



**Political Science 2230E (570) (571)
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: A. Chater
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

An examination of selected problems in Canadian government and politics, such as federalism, political parties and pressure groups.

Antirequisite(s) at Main campus, King's campus: Political Science 2103A/B, Political Science 2130, Political Science 2133A/B, Political Science 2221F/G, Political Science 2223F/G, Political Science 2530F/G, Political Science 2533F/G. **Antirequisite(s)** at Huron campus: Political Science 2103A/B, Political Science 2130, Political Science 2133A/B, Political Science 2221F/G, Political Science 2223F/G.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 Political Science course(s) at the 1000-level.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 1.00

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 2230E: Canadian Government and Politics

Course Information:

Course Name, Number, Section: Political Science 2230E: Canadian Government and Politics

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Chater

Email: achater@uwo.ca

Office hours information can be found on OWL Brightspace

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

An examination of selected problems in Canadian government and politics, such as federalism, political parties and pressure groups.

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

- Examine the major institutions of Canadian politics and analyze these institutions using examples from contemporary events;
- Analyze and debate contemporary issues in Canadian politics in both class discussion and writing;
- Compare potential reforms to Canadian democracy and discuss advantages and disadvantages;
- Create high-quality research that draws on a variety of scholarly sources and demonstrates a variety of communication skills to aid in further university study and career goals.

Required Course Materials

The assigned reading is to spend time each week before class reading Canadian politics articles in either the Globe and Mail, National Post or Toronto Star in PressReader, which is accessible via Western Libraries. PressReader is a platform to read newspapers and magazines (like a Netflix of newspapers). It is accessible via this link:

https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991001798689705163

The following book is optional, available online as an e-book from Western Libraries:

Bickerton, James, and Alain Gagnon (eds.). *Canadian Politics*. Seventh edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020. https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044648661405163

Mode of Instruction and Expectations of Students

This class will take place in-person, during our scheduled class time. Class may take place on Zoom if necessary (for example, the instructor is ill). The first two hours of class will consist of a mix of lecture, video clips, class discussion, group discussion and other participation activities. Slides and participation materials will be available via the class website. Each week, students will:

- Read a reading before coming to class;
- Download the weekly materials from our class website before coming to class;

- Listen to lecture and take notes to add class material to the lecture slides;
- Take part in the participation activities, and;
- Work on class assignments outside of class.

The third hour of class is scheduled as a tutorial; during this time, there will be a class discussion about Canadian politics news from the previous week. Each week, spend some time before class reading Canadian politics articles in either the Globe and Mail, National Post or Toronto Star using PressReader (perhaps 10 minutes a day, or perhaps an hour before class). Write a discussion question or comment based on what you read. Come to class prepared to share your discussion question or comment. You must be physically on campus to access the Globe and Mail.

Method of Evaluation

| Component | Weight | Date/ Deadline | Description |
|------------------------------|--------|-------------------|---|
| Ministerial briefing note #1 | 15% | Oct. 16 | Students will write a 750-word mock briefing note to a minister giving background on an issue in the Canadian news, drawing on a variety of sources. The goal of the assignment is to practice expressing a well-articulated opinion. |
| Ministerial briefing note #2 | 15% | Nov. 27 | Students will write a second 750-word mock briefing note to a minister giving background on a different issue in the Canadian news. The goal is to practice improving work. |
| Essay | 10% | Feb. 12 | Students will write a 2,500-word essay that will analyze a current topic in Canadian politics. The goal of the assignment is to collect evidence and then develop personal thoughts, analyses and criticisms. Your research question must be approved by the course instructor via email by January 29. |
| Essay re-submission | 20% | Mar. 19 | Students will re-submit their essay with the corrections and additions suggested by the marker after the first submission. The goal is to practice improving work. |
| Final exam | 30% | Apr. exam period | Students will complete a final exam during the April exam period. The goal is to show mastery of course material. |
| Class participation | 10% | Ongoing | Participation will include attendance and taking part in class. The goal is to create a lively classroom environment. There will be opportunities for bonus participation marks. |

Bonus Assignment

Students may hand in an optional 500-word textbook summary by the final day of class via email. It should summarize the most important ideas in the optional textbook that we did not discuss during class. Students who hand in a summary will receive up to 5 bonus marks on their final exam.

Assignment Submission and Academic Consideration

Assignments are due by 2:30 pm on the due date via the class website. There is a three-day grace period to hand in your assignment without late marks, no questions asked. After that, the late penalty for the assignments is 3% per day. Assignments will no longer be accepted one week after the due date. To receive an accommodation for all assignments, documentation from an academic advisor is required. For more information, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

Academic Integrity

Statement on AI Use

Using generative AI in any context in this course is prohibited. Generative AI includes, but is not limited to ChatGPT, Google Translate, QuillBot and certain features of Grammarly. Using generative AI is a scholastic offence and is subject to the penalties outlined in the academic calendar. When you use AI to do your work, you are submitting work for academic credit that is not your own.

Statement on Turnitin Use

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.

Statement on Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines and other components of the course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, sharing with AI programs or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited.

Statement on Audio/Video Recording or Streaming of Classes

If necessary, some of the classes for this course may be recorded and streamed. The data captured may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers. The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings or streaming. Participants in this course are not permitted to privately record class sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, and/or the student has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Schedule of Classes

| Week | Date | Topic | Optional Textbook Reading | Assignment due |
|--|----------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Term 1 | | | | |
| Part I: Parliament | | | | |
| 1 | Sept. 4 | Introduction | Chapter 16 | |
| 2 | Sept. 11 | The Executive | Chapter 3 | |
| 3 | Sept. 18 | The Media and Research | Chapter 15 | |
| 4 | Sept. 25 | The Crown | Chapter 1 | |
| 5 | Oct. 2 | The Legislature | Chapter 4 | |
| 6 | Oct. 9 | Model Parliament | Chapter 5 | |
| Part II: The Constitution | | | | |
| 7 | Oct. 16 | The Constitution | Chapter 9 | Briefing note #1 |
| 8 | Oct. 23 | The Judiciary | Chapter 7 | |
| 9 | Oct. 30 | Indigenous Peoples | Chapter 11 | |
| No class November 6 due to reading week | | | | |
| 10 | Nov. 13 | Federalism | Chapter 8 | |
| 11 | Nov. 20 | Provinces | Chapter 2 and 10 | |
| 12 | Nov. 27 | Essay Writing | Chapter 17 | Briefing note #2 |
| 13 | Dec. 4 | TBD | None | |
| Term 2 | | | | |
| Part III: The Government of Canada | | | | |
| 14 | Jan. 8 | Bureaucracy | Chapter 6 | |
| 15 | Jan. 15 | Canadian Defence | Chapter 22 | |
| 16 | Jan. 22 | Foreign Policy | Chapter 23 | |
| 17 | Jan. 29 | Grammar | Chapter 12 | Research question |
| 18 | Feb. 5 | Territories | Chapter 20 | |
| 19 | Feb. 12 | Arctic Sovereignty | Chapter 20 | Essay |
| No class Feb. 19 due to reading week | | | | |
| Part IV: Participation in Politics | | | | |
| 20 | Feb. 26 | Political Parties | Chapter 13 | |
| 21 | Mar. 5 | Elections | Chapter 13 | |
| 22 | Mar. 12 | Essay Peer Review | Chapter 21 | |
| 23 | Mar. 19 | Mock Citizen Jury | Chapter 14 | Essay re-submission |
| 24 | Mar. 26 | Social Movements | Chapter 18 | |
| 25 | Apr. 2 | TBD | Chapter 19 | |
| 26 | Apr. 9 | Exam Review | None | |
| Final exam during April exam 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.