



Political Science 1021F (574) (575) (576) (577)
PEOPLE, POWER AND THE STATE
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: E. Nicolaidis
Email: enicolai@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).

Antirequisite(s): Political Science 1020E.

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.

King's University College
POLISCI 1021F: People, Power and the State
Fall 2025

Course information:

Course Name, Number, Section: POLISCI 1021F, Number 9196, Section 570
Instructor: Eleni Nicolaides, Ph.D. (she/her)

Contact Information: enicolai@uwo.ca

Office hours: Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm via Zoom (link on OWL Brightspace)

Course 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).

Course requisites:

Antirequisite: Political Science 1020E.

Course learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Clearly communicate essential political concepts (such as power, authority, democracy, and freedom)
2. Identify and differentiate between key ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, nationalism)
3. Understand the role of governments, branches of government (legislative, executive, and judicial), and different types of political systems (presidential or parliamentary; unitary or federal)
4. Evaluate how key government institutions interact with agents of change (political parties, the media, or civil society)
5. Conduct academic research
6. Develop strong written and verbal communication skills

Mode of Instruction:

- 2-hour lecture, 1-hour tutorial
- In-person lectures

Course textbooks/materials:

- Required Textbook: George A. MacLean, Duncan R. Wood, and Lori Turnbull, *Politics: An Introduction*, 3rd edition (Don Mills: Oxford University Press Canada, 2021)
- Bookstore link to Textbook: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025A&courses%5B0%5D=574> KC/POL1021F
- Additional required readings are indicated below at no additional cost

Methods of evaluation:

Method	Weight	Due Date
Tutorial Participation	20%	Weekly (see schedule)
Midterm Take-Home Exam	25%	October 17 at 11:59pm
Research Paper	25%	November 11 at 11:59pm
Final Exam	30%	Date during exam period

- **Tutorials:** Students should attend tutorials ready to actively participate in discussion on the week's topic, including having completed the assigned readings. A student's lowest participation grade will not be counted.
- **Midterm Take-Home Exam:** The midterm will involve a combination of multiple choice and written answer questions, to be completed through the Quizzes function on OWL Brightspace. Content covered includes Weeks 1-5. The midterm will become available on October 14 and will be due on October 17. Students will have 3 hours to complete the midterm once they start it. Students must also submit copies of their short and long answer questions under Assignments on OWL Brightspace for plagiarism checking.
- **Research Paper:** Using one of the topics covered throughout the course, students will write a research paper. The research paper should have a clearly-defined topic, thesis, structure, and main arguments with supporting evidence. Papers should be approximately 1,500 words and should cite a minimum of 3 academic sources. Further information (including further guidelines on topics, structure, and the rubric) is provided on OWL Brightspace. Students must submit copies of their papers under Assignments on OWL Brightspace.
- **Final Exam:** The final will involve a combination of multiple choice and written answer questions, to be completed in-person during the exam period. The date of the exam is communicated by Western when the December exam schedule is released.
- **No student collaboration is allowed on the exams or research paper.**
- **Students will be required to submit the midterm exam and research paper through plagiarism-detection software integrated in OWL Brightspace.**

Academic Considerations:

- The new **Policy on Academic Consideration** may be found here: https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf
- **Submission windows: a 48-hour grace period** is available for the midterm exam and research paper. No assessments will be accepted beyond the submission window, unless the professor has approved a request for an extension (which will be reasonably granted when made prior to the due date), or the student has followed the policy on academic consideration (see below). Requests should include a clear proposed date for submission.

Academic Integrity:

- Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read **Western's Scholastic Discipline Policy**, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

- Within this course, **use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work** submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.
- **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>).

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

Week	Date	Event
September 4-5	September 4, 2025	First day of classes, Fall Term
September 8-12	September 9, 2025	Unit 1 Lecture: Introduction to the Course
	September 12, 2025	Last day to add or drop a Fall/Winter 24-week course or a Fall 12-week course. Courses dropped by this date will not appear on a transcript; no fee penalty. Courses dropped after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty).
September 15-19	September 16, 2025	Unit 2 Lecture: Introduction to Studying Politics Readings: Textbook, Chapter 1: Studying Politics Textbook, Chapter 2: Finding a Common Vocabulary – Political Concepts Tutorials begin
September 22-26	September 23, 2025	Unit 3 Lecture: Political Philosophy Readings: Textbook, Chapter 3: Political Thought, Philosophy and Ideology (leave ideology for next week) Toby James, "Game of Thrones: what Machiavelli might have made of the politics in Westeros," <i>The Conversation</i> , May 23, 2019, https://theconversation.com/game-of-thrones-what-machiavelli-might-have-made-of-the-politics-in-westeros-117696 Waller R. Newell, "What would Aristotle think about the current state of politics?" <i>The Conversation</i> , August 23, 2023, https://theconversation.com/what-would-aristotle-think-about-the-current-state-of-politics-210525 Christopher Pollard, "Karl Marx: his philosophy explained," <i>The Conversation</i> , July 4, 2022, https://theconversation.com/karl-marx-his-philosophy-explained-164068

Week	Date	Event
September 29- October 3	September 30, 2025	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (non-instructional day). No lectures or tutorials this week.
October 6-10	October 7, 2025	Unit 4 Lecture: Political Ideology Readings: Textbook, Chapter 3: Political Thought, Philosophy and Ideology Jérôme Viala-Gaudefroy, "How Donald Trump's populist narrative led directly to the assault on the US Capitol," <i>The Conversation</i> , January 13 2021, https://theconversation.com/how-donald-trumps-populist-narrative-led-directly-to-the-assault-on-the-us-capitol-153277 Daniel Drache and Marc D. Froese, "From Donald Trump to Danielle Smith: 4 ways populists are jeopardizing democracy," <i>The Conversation</i> , May 31, 2023, https://theconversation.com/from-donald-trump-to-danielle-smith-4-ways-populists-are-jeopardizing-democracy-206438
October 13-17	October 13, 2025	Thanksgiving (official holiday)
	October 14, 2025	Unit 5 Lecture: The Role of Government Readings: Textbook, Chapter 4: The Role of Government Agata Mirowska, Raymond B. Chiu, and Rick Hackett, "From Trump to Putin: Why are people attracted to tyrants?" <i>The Conversation</i> , July 26, 2022, https://theconversation.com/from-trump-to-putin-why-are-people-attracted-to-tyrants-186988 Jennifer Victor, "US swing toward autocracy doesn't have to be permanent – but swinging back to democracy requires vigilance, stamina, and elections," March 26, 2025, https://theconversation.com/us-swing-toward-autocracy-doesnt-have-to-be-permanent-but-swinging-back-to-democracy-requires-vigilance-stamina-and-elections-250383
	October 17, 2025	Midterm Take-Home Exam due at 11:59pm

Week	Date	Event
October 20-24	October 21, 2025	<p>Unit 6 Lecture: Branches of Government Reading: Textbook, Chapter 5: Branches of Government Fair Vote Canada, "Michael Chong is right: the Prime Minister has too much power," August 25, 2022, https://www.fairvote.ca/25/08/2022/michael-chong-is-right-too-much-power-is-concentrated-with-the-prime-minister/ Andrea Lawlor and Erin Crandall, "Longstanding Canadian confidence in the justice system may be on shaky ground," <i>Policy Options</i>, August 24, 2023, https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/august-2023/judicial-system-confidence/</p>
October 27-31	October 28, 2025	<p>Unit 7 Lecture: Political Systems Reading: Textbook, Chapter 6: Political Systems Walid Hejazi, "Canada, the 51st state? Eliminating interprovincial trade barriers could ward off Donald Trump," January 7, 2025, https://theconversation.com/canada-the-51st-state-eliminating-interprovincial-trade-barriers-could-ward-off-donald-trump-246309 Christopher Alcantara, Veldon Coburn, and Anthony M. Sayers, "New models of shared rule can secure better infrastructure in Indigenous communities," <i>Policy Options</i>, February 3, 2025, https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/february-2025/first-nations-infrastructure/</p>
November 3-7	November 4, 2025	<p>Fall Reading Week. No lectures or tutorials this week.</p>

Week	Date	Event
November 10-14	November 11, 2025	<p>Unit 8 Lecture: Elections and Political Parties 1</p> <p>Readings: Textbook, Chapter 7: Political Participation – Elections and Parties Matthew Hayes, “What the Canadian election results would have looked like with electoral reform,” <i>The Conversation</i>, October 24, 2019, https://theconversation.com/what-the-canadian-election-results-would-have-looked-like-with-electoral-reform-125848 Seàna Glennon, “Lessons from Ireland: How the country’s electoral system would strengthen Canadian democracy,” January 28, 2025, https://theconversation.com/lessons-from-ireland-how-the-countrys-electoral-system-would-strengthen-canadian-democracy-247541</p>
	November 11, 2025	<p>Research Paper due at 11:59pm</p>
November 17-21	November 18, 2025	<p>Unit 9 Lecture: Elections and Political Parties 2</p> <p>Readings: CBC News, “Compare the election promises of Canada’s major parties,” https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/features/2025/federal-party-platforms/ Lisa Birch and Alexandre Fortier-Chouinard, “Canadian political parties keep more promises than you might think,” April 23, 2025, https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/april-2025/elections-promises/</p>
November 24-28	November 25, 2025	<p>Unit 10 Lecture: The Media and Civil Society</p> <p>Readings: Textbook, Chapter 8: Political Socialization and Culture Sébastien Charlton and Colette Brin, “Canadians are losing their appetite for news – and trusting it less,” <i>The Conversation</i>, June 20, 2023, https://theconversation.com/canadians-are-losing-their-appetite-for-news-and-trusting-it-less-208158 Howard Law, “The high stakes of defunding the CBC,” <i>Policy Options</i>, April 17, 2025, https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/april-2025/cbc-fate-federal-election/ Noah Fry, “From dog whistles to blaring horns, Poilievre makes his case,” <i>The</i></p>

		<i>Conversation</i> , January 16, 2025, https://theconversation.com/from-dog-whistles-to-blaring-horns-poilievre-makes-his-case-246970
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Week	Date	Event
December 1-5	December 1, 2025	Last day to withdraw from a Fall 12-week course resulting in a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F.'
	December 2, 2025	Unit 11 Lecture: Politics and Public Policy in Developed States Readings: Textbook, Chapter 9: Politics in Developed States Angus Reid Institute, "Election 45: Carney preferred on top issues; Canadians divided on spend vs. cut; concern over foreign interference," April 2, 2025, https://angusreid.org/election-45-top-issues/ Jeffrey Bradley and Irvin Waller, "How can Mark Carney reduce violent crime in Canada? Through prevention and youth outreach," <i>The Conversation</i> , May 1, 2025, https://theconversation.com/how-can-mark-carney-reduce-violent-crime-in-canada-through-prevention-and-youth-outreach-254978
December 8-12	December 9, 2025	Unit 12 Lecture: Review and questions No readings or tutorials this week
	December 9, 2025	Fall/Winter classes end
	December 10, 2025	Study Day
	December 11–22, 2025	Mid-year examination period

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 https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

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 (under Special Examinations).

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University

College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-supportservices/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/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/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.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safecampus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

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

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

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, grammarchecking 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/Originality Reports - 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.