



Business Government Relations: A Contemporary Policy Perspective
Management and Organizational Studies
MOS 3353F | Summer 2022
Huron University College
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am to 12:30pm

Jesse Helmer, PhD Candidate

Email: jhelmer@uwo.ca

Office Hours: [Book a time to meet](#)

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment in 3rd or 4th year of MOS

Course Description

What is the nature of the relationship between business and government? How do they influence and shape one another? Which sector and actors exercise the most influence and power when it comes down to achieving specific policy outcomes?

The purpose of this course is to introduce the complex interrelationships between business and government in Canada. The resulting institutional and policy outcomes are discussed and evaluated. The course will prepare students to meet managerial requirements and to participate in complex decisions when changing laws, regulations, and other governmental factors that have major long-term implications. In addition to case situations and readings on current issues, selected speakers from business and government will add their expertise.

Course Objectives

This course is an analysis of public policies as represented by laws and regulatory governmental activities, and their effects on business decision-making, distribution of wealth, and allocative efficiency in the public and private sectors. The course will deal with such topics as: externalities and the assignment of property rights (natural resource conservation, pollution, congestion, issue of corporate social responsibility); theories of the regulatory process and the performance of regulatory agencies in specific markets; legislative process and lobbying strategies; competition policy; government assistance to failing firms; Canadian industrial strategy; public ownership; etc. After completing this course, students will:

- Have a basic understanding of the nature of the relationships between business and government in Canada at the federal, provincial and municipal level;
- Be able to analyze business strategies and tactics directed at governments;
- Understand the nature of the state and Canadians’ different understanding of the role of the state, as it pertains to business-government relations;
- Be exposed to the dynamic and changing structure of the relationship between the business sector and the Canadian state; and
- Appreciate the influence of the growing global economy on business-government relations in Canada.

Readings

This course will draw upon one textbook which students are encouraged to acquire:

- Geoffrey Hale. *Uneasy Partnership: The Politics of Business and Government in Canada*. 2nd Edition. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

In addition to this text, a range of materials including academic journals, media reports, podcasts and videos will be drawn upon as course materials. All readings are posted in the schedule below, and when possible will be made available in OWL. Weekly readings may change or be added, as events develop (eg. relevant media articles about current events may be added throughout the course).

Evaluation

Evaluation	Due Date	Value
Short assignment	13 July	15%
Mid-term	27 July	15%
Group Presentation	Varies	10%
Essay		
Outline	20 July	10%
Final paper	12 August	30%
Participation		20%

- **Businesses and Federalism Short Assignment (15%)** – students will write a 1000-word paper related to the government supports for businesses during the COVID crisis, examining how Canadian federalism functions in practice. More details will be provided in class. Papers should be cited using Chicago author-date format.

- **Mid-term (15%):** the mid-term exam will be completed via OWL and will cover the material discussed in the first seven classes. It will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, short and long answer questions.
- **Group Presentation (10%):** groups of two or three students will work together on a 10 minute presentation to the class. More details will be provided in class.
- **Essay (40%)** - students will write a 3,000 word essay addressing a major question which has emerged from the class discussions, drawing on literature covered in the course. Four essay questions will be provided for students to choose from; or, students are welcome to identify their own topics (with advanced approval from the instructor). More details will be provided in class. An outline of the essay (10%) is due before the final paper.
- **Class Participation (20%)** – in an online class, participation is particularly important. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all class discussions and activities. The evaluation will be evaluated based on in-class contributions during lectures and guest speaker panels, as well as in small group and individual activities. Marks will be provided at the mid-point and conclusion of the course.

Late Penalties

Assignments submitted after the stated due date, without prior approval from the instructor, will be deducted 5% per day for up to 10 days at which time the assignment will receive a grade of zero.

Schedule & Readings

Week	Topic & Readings
CLASS #1 Monday, 4 July	INTRO TO BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome, introductions & review of course outline ● Business-government relations: definitions, approaches, ideologies and contemporary debates ● Frameworks for studying business, government and society ● Overview of first assignment: Businesses within Federalism paper. Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please review course outline carefully before class ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 1: Business, Government and the Politics of Mutual Dependence ● Review/scan the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan (online) section titled "Support for Business"

<p>CLASS #2 Wednesday, 6 July</p>	<p>THE ECONOMIC ROLES OF GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roles of government ● Canada’s political system and institutions of government ● Federal, provincial & local governments ● Indigenous governments <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 2: State, Business and Society: The Political Roles of Government ● Hale, <i>The Economic Hale, Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 3: The Economic Roles of Government ● Taylor, D. W., Warrack, A. A., & Baetz, M. C. “Business and government in Canada: Partners for the future” (1999) – on OWL
<p>CLASS #3 Monday, 11 July</p>	<p>CANADA’S ECONOMIC HISTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic history ● Politics of development and distribution ● Corporate power in Canada <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kernaghan, K., “Politics, policy and public servants: political neutrality revisited” (1976) – on OWL ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 4: Canada’s Economic History ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 5: Corporate Power in Canada: Nature, Extent and Limits
<p>CLASS #4 Wednesday, 13 July</p>	<p>THE BUSINESS LANDSCAPE IN CANADA & BEYOND</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kernaghan, K., “Politics, policy and public servants: political neutrality revisited” (1976) – on OWL ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 6: Canada’s Economic Structure ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 7: Federalism, Regionalism and Provincial Diversity

<p>CLASS #5 Monday, 18 July</p>	<p>CANADA IN A GLOBALIZED INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic globalization ● The international landscape in 2022 ● Flows of people, products and profits <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Savitch, H, and Kantor, P, “Urban Strategic for a Global Era: A Cross-National Comparison” (2003) – on OWL ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 8: Globalization, Trade and Business
<p>CLASS #6 Wednesday, 20 July</p>	<p>THE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public administration philosophies ● Bureaucracies and beyond <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pross, P, “Pressure group behaviors in Canadian politics” (1975) ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 9: Canada’s Crown Corporations and the Changing Face of State Capitalism
<p>CLASS #7 Monday, 25 July</p>	<p>LOBBYING & ADVOCACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy in practice ● Business lobby organizations in Canada ● Influencing public actors ● Successes and failures ● Discussion about final essays <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review Policy and Advocacy section of Ontario Chamber of Commerce website (online) ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 10: Interest Groups, Policy Communications and Lobbying
<p>CLASS #8 Wednesday, 27 July</p>	<p>MIDTERM</p>
<p>CLASS #9 Monday, 1 August</p>	<p>NO CLASS - AUGUST CIVIC HOLIDAY</p>

<p>CLASS #10 Wednesday, 3 August</p>	<p>REGULATION + TAXATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The regulatory environment ● Regulatory policy levers ● Roles of governments within Canadian federalism <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 11: Evolving Political Economy of Business Taxation
<p>CLASS #11 Monday, 8 August</p>	<p>BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT: WHO HOLDS THE POWER?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Big problems: who can solve them? ● The push and pull of business and government ● Power in 2022 and beyond <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 12: Putting the Capital into Capitalism ● Hale, <i>Uneasy Partnership</i>, Chapter 13: Growth, Equity and Sustainability
<p>CLASS #12 Wednesday, 10 August</p>	<p>FINAL DISCUSSION & CLASS WRAP UP</p> <p>Class Wrap Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final discussion about essays ● Wrap up



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Summer 2022

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a

manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll 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.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) 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. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

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>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and

to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the

Student Medical Certificate. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed **Consideration Request Form**. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult **Huron Academic Advising** at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>
Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.