

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Political Science 1020E: Introduction to Political Science**

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

1020E 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Daisy Raphael and Dr. Will Kujala

Instructor Email(s): daisy.raaphael@huron.uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the scholarly and academic study of politics – the exercise of power by, over, and with others. We will study politics in formal institutions such as legislatures, polling stations, and bureaucracies, and in spaces where people assemble to resist oppression and pursue their interests, from social media to the streets. A major aim of this course is to build a critical vocabulary or language for interpreting politics. This means learning to think like a political scientist and approach political questions as matters for scholarly investigation. This course introduces students to political ideas in historical context by: critically examining political speech and discourse in mass media; examining how institutions such as parliament, parties, elections, and bureaucracies reproduce power relations; studying systems of domination – such as colonialism, racism, sexism, and ableism – and how social actors contest and resist these systems; and, finally, by situating our local political life and struggles within the broader context of global politics. In doing so, this course provides a selective but broad window into the contemporary study of politics, and an introduction to the academic field of political science and its subfields, including Canadian Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Political Theory.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Define politics and political science, and explain why they are distinct;

Define and explain key theories, concepts, and ideas in the field of political science;

Discuss politics using a vocabulary and approach that go beyond common-sense or 'lay' understandings of political life;

Explain the implications and importance of multiple theoretical and conceptual lenses on the study of politics;

Identify one's own research interests and pose a research question;

Locate, read, annotate, summarize, analyze and apply scholarly literature;

Cite academic sources according to standards of academic integrity and citation style manuals;

Reflect on how theoretical and scholarly engagement with the field may have changed their perspectives

Textbooks and Course Materials:
Garner et al. Introduction to Politics Canadian Edition. Third Edition. Oxford University Press.
Other readings will be posted on Owl.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		15
Tests		20
mid-term exam		20
research assignment		20
final exam		25

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$115.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.