course in question;
- an additional program requirement of between 3 and 30 credits;
- suspension or expulsion from the Faculty.

Last session, most of the students found guilty of fraud were given an « F » for the course and had between three and twelve credits added to their program requirement.

For more information, refer to:

http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/info/newsletter/fraud_e.html

University Resources For You

Mentoring Centre - <http://www.sciencessociales.uottawa.ca/mentor/fra/>

The goal of the Mentoring Centre is to help students with their academic and social well being during their time at the University of Ottawa. Regardless of where a student stands academically, or how far along they are in completing their degree, the mentoring centre is there to help students continue on their path to success.

A student may choose to visit the mentoring centre for very different reasons. Younger students may wish to talk to their older peers to gain insight into programs and services

offered by the University, while older student may simply want to brush up on study and time management skills or learn about programs and services for students nearing the end of their degree.

In all, the Mentoring Centre offers a place for students to talk about concerns and problems that they might have in any facet of their lives. While students are able to voice their concerns and problems without fear of judgment, mentors can garner further insight in issues unique to students and find a more practical solution to better improve the services that the Faculty of Social Sciences offers, as well as the services offered by the University of Ottawa.

Academic Writing Help Centre - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/>

At the AWHC you will learn how to identify, correct and ultimately avoid errors in your writing and become an autonomous writer. In working with our Writing Advisors, you will be able to acquire the abilities, strategies and writing tools that will enable you to:

- Master the written language of your choice
- Expand your critical thinking abilities
- Develop your argumentation skills
- Learn what the expectations are for academic writing

Career Services - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/careers/>

Career Services offers various services and a career development program to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today's world of work.

Counselling Service- <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/personal/>

There are many reasons to take advantage of the Counselling Service. We offer:

- Personal counselling
- Career counselling
- Study skills counselling

Access Service - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/acces/>

The Access Service contributes to the creation of an inclusive environment by developing strategies and implementing measures that aim to reduce the barriers to learning for students who have learning disabilities, health, psychiatric or physical conditions.

Student Resources Centres - <http://www.communitylife.uottawa.ca/en/resources.php>

The Student Resources Centres aim to fulfil all sorts of students needs.

University Policy on Language Quality and Late Submissions

Class attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course.

You will also be judged on your writing abilities. It is recommended that you take the appropriate measures to avoid mistakes such as spelling, syntax, punctuation, inappropriate use of terms, etc. You may be penalized up to 15%, to the professor's discretion.

Late submissions are not tolerated. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations deemed as such by the professor. *There will be a penalty for late submissions.* University regulations require all absences from exams and all late submissions due to illness to be supported by a medical certificate.

Absence for any other serious reason must be justified in writing, to the academic assistants of the Faculty, within five business days following the date of the exam or submission of an assignment. The Faculty reserves the right to accept or refuse the reason. Reasons such as travel, jobs, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable.

Political Participation Activities

Most of the following activities were taken from a list compiled by Samara Canada.

1. Circulating or reposting political information on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.
2. Using email or instant messaging to discuss social and political issues.
3. Blogging about a political issue.
4. Participating in an online group about a social or political issue.
5. Creating a web site on political engagement or a political issue.
6. Discussing a social or political issue face to face or on the phone.
7. Writing a letter to the editor about a political issue.
8. Making a public speech on a political issue.
9. Organizing a public event or meeting about politics.
10. Signing a petition.
11. Boycotting or “buycotting” a product.
12. Being part of a protest.
13. Working with others on an issue in my community.
14. Being active in a political group or organization.
15. Donating to a social or political cause.
16. Doing voluntary political work.

17. Contacting an elected official about an issue that concerns you.

18. Attending a political meeting.

19. Volunteering in an election.

20. Donating to a political party or candidate.

21. Being a member of a political party.

22. Standing for election to some office.

The grading criteria are the writing and the quality of the description/explanation.