

Elections and Voting: Political Science – 3336F
Course Outline – Fall 2016

Course Instructor and Location:

Instructor: Rob Leone
Office Hours: Office Hours: Tuesday – 12h30 to 13h30 (please e-mail for an appointment)
Office: SSC 4140
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Lectures: Tuesday 14h30 to 16h20
Classroom UCC 60

Course Overview & Learning Objectives:

This course examines the role of elections in maintaining democratic governance from theoretical and empirical perspectives. Topics to be covered include: electoral systems; the legal framework governing election campaigns; the role of parties and the media in election campaigns; and various influences on voting behaviour. The focus will be placed on understanding these topics in the North American context.

By the end of this course, students should be able to understand the context of elections and voting in Canada, participate in the electoral process by actively engaging in the federal election of 2015, and write a campaign strategy to gain skills that can be transferred to real life scenarios.

The learning objectives of this course are as follows:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse theories and methodological approaches in political science
2. Apply knowledge of key political institutions, actors and ideologies to analysis of political issues in research papers and presentations
3. Demonstrate an understanding of Canadian political systems in a comparative context
4. Apply their understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods in political science to critically evaluate current research
5. Recognize the ethical dimensions of problem identification and methodology
6. Demonstrate an awareness of how power, culture and history condition/influence knowledge formation in Political Science
7. Recognize the limits of their own political knowledge, in light of exposure to information, concepts, theories and experience
8. Recognize the ambiguity and uncertainty of Political Science; and understand the ubiquitous and controversial nature of politics
9. Be able to situate knowledge historically and contextually
10. Be able to assess evidence critically

11. Communicate in a variety of formats, including written and verbal (position papers, reports and research papers)
12. Communicate in an analytic and clear fashion
13. Communicate to a variety of relevant audiences
14. Recognize the importance of listening
15. Demonstrate well developed, independent information literacy and research skills (such as those articulated by the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries)
16. Use organizational skills that contribute to scholarly and personal independence
17. Work effectively with others, demonstrating the skills of giving feedback to peers , responding to feedback, and resolving conflict and use of active listening
18. Be able to identify goals for their own professional development and further learning

Course Format

- A. The course will be discussion based. Students are asked to come to class having read the assigned material.
- B. There will be a schedule posted with supplementary instructions for the Campaign Plan Assignment that will also take place during class.

Assessment of Learning

Participation:	20%
Debate Preparation:	20%
Follow a Politician:	20%
Campaign Plan Assignment:	40%

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend lectures, read the required readings, and complete all of their assignments to the best of their ability, on time, and honestly. The principles of Western's policy on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students should be aware of what constitutes a breach of academic honesty, and they should also be aware of other aspects of appropriate student conduct. It is expected that students attend every seminar, preferably on time.

Students who cannot complete any of the course requirements due to medical illness or bereavement are expected to follow university policies, and notify the appropriate people as early as possible. Students should be aware of the rules for acceptable practices in this regard.

Participation:

Attendance will be recorded each week and the participation grade will be based on an assessment of each student's contribution to class discussion and attendance at seminars. Please note that ***regular participation in class discussions is essential***. The participation grade will be assigned in

December. If, for some reason, you are unable to frequently participate, feel free to raise these concerns with your professor and alternative arrangements can be made.

Debate Preparation and Analysis:

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump will be squaring off on a presidential debate on September 26th. This assignment has three components. The first is to what your advice to the candidates might be. The second component is to watch the debate. The third component is to assess whether the candidate carried through on what you thought he/she should do. You are also asked to assess whether they performed well (whether or not they did what you thought they should do) and whether they could alter the course for the election. You must be available to watch the debate on September 26th to perform this assignment as the due dates will be close to that date. More information will be posted on OWL as well as information on the late submission policy for this assignment. It is the student's responsibility to check OWL for extra course information.

Political Advisory Assignment:

In this assignment, you will be asked to follow a political figure. It is a problem-based exercise that will force you to assess the political figure, and provide some advice to him/her on what they are doing well, and what they need to improve upon. More information will be posted on OWL. The due date for the assignment is on November 15th. There will be a late penalty of 3% per day including weekends. Papers will not be accepted beyond November 22nd. It is the student's responsibility to check OWL for extra course information.

Campaign Plan Assignment:

The major writing assignment for this course will be the development of a campaign plan. Instead of reviewing research on a question related to the course, students will be asked to apply the research in terms of the development of a campaign plan for a fictional candidate. So much of elections and voting depend on a candidate's preparedness for office, and the creation of a campaign plan is essential to electoral success.

Throughout the term, modules will be delivered during class for different parts of the plan. Examples of how to write the different sections will be delivered during class as well. The goal of this assignment is to get you thinking about the various components of a campaign which may not be apparent to you if you have never participated in one before.

As this is a long assignment, it is important to keep up with the work and do the modules soon after they are presented to the class. Doing so will ensure that you are not caught with too much work at the end of the term.

The Campaign Plan Assignment is **due on November 29th**. This should be written in a typical format of a plan with a table of contents, an executive summary, and sections with appropriate headings. A late penalty will be applied in the following manner. After 2 weeks (December 13, 2016) a late penalty of 3% of the assignment grade per day (including weekends) will apply. Papers will not be accepted if they are handed in after 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December, 20, 2016. More assignment information will be available on OWL. It is the student's responsibility to check for extra course information.

Required Texts:

1. Flanagan, Tom. 2014. *Winning Power: Canadian Campaigning in the Twenty First Century*. Montreal-Kingston – McGill-Queen's University Press.
2. Burton, Michael John and Daniel M. Shea. 2010. *Campaign Craft: The Strategies, Tactics, and Art of Political Campaign Management*. 4th Edition. Santa Barbara, California: Praeger.

Schedule of Lectures:

Week	Date	Title of Lecture	Assigned Reading
Week 1	September 13	Introduction to the Course	None assigned
Week 2	September 20	Planning a campaign	BS Chapter 1 F Chapter 1
Week 3	September 27	Presidential Debate Discussion	TBA
Week 4	October 4	Legal Framework of Elections	F Chapter 2
Week 5	October 11	Understanding Campaign Context	BS Chapter 2 and 3
Week 6	October 18	Campaign positioning	F Chapter 3 and 4
Week 7	October 25	Segment analysis	BS Chapter 4
Week 8	November 1	Polling and Target Voters	BS Chapter 5 and 6
Week 9	November 8	Media and Communications	BS Chapter 8 and 9 F Chapter 5
Week 10	November 15	Politics of Money	BS Chapter 7 F Chapter 6
Week 11	November 22	Negative Campaigning	F Chapter 7 and 8
Week 12	November 29	Direct Voter Contact and GOTV	BS Chapter 10
Week 13	November 29	Conclusion	F Chapter 10

APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"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."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

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:

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

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work refer to current Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>)

"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

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 Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> ."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "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>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.