

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Political Science

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

1020E 551

Instructor Name(s): Jennifer Mustapha

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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:

POL1020E introduces students to the study and world of politics, focusing on concepts and ideas; institutions; social change; and international relations. With attention to Canadian, comparative, and international examples, we look at how politics happens in both formal and informal settings. A major aim of this course is to provide you with the vocabulary, context and tools you need to interpret and evaluate today's political issues and challenges. Because we are studying politics in an era of wide-spread disinformation, and because of the enormous social, intellectual and environmental costs of generative AI, this course prioritizes the development of information literacy and intellectual discernment abilities. Hence, students will develop critical research and writing skills, which are especially necessary for the study (and practice) of politics. There will also be a strong emphasis on identifying and engaging with reputable news sources and political science frameworks in order to make sense of current developments at home and abroad.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Able to demonstrate familiarity with the basic concepts and questions that animate the study of politics.

Able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the various frameworks and tools that political scientists use to study politics.

Develop organizational, time-management, and research abilities to search for, gather, review, and evaluate materials relevant to the study of politics.

Able to convey knowledge and analysis of political issues with clear, critical, and reflexive communication in a variety of forms and styles

Textbooks and Course Materials:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK-

Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand, Stephanie Lawson, and David B. MacDonald. 2022. 'Introduction to Politics. 3rd Canadian edition.' Toronto: Oxford University Press Canada.

Note that students in this section (551) MUST use THIS edition of THIS textbook. It is available in the campus bookstore AND widely available elsewhere, second hand and online.

All other readings/materials will be made available on OWL by the instructor.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	5 each term	10
Test 1	11/11/2026	15
Essay Topic Reflection	11/18/2026	5
Padlet Post in Pairs	12/09/2026	10
Essay Research Reflection	01/20/2027	5
Test 2	02/03/2027	15
Expected Essay Thesis and Annotated Bibliography	02/24/2027	5
Final Research Essay	03/31/2027	15
Final Exam	April Exam Period TBD	20

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$065.00

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.