



POLITICAL SCIENCE 1021F (570)
PEOPLE, POWER AND THE STATE
Fall 2026

Instructor: E. Nicolaides
Email: enicolai@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: in-person

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).

Antirequisites: Political Science 1020E

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.

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Extra Information: 2-hour lecture, 1-hour tutorial

King's University College
POLISCI 1021F: People, Power and the State
Fall 2026

Course information:

Course Name, Number, Section: POLISCI 1021F, Number 16231, Section 570

Instructor: Eleni Nicolaides, Ph.D. (she/her)

Contact Information: enicolai@uwo.ca

Office hours: see Brightspace for details

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

Course textbooks/materials:

- Required Textbook: George A. MacLean, Duncan R. Wood, and Lori Turnbull, *Politics: An Introduction*, 4th edition (Oxford University Press Canada, 2027) \$122.40
- Bookstore link to Textbook: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=570_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	20%	October 9 at 11:59pm
Research Paper	25%	November 13 at 11:59pm
Final Exam	35%	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 Units 1-3. The midterm will become available on October 5 and will be due on October 9. 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 any method of assessment/evaluation.
- Students will be required to submit written assignments through plagiarism-detection software integrated in OWL Brightspace.
- Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Grade descriptors:

A+	90–100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80–89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70–79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60–69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50–59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Academic Consideration:

- “Academic consideration” refers to consideration granted due to “personal circumstances beyond the student’s control that have a substantial but temporary impact on the student’s ability to meet essential academic requirements.” 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 72-hour grace period** is available for the Midterm Take-Home Exam and Research Paper. **Evaluations will not be accepted beyond the submission window.** There are two exceptions: 1) you have emailed the professor to request an extension prior to the due date (reasonable requests will be granted), or 2) you face extenuating circumstances and have submitted a request for academic consideration through the Student Absence Portal, generally with supporting documentation. Requests, either by email or through the Student Absence Portal, must include a clear proposed date for submission so that the professor may accurately assess the request. Please note that due to the flexibility in assessments, academic consideration requests may still be denied when they lack sufficient justification.

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 9-11	September 9	First day of classes, Fall Term
September 14-18	September 14	No tutorials. Tutorials begin next week
	September 15	Last day to add first-term half-course, full course Unit 1: Introduction to the Course and to Studying Politics Readings: Textbook, Chapter 1: Studying Politics Textbook, Chapter 2: Finding a Common Vocabulary – Political Concepts
September 21-25	September 21	Tutorials begin
	September 22	Unit 2 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 28- October 2	September 29	Unit 3 Lecture: Political Ideology Readings: Textbook, Chapter 3: Political Thought, Philosophy and Ideology 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 Andrea Wagner and Anna Brigeovich, "Why some populist supporters want a strong-arm leader and others just want change," <i>The Conversation</i> , October 22, 2025, https://theconversation.com/why-some-populist-supporters-want-a-strong-arm-leader-and-others-just-want-change-266765
	September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (non-instructional day)
October 5-9	October 6	No lecture (or tutorial on October 19). Complete take-home midterm.
October 12-16	October 12-16	Thanksgiving (official holiday) Fall Reading Week
October 19-23	October 20	Unit 4 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

Week	Date	Event
October 26-30	October 27	Unit 5 Lecture: Branches of Government Reading: Textbook, Chapter 5: Branches of Government Jonathan Manthorpe, "Canada's Prime Ministers: More like Monarchs than You Think," <i>The Walrus</i> , July 17, 2024, https://thewalrus.ca/canadas-prime-ministers-more-like-monarchs-than-you-think/ Lori Turnbull, "Carney's Majority Shortcut and the Case for Floor Crossing," <i>Policy Magazine</i> , March 12, 2026, https://www.policymagazine.ca/carneys-majority-shortcut-and-the-case-for-floor-crossing/
November 2-6	November 3	Unit 6 Lecture: Political Systems Reading: Textbook, Chapter 6: Political Systems Steven Dowling, "How Canada's internal trade reform echoes 1864 – and what it will take to finish the job," <i>Policy Options</i> , May 6, 2026, https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2026/05/canada-internal-trade-co-operative-federalism/ Christopher Alcantara and Philip Zuidema, "How to combat reconciliatory backsliding," <i>Policy Options</i> , January 13, 2026, https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2026/01/reconciliation-backsliding-canada/
November 9-13	November 10	Unit 7 Lecture: Elections and Political Parties 1 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 Justin Weir, "Time to Move On: The Need for Electoral Reform in Canada," <i>Federalism-E</i> 24, no. 1 (2023): https://ojs.library.queensu.ca/index.php/federalism/article/view/16230/10789
	November 13	Research Paper due at 11:59pm

Week	Date	Event
November 16-20	November 17	Unit 8 Lecture: Elections and Political Parties 2 Readings: Allison Harell, Daniel Rubenson, Laura Stephenson, and Lewis Krashinsky, "Mark Carney secures majority after 'unwinnable' 2025 election victory, building new momentum," <i>The Conversation</i>, April 13, 2026, https://theconversation.com/mark-carney-secures-majority-after-unwinnable-2025-election-victory-building-new-momentum-279061 Stewart Prest, "Pierre Poilievre: The most successful unsuccessful leader in Canadian politics?" <i>The Conversation</i>, January 29, 2026, https://theconversation.com/pierre-poilievre-the-most-successful-unsuccessful-leader-in-canadian-politics-274358
November 23-27	November 24	Unit 9 Lecture: The Media and Civil Society 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/

Week	Date	Event
November 30- December 4	November 30	Last day to drop a Fall half-course or full course
	December 1	Unit 10 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 7-11	December 8	Review and questions No readings
	December 9	Last day of classes Fall Term
	December 10	Study day
	December 11-22	Mid-year examination period

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (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 at [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#!/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website:

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

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this which assessment has been designated as requiring documentation for consideration (that is, exempt from undocumented absences).
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

If an instructor has built flexibility into their assessments (e.g., “complete 8 of 10 quizzes”), this flexibility will already address consideration needs and thus academic consideration may be denied.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** 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 (i.e., you are scheduled to write 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](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their 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.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

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

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

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are 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](#).

You can reach supports at King's 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 (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. 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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

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.

6. 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

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.