



POLITICAL SCIENCE 1021F (670)
People, Power and The State
Summer 2026

Instructor: Dr. Zheger Hassan
Email: zhassan3@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This introduction to politics emphasizes how people and the state use power to achieve political aims. Students will learn essential concepts (power, authority, democracy, freedom) and influential ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, nationalism), explore our institutional landscape (legislatures, executives, the judiciary) and agents of change (parties, media, interest groups).

Prerequisite(s):

Antirequisite(s) at Main campus: [Political Science 1020E](#).

Antirequisite(s) at King's campus: [Political Science 1020E](#), [Political Science 1025F/G](#), [Political Science 1026F/G](#).

Extra Information: 2 hour lecture, 1 hour tutorial.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: POLISCI

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

Political Science 1021F (Section 670)
People, Power and the State
Intersession/Summer 2026

Lecture and Tutorials: Asynchronous Online
Instructor: Dr. Zheger Hassan
Email: zhassan3@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Online (Zoom) - Tuesdays from 12-1PM

This course presents an introduction to political science, including the basic theories, concepts, approaches, and enduring questions that motivate political research. Students will leave this course with an empirical grasp of current political debates, as well as with an overall understanding of the approaches to the fundamental issues that arise in the subfields of the discipline: political theory, comparative politics, international relations, and Canadian politics. We will study politics in formal institutions such as legislatures, judiciaries, and elections, and in spaces (e.g., social media, streets, etc.) where people mobilize to resist oppression and injustice. As such, the course offers a survey of the basic concepts that animate discussion about the nature of society, government, power, and politics. The course aims to assist students in the development of the analytical tools necessary for successful completion of the political science major. In particular, the course emphasizes learning to identify and evaluate arguments and the evidence that underpins them in both academic and non-academic publications. Finally, the course aims to assist students in developing the citizenship skills necessary for an individual interested in politics.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- develop an understanding of the key concepts, ideas, theories, and methodologies in political science;
- develop an understanding of political ideologies and explain why they are significant for shaping political behaviour
- understand the nature and scope of politics and power and how they affect people's life directly and indirectly
- develop the ability to critically analyze and engage with academic (and non-academic) sources
- build the foundations of knowledge, analysis, and application for taking more advanced courses in political science

Note on course delivery:

The course material will be delivered to students by asynchronous online instruction.

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to OWL, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with King's University College.

Required Textbook:

Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald, *Introduction to Politics* (Third Canadian Edition), (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2022).

You may purchase digital access to the online version of the textbook here:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/introduction-to-politics-robert-garner-peter-v9780190165444>

180 days - \$56.99

1 year - \$65.76

Lifetime - \$87.68

Supplementary readings will be made available on the course website through OWL.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Assignment	Value	Date due
Participation and Professionalism	20	Ongoing
Research Paper	20	May 29, 2026
Short Autobiography	10	May 15, 2026
Online Quizzes (3x5%)	15	Week of May 19 Week of May 25 Week of June 1
Final Exam	35	See Brightspace

Participation and Professionalism:

As a part of the participation component, twice weekly, students will be expected to respond to discussion questions and engage in conversation with their fellow classmates on OWL Brightspace. To receive full credit for participation, students must not only have completed the reading assignments for that week and actively participate in the discussion, but they must also demonstrate critical thinking in their engagement. Students are expected to participate in a constructive and respectful manner. Please refer to 'King's Code of Student Conduct' (available on our OWL site) for additional guidance on participation expectations.

Research Paper:

The research paper should be approximately 1500-1800 words (that is approximately 5 pages) double spaced. You may write in active, first person (I will argue; I agree with...; Based on this research, I contend, etc.). Further guidelines and topics will be available on OWL Brightspace. Each paper must have a bibliography containing at least five (5) reputable scholarly works written on the issue(s)/question(s) you have identified. In addition to peer reviewed articles and books, you may use reputable media sources, government websites and documents, and reports from international organizations and NGOs. If you are in doubt about your sources, please reach out to me via email or attend my office hours. You are required to use Chicago Style citations for the footnotes and bibliography.

Short Autobiography:

Write a two-page, double-spaced essay on your interest in politics and the study of political science. Include answers to the following questions in your response. Essays will be graded for language and following directions, not for content. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions.

1. How would you define politics?
2. When did you first become interested in politics?
3. What political events have you followed with the most attention?
4. How did you follow them? Did you listen to podcasts? Did you follow it on social media? Did you read the newspaper? Did you watch the news? Did you listen to the radio?
5. What is your current method (i.e., which platforms do you follow) for following the news?
6. What current or recent news stories are you the most interested in?
7. What are your short-term (at university and/or in your twenties) and long-term career goals?
8. What skills or knowledge do you hope to acquire from the study of political science?

Online Quizzes:

Quizzes will take place three times during the intersession term and are worth 5% each for a total of 15%. The format will be multiple choice

Final Exam:

See Brightspace.

Academic Offenses and Plagiarism:

Scholastic offenses are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the University policy on plagiarism.

All written assignments must be submitted in electronic format to the plagiarism checking website Turnitin.com (available through the course website and under license to the University). Please be advised that: 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.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) software on any course assignments is not permitted unless explicitly authorised in advance by the instructor. When writing the research paper, the use large language models (LLMs) should be supplemented with an appendix with the entire exchange(s) with the LLM. Students are expected to write a narrative at the beginning of the appendix explaining precisely how they used the LLM (e.g., to generate ideas, turns of phrase, elements of text, long stretches of text, lines of argument, pieces of evidence, etc.). This narrative should also explain why they used the LLM (e.g., to save time, to overcome writer's block, to clarify prose, etc.).

Late Policy:

Read carefully: Written assignments must be submitted by the deadline by 11:59PM. If you fail to meet this deadline, your assignment will be considered late. Late assignments will receive a penalty of 15%. Late assignments are then due the following week by 11:59PM. After that, the assignment will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

Extensions will be granted ONLY under the following circumstances:

- (1) Humanitarian grounds (e.g., in the case of death or serious illness in the family);

(2) Medical grounds.

In each circumstance, you will be expected to provide documented evidence. A copy of which may also be submitted to the Academic Dean's Office.

Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence:

King's (Western) is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based 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 at the following website:

Mental Health and Wellness at King's - King's University College

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a Case Manager/Social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

POL1021 Schedule and Reading List

Week 1 (May 4):

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course and The Discipline of Political Science

Reading: Course Outline and Garner et al., pp. 2-17.

Lecture 2: Politics and the State

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 18-39.

Week 2 (May 11):

Lecture 1: Power, Authority, and Democracy

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 40-77.

Lecture 2: Liberalism and Conservatism

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 98-103 (Liberalism) and pp. 107-111 (Conservatism).

Week 3 (May 19):

Lecture 1: Marxism, Socialism, and Anarchism

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 104-107 (Marxism and Socialism) and pp. 119-120 (Anarchism).

Lecture 2: Feminism, Fascism, and Populism

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 128-136 (Feminism); 115-118 (Fascism); and 120-123 (Populism).

Week 4 (May 25):

Lecture 1: Constitutions and Law

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 176-196.

Lecture 2: Legislatures, Executives, and Judiciaries

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 199-221.

Week 5 (June 1):

Lecture 1: Political Parties and Elections

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 238-260.

Lecture 2: Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 261-285.

Week 6 (June 8):

Lecture 1: Political Culture and Alternative Forms of Participation

Reading: Garner et al., pp. 287-307.

Lecture 2: Course Overview and Final Exam Review

King's University College

General Course Policies

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [here](#).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course. Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course. For further information, please see:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college 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, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/exams/index.html.

Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/personal-counselling>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. 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: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/gender-and-sexual-violence>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/student-code-of-conduct>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [here](#).

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/OriginalityReports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member.

Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

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.