Western University
Department of Political Science
FUTURE POLICY LAB: CANADA AT 200
Political Science 4456G
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Zack Taylor
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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Time: Tuesdays, 1:30–3:30pm
Location: FNB 2210 (the new Western Active Learning Space classroom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
What will Canada be like in 2067? In this course, you will identify Canada's future domestic and foreign policy challenges and work out proposals for how to prepare for them. Themes will include demographic change, including longer lifespans and immigration trends; shifting regional patterns of population and economic growth; urbanization; economic change, including automation and trade; indigenous peoples; public finance; and climate change. Throughout, we will consider the political implications of these changes. Students will form thematic research teams to produce a detailed cabinet submission and support documents for the new federal government, which will be presented to invited guests at the end of the course. Students from all political science subfields are welcome to take this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, you will (a) be conversant with contemporary scholarly and professional knowledge regarding major public policy dilemmas facing Canada and other nations, including their fiscal implications; (b) understand the contours of the policy development process, including the preparation and presentation of a cabinet submission; and (c) become acquainted with theoretical perspectives on uncertainty in policymaking. Most importantly, you will banish defeatism and feelings of powerlessness and become the informed future leaders we need you to be!

PREREQUISITES
This course is designed for senior undergraduate students. Registration in 3rd or 4th year of Political Science is required. 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.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

I. Policy futures

Class 1   Jan. 7   Introduction: What will Canada be like in 2067?

Class 2   Jan. 14   Anticipatory governance, uncertainty, and policy futures

Class 3   Jan. 21   Canada's institutional, fiscal, and political context
Introduce policy backgrounder assignment and decide on topics

II. Policy pressures

Class 4   Jan. 28   Demographic forecasting
Introduce population forecast assignment

Class 5   Feb. 4   A changing economic base
Population forecast due

Class 6   Feb. 11   The growing gap between urban and rural areas

         Feb. 18   Reading Week

Class 7   Feb. 25   Economic and social divisions between regions

Class 8   Mar. 3   Climate change and the next energy transition
Policy backgrounder due

Class 9   Mar. 10   Indigenous peoples and the North

Class 10   Mar. 17   Inequality and the welfare state

III. Actions and directions

Class 11   Mar. 24   Cabinet submission presentations I
Draft cabinet submission due

Class 12   Mar. 31   Cabinet submission presentations II

         Apr. 7   *Final cabinet submission due*

COURSE FORMAT

This is a student-driven seminar course. Regular student participation and dialogue are expected. *You must be committed to reading all of the assigned material before each class.* Advance reading is a necessary prerequisite for doing well in this course (see "Course Evaluation" below) and will make for more exciting and insightful discussion. While much of each class will be seminar-format, a portion of some classes will be set aside for group problem-solving and hands-on work.

COURSE WEBSITE

This course makes use of OWL. Please refer to the course website regularly for announcements and course information: https://owl.uwo.ca/portal.

COURSE MATERIALS

Two books are required and will be referred to at various points during the course:

Saunders, Doug. 2017. *Maximum Canada: Toward a Country of 100 Million.* Toronto: Penguin Random House. (Paperback edition released August 2019.)

Saillant, Richard. 2016. *A Tale of Two Countries: How the Great Demographic Imbalance is Pulling Canada Apart.* Halifax: Nimbus.

These books are accessible and well-written. You are encouraged to read them over the December holiday.

Other readings to be retrieved from publicly available websites are marked with a **W** . Readings marked with an E are electronic journal articles that can be retrieved through the Western Library website. All other readings are made available as PDFs on the course website.

EVALUATION

Evaluation	Due Date	Value
Population forecast	Feb. 4	10%
Policy backgrounder	Mar. 3	20%
Cabinet submission (team project)	Mar. 24	Draft 10%
	Apr. 7	Final 30%
Weekly reflection papers	Jan. 14–Mar. 17, except for Feb. 4 (9)	10%
Active participation		20%

Population forecast (10%): You will use a long-term population forecasting tool provided by the instructor to evaluate different national population scenarios and their potential social, economic, and fiscal implications. (The tool compares national population growth scenarios

based on fertility, mortality, and migration assumptions, including their regional distribution. You must have Excel 2016 installed on your laptop computer and be prepared to use it during the January 28 and February 4 classes). You will write a short report that interprets the potential fiscal, economic, and social implications of your 2067 population forecast scenario.

Policy Backgrounder (20%): You will research a concise background paper on a specific policy dilemma that will affect Canada and Canadians over the next 50 years. These background papers will support the cabinet submission.

Cabinet Submission (40%): Your will work in teams to prepare a submission to the federal cabinet. The number of students in each team, and the number of teams, will depend on how many students are enrolled in the course.

The cab sub will outline an integrated package of short-, medium-, and long-term policy interventions. Your priorities are to ensure the fiscal, social, economic, environmental, and political sustainability of the country in 2067 while recognizing uncertainties.

While this is a team project, each team member will be the author of specific sections. Your individually prepared policy backgrounders will inform the team's work on the cab sub.

The last two classes are given over to presentations of each team's cabinet submission. Special guests will be invited to comment on your policy proposals. You will use these comments as inputs to revise your draft submission into final form. The final cabinet submissions and policy backgrounders will be made publicly available.

Weekly Reflection Papers (10%): The day before each class you will submit a short (one- to two-page) reflection on either the readings *and/or* a relevant current event in the news. Students are required to monitor the Canadian daily news media and identify relevant events and topics as they appear.

Active Participation (20%): You are expected to participate actively in our class discussions, including presenting readings as required.

** Reading list TBA.