CLASS SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: Canadian Political Institutions
COURSE CODE: POLS 204
COURSE CREDITS: 3
COURSE SECTION: W02-W99
INSTRUCTOR: Real Carriere
EMAIL: real.carriere@usask.ca
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
TERM: Winter 2018
DELIVERY: Online
START DATE: January 3, 2018
END DATE: April 6, 2018
OFFICE: Arts 271
TELEPHONE: 306-966-6052

Treaty Acknowledgement
We acknowledge we are on Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Course Description
Introduces students to the main structures and processes of Canadian government, including the Constitution, Parliament, cabinet, federalism, provincial governments, municipal governments, First Nations governments and electoral systems.

Prerequisites
Any two of IS 110, POLS 111, POLS 112; or 60 credit units at university level.

Required Texts

Textbooks are available from the University of Saskatchewan Bookstore: http://www.usask.ca/bookstore/
Learning Outcomes
By the completion of this course, you should be able to:
1. Identify and explain the role of the major Canadian political institutions.
2. Evaluate the various governance processes of Canadian political institutions
3. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of Canadian political institutions.

Mobile Access
Blackboard Mobile Learn™ is an app that is available on many devices including iOS® and Android™ for those occasional times when you may want mobile access. It is still recommended that you use a laptop or desktop computer for the majority of your online studies.

Course Requirements
The final grade for this course will be based on the following elements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment:</th>
<th>Due Date:</th>
<th>Value:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: #DebateFriday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: # DebateFriday Voting</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Research Paper</td>
<td>March 16, 2018, 11:59pm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: Final Exam</td>
<td>TBD between April 9-28</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Criteria to pass: All assignments must be completed and submitted prior to April 1, 2018 at 11:59 pm or they will be considered incomplete and the student will receive a maximum final numeric grade of 49%.
Assignment 1  #DebateFriday  30%

Description: Each week 6 students will be randomly assigned into 2 teams to discuss and debate the weekly modules. There will be a total of 8 #DebateFriday and will begin on module 3. Each debate team will be given the same mark for their debate. Each student will complete three debates and your mark will be calculated cumulatively. The groups and questions will be posted on blackboard. Debates will take place during the week in a series of posts on blackboard. The debate sequence is posted below. You will be graded on 4 components structure of argument, strength of argument, use of course content, and additional research. The marking rubric will be posted on blackboard. Bonus points for winning the debate. Must include assigned readings from the module and at least one additional academic source. Must provide professor with one page summary of arguments including reference list. Use of verbal citation required in your post in author date format. Not all members of your group must speak. Debate groups will be randomly assigned by the end of the first week. It is your responsibility to get in touch with your group or notify me if you are not in a group.

Debate Sequence:

Monday   Opening statements
  • Posts must be made by 11:59am
  • Posts cannot be longer than 5min and they must be in video format
  • In your opening statement you must include introduction to topic, thesis, and summary of main arguments you will discuss.

Wednesday  Discussion
  • Posts must be made by 11:59am
  • Posts cannot be longer than 5min and they must be in video format
  • In your discussion you must elaborate on your central arguments and pose questions to the other team.

Friday   Concluding remarks and rebuttal
  • Posts must be made by 11:59am
  • Posts cannot be longer than 2.5min and they must be in video format
  • In your concluding remarks and rebuttal you must elaborate on your central arguments and respond to questions raised by the other team. You can only use information that has been used in your previous posts.

Assignment 2  #DebateFriday Discussion  10%

Description: Each week you are required to view the #DebateFriday posts. In addition to viewing the posts you must vote who won the debate and comment on how and why you voted the way you did. Your response must be a minimum of 75 words in length. Your post must be made by Friday, 11:59pm.
Assignment 3  Research Paper  30%

**Description:** Students are required to submit an 8-9 page research paper on a topic covered in this course. Your paper can ONLY address the question assigned in for the class debates. Between the dates of March 12-15 I will be available for online discussion on your research paper draft.

**Paper Format**
- 8-9 Pages
- Chicago Format. Please review Chicago format in sample paper below.
- You must use footnotes.
- No headings or extra spaces between paragraphs.
- A title page that indicates your name student number, name of the course, and the date.
- A working thesis statement, which should be bolded. It should begin with, “This essay argues that…”.
- At LEAST five academic sources not including course readings.
- A reference list that includes any sources you cited in your paper.
- Title page and Reference list not included in page count.

Assignment 4  Final Exam 30%

**Description:** A 3 hour comprehensive and invigilated exam. Consisting of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay. Final exams for Term 2 and multi-term classes run from April 9 to 30, 2018.

Your final exam will be in Saskatoon **UNLESS** you reside more than 110 KM from Saskatoon. For those students that reside more than 110 KM from Saskatoon you will need to complete the Application for Final Examination form
(https://students.usask.ca/academics/exams.php#Distanceclasses)
### Class Schedule

No Evaluations due on the following dates:
- February 19, 2018  Family Day – University closed
- February 19-24, 2018  Winter Mid-term Break
- March 30, 2018  Good Friday – University closed

**Note:** The articles in each module are available from the U of S Library electronically; just use `u:search` on the library homepage. [http://library.usask.ca/](http://library.usask.ca/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| Jan 8-12        | Module 2: The Constitution I | David R. Cameron and D. Krikorian Jacqueline,  
“Recognizing Quebec in the Constitution of Canada: Using the Bilateral Constitutional Process.”  
Brooks, pp. 156-190 [Textbook] |
Brooks, pp. 191-222 [Textbook] |
Brooks, pp. 223-262 [Textbook] |
Brooks, pp. 264-267 [Textbook] |
Brooks, pp. 267-281. [Textbook]  
(Note that Modules 6 and 7 have the same textbook readings.) |
| Feb 12-16       | Module 7: Cabinet       | J. P. Lewis, “Courting Cartier: English-Canadian Prime Ministers and their Québec Lieutenants.”  
## Dates | Module | Readings
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Feb 26 – Mar 2 | **Module 8:** Parliament | Brooks, pp. 267-281. **[Textbook]**
(Note that Modules 6 and 7 have the same textbook readings.)
Feb 26 – Mar 2 | **Module 8:** Parliament | Brooks, pp. 281-293 **[Textbook]**
Mar 5-9 | **Module 9:** Judiciary | Brooks, pp. 233-240, pp. 293-303 **[Textbook]**
Mar 12-16 | **Final Paper workshop - No Readings** |
Mar 19-23 | **Module 10:** First Nations Government | Brooks, pp. 494-525. **[Textbook]**
Mar 26-29 | **Module 11:** Provincial and Municipal Governments | No textbook readings
Apr 2-6 | | Review your notes

**Final Exam** | **Invigilated April 9-28, 2018 (Exact date/ time TBA)**

*Note: If for any reason the Class Syllabus Reading List does not match the Module Reading List, the Class Syllabus shall be taken as correct.*
Course Policies: Evaluation Components

Academic Integrity

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. All students should read and be familiar with the Regulations on Academic Student Misconduct (http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/StudentAcademicMisconduct.pdf) as well as the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals (http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/StudentNon-AcademicMisconduct.pdf). For more information on what academic integrity means for students see the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website at: http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/forms/IntegrityDefined.pdf

Citation Style

Written assignments must conform to Chicago Manual of Style style guidelines (see the “Writing and Citing” Tab on the Political Science research guide page at http://libguides.usask.ca/politicalstudies).

Chicago Style sample paper.

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/1300991022_717.pdf

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments are to be submitted in electronic form (MS Word or PDF) through Blackboard. Alternative formats will not be accepted. The file name must start with your last name and first initial, followed by the assignment number (e.g. SmithA_Assignment1.docx). Hard copies of assignments will not be accepted. Assignments should not be submitted to the assignment boxes, placed under my door, emailed to me, or brought to my office; any such assignments will not be accepted as submitted. Assignments should not be submitted to the Department office; any such assignments will not be accepted as submitted.

Late Assignment Policy

The Political Studies Department’s policy is that late assignments are penalized 10% per week. Exceptions may be made, at my discretion, for students who contact me regarding medical reasons or family emergencies (but not computer-related emergencies) before assignments are due. Documentation will be required in these cases.

Final Examination Scheduling

Midterm and final examinations must be written on the date scheduled. Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period (including Saturdays); students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period. If a student is unable to write an exam through no fault of his or her own for medical or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided and an opportunity to write the missed exam may be
given. Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures: http://students.usask.ca/academics/exams.php

Grading Policy
The University of Saskatchewan grading system is detailed in full at https://students.usask.ca/academics/grading/grading-system.php. In brief, the following standards are used: 0-49% failure, 50-59% minimal pass, 60-69% satisfactory, 70-79% good, 80-89% excellent, 90-100% exceptional. You are encouraged to visit the official website for full information on the differences between the various levels of performance.

Grade Appeal Process
As per University regulation, a student who is dissatisfied with the assessment of their work or performance in any aspect of class work, including a mid-term or final examination, shall follow the procedures set out in the University Council policy on Student Appeals of Evaluation, Grading and Academic Standing and the Procedures for Student Appeals in Academic Matters. Please carefully review these policies at: http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/appeals-in-academic-matters.php. Students who wish to initiate the first procedural step outlined in the policy, informal consultation, to have an assignment or exam grade revisited must do the following:

1. Within one week of the assignment being returned:
   a. Re-read the assignment description and evaluation criteria.
   b. Re-read your paper/assignment.
   c. Carefully review your professor’s comments.

2. If after completing these steps you feel that the evaluation of your paper/assignment was not justified or not accurate, you need to do the following:
   a. On one typewritten single spaced page, clearly explain why you feel you deserve a different (higher) grade. In your explanation you should note, where appropriate:
   b. Examples (include page numbers) that contrast with the evaluation, e.g., if the professor says that you didn’t provide enough academic evidence but you feel you did, you should explain this and provide the page number
   c. Explain, using the provided marking rubric, what grade you feel you did deserve. (This provides a useful point for discussing the distance between the professor’s expectations and your own).
   d. Submit this one typewritten single spaced page explanation to the professor.

3. The professor will review your submission and then arrange a time to meet to discuss the reassessment with you. Please note that upon submission of your assignment for re-evaluation the grade on the original assignment becomes void. Your paper will be reassessed and the grade can be adjusted upward, downward, or remain the same.
   a. If after discussing the re-evaluation with your professor you are not satisfied with the outcome, you can then proceed to discuss your mark with the university. See details below.
Course Policies: General

Respect
You are expected to treat your fellow students, your instructor and guest lecturers with respect. Please show up on time, refrain from talking and texting when others are speaking, and turn all mobile devices off. Communications with the instructor, be they in person, over email or over the telephone, should be courteous and professional.

Email
Student email communications will be limited to requests to set up appointments (if meeting during office hours is not possible) and notifying me of extended absences. I will not respond to questions regarding information clearly stated in the course syllabus by email; discuss substantive issues or answer substantive questions by email; accept assignments by email; or respond to unprofessional or rude email. I respond to emails during normal university work hours (i.e., Mon-Fri. 9 am – 5 pm), and students can typically expect a response to an email enquiry within two work days. I do not typically respond to emails in the evenings, on weekends, or on statutory holidays.

Recording
I do not record classes. Students are not permitted to record classes in any way unless authorized to do so by Disability Services for Students. In such cases, only the student with the DSS authorization is allowed access to the recording.

Experiential Learning Expectations
This class does have an experiential learning grade, and students are expected to engage actively in all or most class sessions.

Student Feedback
Students are encouraged to provide the instructor with constructive feedback on their learning experience across the course of the term.

Intellectual Property and Copyright Policy
Class materials, including lecture slides and content, are normally the intellectual property of the person who has made the presentation in the class. Copyright provides presenters with the legal right to control the use of their own creations. As noted above, students are NOT permitted to record the classes. Class materials, including lecture slides made available on Blackboard and written notes of the lectures, may NOT be copied, reproduced, redistributed, or edited by anyone without permission of the presenter except as allowed under law.

Student with Disabilities
If you are a student needing accommodations based on a diagnosed disability (learning, medical, physical, and/or mental health), religion, family status (including pregnancy), and/or gender identity, you must register with Access and Equity Services (AES) in order to access AES programs and supports. https://students.usask.ca/health/centres/access-equity-services.php or 306-966-7273 or aes@usask.ca.

For AES exam accommodations please ensure that you fill out the AES Exam Accommodation form within the applicable deadlines. (https://students.usask.ca/health/aes/accommodations.php)
Safe Space: Our POLS Classroom

This class is designated a “Safe Space” by its instructor: “The University of Saskatchewan’s Positive Space Program is a campus wide initiative that is run by the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Sexual and Gender Diversity, the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) Pride Centre and Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Services (DHPS). The purpose of this program is to reduce homophobia and heterosexism and promote a safe, welcoming environment for students and employees who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, two-spirited, intersexed, queer or questioning (LGBTT2IQQ). These goals are achieved by having participants in the program display printed material that identifies their area as a ‘positive space.’ A positive space is one that welcomes and supports LGBTT2IQQ individuals, encourages open, respectful communication and eliminates the need for people to hide their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Program reflects the University’s commitment to welcome and include all members of the community and create a campus that is free of discrimination.”

Student Supports

Students are encouraged to make use of the support services offered through the Student and Enrolment Services Division, Student Learning Services at the University Library, and the College of Arts and Science. For information on Student Learning Services (SLS), please see the SLS web site https://www.usask.ca/ulc/. For information on support services see https://students.usask.ca/ - Studentservices.

Additional information

More information on the Academic Courses Policy on course delivery, examinations and assessment of student learning can be found at: http://policies.usask.ca/policies/academic-affairs/academic-courses.php. The University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter is intended to define aspirations about the learning experience that the University aims to provide, and the roles to be played in realizing these aspirations by students, instructors and the institution. A copy of the Learning Charter can be found at: http://teaching.usask.ca/about/policies/learning-charter.php

Copyright

Every effort has been made to trace ownership of all copyrighted material and to secure permission from copyright holders. In the event of any question arising as to the use of any material, we will be pleased to make the necessary corrections. The University of Saskatchewan copyright policy is available at http://www.usask.ca/copyright/.

Acknowledgements

Instructional Design and Course Development

Course designer Jordan Epp was instrumental in getting the course completed and helped in numerous ways to make this a much better course then it would have been otherwise.

Course Funding

I would like to thank Frank Bulk, program manager of Technology Enhanced Learning Programs (TEL) and acknowledge the funding from TEL which made this course possible.