

# Political Science 1AA3 Government, Politics, and Power - Online

Fall 2022

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11:30am - 1:30pm Or by appointment

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## **Course Description**

This course explores the political process in Canada. It starts by asking a question: What does politics in Canada actually look like? Many of us are familiar with the politics that happens during elections: Political Parties competing for our votes with the promise that they and only they have the solution for whatever problems ail society. This *is* politics. But politics *is not* limited to Election Day or to political parties and their campaign promises. Politics saturates our daily lives, it crisscrosses our economic and social interactions, it is embedded in the formal and informal rules under which we all live. We will explore this broader sense of politics - investigating many of the key ideas and institutions that structure and govern our lives in Canada. We will scrutinize concepts like democracy, liberty, and equality. How does one organize a society based on these ideas? We will examine how these (and other) ideas have influenced the Canadian political landscape – from the platforms of the major Political Parties to the institutions of the Canadian state.

## **Course Objectives**

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

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of:
  - The key **ideas** that have influenced the development of the Canadian state
    - Ideas that are common to/differentiate the major political parties in Canada
  - The key political **institutions** of the Canadian state
    - The Crown, the Executive, the House of Commons, the Senate, the Courts and the Constitution, the Federal-Provincial division of powers
  - Current political **issues**
- Express ideas both orally and in written (essay) form

## **Required Materials and Texts**

All required readings are available (at no cost) in Avenue to Learn via embedded links in the relevant Modules.

## **Class Format**

This is the online version of POLSCI 1AA3: All course lectures, tutorials, quizzes, and tests will be available online.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Participation – 30%
2. Module Quizzes – 5%
3. Mid-term test – 25%: Available on Avenue Wednesday October 19, 5:00-8:00pm

4. Final Exam – 40%: Available on Avenue Thursday December 8, 11:30am; Due on Tuesday December 13, 11:30am.

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Participation – 30%**

Your voice matters!

This course provides you with the opportunity to discuss some of the key political issues confronting modern Canadian society. With that in mind, you will be responsible for solving 4 political scenarios/problems this term. Your solution to these problems (i.e. your course participation) can occur in one of two ways:

- 1). You can choose to participate in a synchronous (**live**) tutorial.

Every student in this course registered for a live tutorial during the course-selection process. If you choose this option, you will be meeting in real-time (**on Zoom**) with approximately 25 other students and a Teaching Assistant every week (beginning the week of September 19). Each tutorial (approximately 25 students) will be further divided into smaller groups of approximately 5 students each. You will be assigned to one of these groups. The smaller student groups will **collectively** work on solutions to the assigned political problems. Group solutions will be presented to the rest of the tutorial on the designated due dates.

Please note: While each group will submit a **collective** solution for each Assignment, your grade on each Assignment will be adjusted according to your **individual** contribution to the group effort. Your TA will make the individual adjustment based upon a self/peer assessment that you will submit for **each** Assignment.

- 2). You can also choose to participate in the course asynchronously (**no live tutorials**).

If you choose this option, you still belong to a tutorial, have a corresponding Teaching Assistant, and will work on the same assignments as Option 1 students. However, your participation **will not** involve live tutorial conversations. Instead, you will:

A). Develop an **individual** response to each assigned tutorial problem. Your response (in the form of a **3-minute video presentation** saved as a .mp4, .mov, .avi, or .wmv file) will be submitted to both the relevant Assignment drop box and the appropriate Discussion Forum on the assigned due date. For your video, you can either record yourself speaking on camera, or record your voice over a PowerPoint presentation.

B). For each assignment you are also required to offer **constructive** feedback to at least two other student video submissions. Your feedback must be posted to the Discussion Forum during the relevant assignment submission week (no later than Friday at 11:30pm).

For administrative reasons, **Option 1 is the default option** (i.e. you are automatically enrolled into Option 1 (live participation) – you do not need to inform myself or your TA that you are choosing this option). However, if you would like to select Option 2 (video presentations), you must send an email to your Teaching Assistant by Friday September 23 at 4:00p.m.

Note: Because Option 1 involves group work, you cannot switch between Option 1 and Option 2 in the midst of a tutorial assignment. However, if you would like to switch between Option 1 and Option 2 at the beginning of a new tutorial assignment you are welcome to do so – as long as you first inform your Teaching Assistant.

Each of the 4 tutorial assignments is worth 7.5% of the total course grade (30% in total).

A detailed overview of the assignments (organized according to week) is contained in the Course Guide posted on Avenue.

### **Assignment Due Dates:**

#### **A). Option 1 students**

Assignment 1 is due at the beginning of **your** October 3-7 tutorial.

Assignment 2 is due at the beginning of **your** October 24-28 tutorial.

Assignment 3 is due at the beginning of **your** November 7-11 tutorial.

Assignment 4 is due at the beginning of **your** November 21-25 tutorial.

#### **B). Option 2 students**

Assignment 1 is due **no later** than Monday October 3 at 11:30pm.

Assignment 2 is due **no later** than Monday October 24 at 11:30pm.

Assignment 3 is due **no later** than Monday November 7 at 11:30pm.

Assignment 4 is due **no later** than Monday November 21 at 11:30pm.

### **Module Quizzes – 5%**

The course has been divided into 12 modules on Avenue. At the end of each module, you will find a short multiple-choice quiz. The quizzes will test you on the lecture content associated with the module – i.e. they are designed to incentivize (and reward) watching lecture videos.

Each quiz has 10 questions and a 20-minute time limit. Each quiz is worth the same amount - however, I will only include your top 10 quiz scores in your final grade (i.e. your lowest 2 quiz scores will be dropped).

Each quiz will **open** on the relevant Module start date (at 11:30am) – although the quiz will only become visible **after** you watch the relevant lecture videos. The quiz must be completed **no later** than one week (7 days) after the Module start date (by 11:30pm). For example, Module 2 has a scheduled start date of September 12. Therefore, the Module 2 quiz must be **completed** by September 19 at 11:30pm.

### **Mid-term test - 25%, Wednesday October 19, 2022**

The mid-term test will be available in Avenue on **Wednesday October 19**, from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. You can start the test at any time during this three-hour window. However, your test answer must be uploaded to the Assignment Drop box by 8:00pm.

### **Take Home Exam – 40%, available Thursday December 8; due Tuesday December 13**

The exam will be available in Avenue beginning Thursday December 8 at 11:30am (i.e. in the morning). Your exam answer must be uploaded to the Assignment Drop box **no later** than Tuesday December 13 at 11:30am (i.e. in the morning). Since this is an exam, this is a firm deadline – MSAFs will not apply; late exams will not be accepted.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Module 1 (September 6)**

#### **Introduction to Political Science**

**What is Political Science? What makes something ‘political’? Is government necessary for the public good?**

### **Module 2 (September 12)**

#### **Democracy**

**What is democracy? What is the history of democracy? What are the limits to modern democracy in theory and in practice?**

Readings:

Held, David, “Democracy: From city states to a cosmopolitan order?” *Political Studies*, XL, Special Issue, 1992, pp10-39

### **Module 3 (September 19)**

#### **Liberty**

**Is protecting and promoting individual freedom the ideal guiding principle for government? Should the state put any restrictions on “free speech”? Should the state put any restrictions on the “free market”?**

Readings:

Chapter 2 (Liberalism) in *Political Ideologies*, pp19-46

Mill, John Stuart, *On Liberty*, Chapter 2

### **Module 4 (September 26)**

#### **Equality**

**What causes inequality? Are wealth and political power connected? Can we have true equality in complex modern societies?**

Readings:

Chapter 4 (Socialism) in *Political Ideologies*, pp71-98

### **Module 5 (October 3)**

#### **Conservatism**

**Is there political value in using the past to guide the present?**

Readings:

Chapter 3 (Conservatism) in *Political Ideologies*, pp47-70

### **Mid-term recess (October 10-14) – No classes or tutorials**

### **Module 6 (October 17)**

#### **Patriarchy**

**Are rights, rewards, and representation skewed against women? What are the political implications of gender?**

Readings:

Chapter 8 (Feminism) in *Political Ideologies*, pp179-212

### **Mid-Term Test (Wednesday October 19)**

The mid-term test will be available in Avenue on **Wednesday October 19**, from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. You can start the test at any time during this three-hour window. However, your test answer must be uploaded to the Assignment Drop box by 8:00pm. Late tests will not be accepted.

### **Module 7 (October 24)**

#### **Democracy in practice**

**What difference does an electoral system make? Are some electoral systems more democratic than others? Should Canada reform its electoral system?**

Readings:

Gallagher, Michael, "Electoral Institutions and Representation," in Lawrence LeDuc, et al., eds., *Comparing Democracies 4: Elections and Voting in a Changing World*, London: Sage, 2014, pp11-31

Wherry, Aaron, "[Why Trudeau's broken electoral reform promise could rebound on him](#)," *CBC*, July 26, 2019

**Module 8 (October 31)**

**Democracy in Canada I**

**Starting from the top? What are the powers and limits of the Crown and Prime Minister?**

Readings:

Savoie, Donald J., "The Centre Rules: Executive Dominance," in Bickerton, James, and Gagnon, Alain-G., *Canadian Politics*, Seventh Edition, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020, pp47-63

Burke, Ashley, "[Payette stepping down as governor general after blistering report on Rideau Hall work environment](#)," *CBC*, Jan 21, 2021

**Module 9 (November 7)**

**Democracy in Canada II**

**The House of Commons: How much power do elected MPs have in practice?**

Readings:

Marland, Alex, *Whipped: Party Discipline in Canada*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 2020, Chapter 1

**Module 10 (November 14)**

**Democracy in Canada III**

**The Senate: Undemocratic and anachronistic? Or valuable House of Sober Second Thought?**

Readings:



MacFarlane, Emmett, *Constitutional Pariah: Reference re Senate Reform and the Future of Parliament*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 2021, pp99-108, 114-136

## **Module 11 (November 21)**

### **Democracy in Canada IV**

#### **The Constitution and the Courts: The idiosyncrasies of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.**

Readings:

Malcolmson, Patrick, et al., *The Canadian regime: an introduction to parliamentary government in Canada*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2021, Chapters 2, 9, pp17-39, 188-206

You should also read the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)

## **Module 12 (November 28)**

### **Democracy in Canada V**

#### **The Federal-Provincial division of power: Which level of government has the power to do what and when? How united is the Canadian Federation: A case study of Quebec.**

Readings:

Rocher, François, "Self-determination and the Use of Referendums: the Case of Quebec," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 27, 1, 2014

## **Questions (December 5)**

We will not be covering new content during this week. Instead, I will be in my Zoom office on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 11:30am - 1:30pm to answer any exam-related questions.

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments and tests**

This course will use tests and assignments to assess your comprehension of the course material. All tests and assignments (excluding group tutorial projects) should be answered individually. All tests and assignments (including group tutorial projects) should be answered in your own words. Do not simply "cut and paste" material out of the lectures, lecture summaries, course readings, or other sources: Doing so does not demonstrate **your** understanding of the course content.

Course assignments should be submitted to the appropriate Assignment drop box in Avenue by the designated due date. Written assignments should be submitted as a Word document or pdf. Video assignments should be submitted as a .mp4, .mov, .avi, or .wmv file. If you are recording your video with an iPhone or android phone, the default file type should meet this requirement. Students looking for alternative recording software might want to consider using the recording functions of [Zoom](#).

If, for any reason, you cannot access an Assignment box before the assignment due date, please email the assignment to your TA in the specified time frame.

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments may be subject to a one letter grade per day grade deduction (including weekends). For example, an A- level assignment will be reduced to a B+ if it is received one day late, B if two days late, etc.

Please note: Tests, Quizzes, and the Exam must be submitted in the designated time frame.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

The expectation for this course is that all components (including participation) will be completed.

All requests for extensions (excluding SAS requests) should be submitted through the [MSAF process](#).

In the event of an approved extension, the assignment will be due four days from the original due date (inclusive of weekends).

In the event of an approved absence from the mid-term test, the make-up test will be posted to Avenue on **Wednesday October 26**. The test will be available from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. You can start the test at any time during this three-hour window. However, your test answer must be uploaded to the Assignment Drop box by 8:00pm.

### **Course Software and Technology**

This course incorporates and utilizes several technological platforms:

#### **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be

deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Turnitin.com**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **Zoom**

In order to fully participate in live tutorials, students require access to [Zoom](#). Students should register for a free account (and download the relevant software) through [McMaster's zoom website](#). You will only be able to access your Zoom tutorial room through a McMaster-specific Zoom account. You will need to log-in to your McMaster Zoom account prior to **each** tutorial.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

### **University Policies**

#### **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights](#)

[& Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Copyright and Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be

aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office *normally within 10 working days* of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.