



PS 1021G (670)
People, Power and the State
Winter 2026

Instructor: Professor Nigmendra Narain
Email: nnarain@uwo.ca

Course Information

Class Times:

Online Asynchronous

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).

Anti-requisite(s): Political Science 1020E, 1021F/G, 1025F/G, 1026F/G.

Extra Information: Online Asynchronous Lecture and 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.

King's University College
At the University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science

Politics 1021F 670: PEOPLE, POWER, AND THE STATE Intersession 2025

Instructor Contact Information

Professor: Nigmendra Narain

Email: nnarain@uwo.ca

- Reminder to include a reference to this course in the first email you send me, so I know which course you are talking about
- Responses will be provided within 72 hours, but should be not expected necessarily in the evenings or weekend
- If the information you are requesting is already posted on the OWL site, there may not be a response, or there are other matters to sort out first (e.g. Academic Consideration) replies may be delayed longer or may simply be covered by an email to the class

Office Hour: Office hours information can be found on OWL Brightspace

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to concepts, analytical tools, and methods of modern Political Science. It is divided into three parts. Part one introduces you to the meaning of politics, key concepts, and analytical perspectives in the discipline of Political Science. This part is intended to help you to organize information on politics in a coherent way and to assist you in developing your own perspective(s). Part two draws your attention to key debates, ideas and conceptual tools in the sub-fields of political philosophy and comparative politics. The goal of this section is to help you gain a deeper understanding of the broader goals of politics, the intersection between politics and philosophy, and it is also designed to help you to reflect on critical moral questions in politics. Part three gives you the opportunity to explore the institutional structures of advanced industrialized societies. Together these sections are intended to give you an overview of the field of political science, from which you can build your knowledge base.

Course Format: Online Asynchronous

- Lecture videos are posted on online on the OWL site and can be view at your own schedule, pace, convenience, etc.
- Tutorials will require posting to Discussion board via OWL site during a set time frame – beware of open & closing times
- No part of this course is done in-person

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Understand histories, narratives, patterns, agents, and structures of global politics through lecture participation
- Analyze issues and their contemporary connections through tutorial participation
- Develop organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence, along with well-developed research skills, such as those articulated by the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries, culminating in assessing evidence critically and methodically in order to communicate analytically and clearly written work through the essay assignments
- Demonstrate knowledge and learning from lectures, textbook, readings and videos by completing the exams

Course Materials:

- Required Text: Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald's, *Introduction to Politics: Third Canadian Edition*, 2021
 - UWO Bookstore has the hardcopies and/or e-book copies:
 - Textbook: \$136.65
<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbooks-and-course-materials>
 - E-book: \$57.00
<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/9780190165444>
- Additional readings, videos, etc., are on our POLISCI 1021 OWL site – there are no charges for these materials

Course Evaluation:

Assignment	Value
Tutorial Participation	10%
Essay Bibliography and Outline (EBO)	15%
Final Essay	30%
Mid-Term Test	15%
Final Exam	30%

Course Assignments' Important Information:

- All course assignments' documents, policies, details, materials, videos, etc., will be posted on the OWL site
- "All assessments and examinations done online are expected to be done by the student registered in this course"
- Tutorial grade:
 - Best 7 tutorials out of 11 tutorials – so you can miss 4 tutorials with no impact on your grade assessment
 - As there is 'flexibility in assessment', you cannot use the Undocumented Absence Academic Consideration process for the Tutorial A&P (https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/#cannot)
 - No further academic consideration will be provided unless required by the Academic Dean's Office

- Essay Bibliography & Options assignment will be submitted via the OWL site with a Due Date and No-Penalty Leeway Deadline for both On-Time and Late submission
 - As there is 'flexibility in assessment', you cannot use the Undocumented Absence Academic Consideration process for the CFP Bibliography & Options (https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/#cannot)
 - No further academic consideration will be provided unless required by the Academic Dean's Office
 - Late Penalty is -10% per flat for Late Submission by the Late CFP Bibliography & Options Due Date and No Further Penalty Leeway Deadline
- Essay assignment will be submitted via the OWL site with a Due Date and No-Penalty Leeway Deadline for both On-Time and Late submission
 - As there is 'flexibility in assessment', you cannot use the Undocumented Absence Academic Consideration process for the CFP Brief (https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/#cannot)
 - No further academic consideration will be provided unless required by the Academic Dean's Office
 - Late Penalty is -10% per flat for Late Submission by the Late CFP Brief Due Date and No Further Penalty Leeway Deadline
- Mid-Term Test will be 1-hour held online via the OWL site
 - Designated Assessment exemption from "Undocumented Absence" Academic Consideration (https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/#cannot)
 - "Academic consideration for this Mid-Term Test requires formal support documentation" submitted and approved by the Academic Dean's Office
- Final Exam will be 2-hour on-line during a date & time designated by the Registrar's office
 - As this is during the Examination Period, Undocumented Absence process cannot be used (https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/#cannot)
 - Academic consideration will only be provided as required by the Academic Dean's Office
- Any Assignment assessed by the Lecturer to be in flagrant, repeated and/or egregious violation of the rules, guidelines, etc., may have a special penalty assessed or assigned a grade of Zero/0
- Re-Evaluation: you are not allowed to re-write assignments once they have been handed in for marking under normal circumstances, including no re-writing of exams, essays, etc.

Important Dates for Winter 2026 5 Academic Schedule:

- Jan 5, 2026 Classes resume
- Jan 13, 2025 Last day to add or drop a second-term half course
- Feb 14-22, 2026 Spring Reading Week
- Feb 16 2026 Family Day; Western closed
- Mar 30, 2026 Last day to drop a second-term half course without academic penalty
- April 3, 2026 Good Friday; Western closed
- April 9, 2026 Fall/Winter Term classes end
- April 10-11, 2026 Study Days
- April 12-30, 2026 Final examination period

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – Jan 5:

- Lecture 1: What is Politics? What is the Discipline of Political Science? What are its Paradigms & Methodology?
 - Reading: Garner, 1 Introduction – What is Politics and How Should We Analyze It?
- Tutorial: NO Tutorial

Week 2 – Jan 12:

- Lecture 2: What is the State? What is Indigenous Politics?
 - Reading: Garner, 2 Politics and the State
- Tutorial 1: Who are you? What are you interested in studying? What are 2 big political issues you'd like to discuss

Week 3 – Jan :19

- Lecture 3: What is Power? What is Authority? What is Democracy?
 - Reading: Garner, 3 Political Power, Authority, and the State and Garner, 4 Democracy and Our Relationship to the State
- Tutorial 2: When are we justified in disobeying laws?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

Week 4 – Jan 26:

- Lecture 4: What is an Ideology? What is Liberalism?
 - Reading: Garner, 5 Traditional Ideologies – read on Ideologies and Liberalism
- Tutorial 3: Are Liberal Democracies the best form of government?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

Mid-Term Test: Fri Jan 30 6-7pm via OWL site

→ see more details under Assignments' Information below and on the OWL site

→ Make-up Exam dates:

- Tues Feb 3 6-7 via OWL site
- Thurs Feb 5 6-7 via OWL site

Week 5 – Feb 2:

- Lecture 5: What is Conservatism? What is Socialism? What is Fascism?
 - Reading: Garner, 5 Traditional Ideologies – read on Socialism and Conservatism and Fascism
- Tutorial 4: Which is preferable public healthcare or private healthcare?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings: Essay Bibliography and Outline Assignment

On-time EBO

- **Due Date: Mon Feb 9 11:59pm via OWL site**
- **No Late Penalty Leeway Deadline: Fri Feb 13 6:00pm via OWL site**

→ See more relevant and important details on the OWL site

→ Ensure you read applicable important policies, details, etc., on our class OWL site

Week 6 – Feb 9:

- Lecture 6: What is Feminism? What is Environmentalism?
 - Reading: Garner, 6 Alternate Ideologies – read on Feminism and Environmentalism
- Tutorial 5: How should we deal with the problems of gender inequalities?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

READING WEEK FEB 14-22

<p>Late -10% Penalty EBO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due Date: Mon Feb 23 11:59pm • No Further Late Penalty Lee-way Deadline: Thu Feb 26 11:59pm via OWL site <p>→ See more relevant and important details on the OWL site → Ensure you read applicable important policies, details, etc., on our class OWL site</p>
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Week 7 – Feb 23:

- Lecture 7: What is Multiculturalism? What is Political Islamism?
 - Reading: Garner, 6 Alternate Ideologies
- Tutorial 6: What is Canadian multiculturalism? Is it a beneficial or negative approach to dealing with multi-ethnic societies?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

Week 8 – Mar 2:

- Lecture 8: What is Law? What are Constitutions? What is Federalism?
 - Reading: Garner, 8 Key Elements of the State: Laws, Constitutions, and Federalism
- Tutorial 7: Should there be limits on Free Speech? Why or why not?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

Week 9 – Mar 9:

- Lecture 9: What is a Political Party? What are Elections?
 - Reading: Garner, 11 Voting, Elections, and Political Parties
- Tutorial 8: Why are young people not taking part in or active in 'formal politics'?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

Week 10 – Mar 16:

- Lecture 10: What is a Legislature? What is the Judiciary?
 - Reading: Garner, 9 Legislatures and Legislators
- Tutorial 9: Should judges be 'making laws' and/or preventing legislatures from making laws?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

Week 11 – Mar 23:

- Lecture 11: What is an Executive? What is the Bureaucracy? How does Policy-making work?
 - Reading: Garner, 10 Bureaucracies, Policymaking, and Governance”

- Tutorial 10: Is the Canadian Prime Minister more powerful than the American President?
 - Check OWL site for videos or readings

Week 12 – Mar 30:

- Lecture 12: What is Political Culture? What role does Media play in Politics?
 - Reading: Garner, 12 Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media & 13 Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media
- Tutorial 11: What do you think will be 2 big political issues this coming summer?
 - No Readings

On-time Essay:

- **Due Date: Tues Mar 31 11:59 pm via OWL site**
- **No Penalty Lee-way Deadline: Sun Apr 5 11:59pm via OWL site**
- See more relevant and important details on the OWL site
- Ensure you read applicable important policies, details, etc., on our class OWL site

Week 13 – Apr 6:

- Exam Information
- Essay Advice for Completion

Late -10% Penalty Essay:

- **Due Date: Mon Apr 6 11:59 pm via OWL site**
- **No Further Late Penalty Lee-way Deadline: Thu Apr 9 11:59pm via OWL site**
- See more relevant and important details on the OWL site
- Ensure you read applicable important policies, details, etc., on our class OWL site

Important Policies and General Information:

1. USE your UWO/Western email account: Send and receive emails by the UWO email system so that your information is confidential and secure. Also, your non-UWO email may get caught in spam, etc., and may not get a response or review.
2. Non-medical and medical accommodation: Students should check out the Policy on Accommodations <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/academic-consideration-requests/> . Tutorial grade, we already provide leeway as you can miss 4 tutorials out of 11, so only 7 of 11 count for your grade assessment, so *no further accommodation will be provided*
3. If there are changes to the Course, Course Outline, etc., you will be notified via OWL
4. Reviewing of any completed tests or exams will require an on-site meeting at King's University campus; no completed exam or test review can be reviewed online, remotely, over the phone, etc.
5. Concerning use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):
 - “Within this course AI tools such as Chat GPT are permitted exclusively for ... information-gathering and preliminary research purposes; development of an essay

outline. If AI tools are used, students must acknowledge use and state how the tool was used. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.” Submitting false claims/data/evidence generated by AI or fake citations, sources, or authors in essays, tutorial participation, etc., is a violation of academic integrity and will be forward to the Academic Dean’s Office.

- “Students: You have an obligation to act with honesty and integrity and abide by the rules of the syllabus for each course. You also have an obligation to yourself to learn more about a technology that may have a significant impact on your life. Check your course outline for a statement on permitted and forbidden uses of AI; it will change by course. Where you are uncertain, ask your instructor for guidance.” – AI at Western: <https://ai.uwo.ca/Guidance/Guidance-by-Role.html>
 - “One of the most simple and effective solutions to reduce academic misconduct is to create clear communication channels with your students about your policies and expectations. This can be done with synchronous and asynchronous discussions about Academic Integrity and AI, through in-class dialogue and/or providing a Forum in OWL where students can comment and ask questions during the course. Students are often driven by curiosity when disruptive tools are introduced and if instructors haven’t made their expectations clear about their use, there are greater opportunities for an AI tool to be used in unwanted ways. You can also talk to your students about the well-documented limitations of ChatGPT, such as: it commonly makes up references and creates false citations; it is missing new knowledge on topics that occurred after the AI had been trained, and it can also “make up” facts that are simply not true; it can reproduce biases and prejudices contained in its training materials; it can be repetitive and unoriginal in its writing style. Instructors who are unaware that content is generated by ChatGPT sometimes score it lower than true original work for this reason. Knowing how fallible the program can be and the extra work it causes for revising should help persuade students not to employ these tools when original work is called for.” – “Academic Integrity”, Centre for Teaching and Learning: <https://teaching.uwo.ca/teaching/assessing/academic-integrity.html>
6. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices: NO electronics devices are allowed *during in-person tests and examinations*
 7. Statement on 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: Also check: <https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>
 8. Multiple-Choice Exam format checking software: “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.”
Also check: <https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>
 9. Support Services: “Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

10. Respectful conduct and engagement: Note conduct should accord with the University of Western Ontario Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed as a PDF from: http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/student_experience/studentconduct.html. In general, please be respectful of and courteous to yourself, me, and your class colleagues, and others during discussions and other course engagements.
11. Read over “Western Scholastic Discipline Policy...: 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”
12. “Notice of Turnitin Analysis...: 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>). Please note that Turnitin analysis now includes AI detection.”

Enjoy the class and have a great term! 😊

**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.