

**Final Version**  
**Elections and Voting**  
**POLS 3336G**  
**University of Western Ontario**  
**Winter 2025**

**Class Information:**

Wednesday 9:30am-11:20am

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Cameron Anderson

Office: SSC 7312

Office Hours: Thursday 1-2pm (online or in person) or by appointment

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**Course Description:**

This seminar course will critically assess the topic of elections and voting behaviour with an empirical emphasis on Canada. The course addresses topics including the institutions of elections, theories of voting and participation, the role of political parties, the effects of specific demographic and attitudinal factors on the vote decision and the role of elections and voting in the practice of democracy.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of the course students will:

- Be able to demonstrate understanding of electoral institutions
- Be able to demonstrate understanding of theories of voting behaviour and electoral participation
- Be able to demonstrate understanding of the role of elections in the practice of democracy

**Readings:**

All course readings will be available online through the UWO Libraries or in .pdf format on OWL.

**Grade Distribution:**

Participation 5%

Midterm Exam 25%

Research Paper Proposal 5%

Research Paper 25%

Final Exam 40%

## DISCUSSION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1.) Participation (5%): As this is a smallish third-year course, there will be a mix of lecture and classroom discussion. The participation grade will be based on attendance, the quality of comment, evidence of preparation, willingness to challenge accepted ideas and concern for the views expressed by others. If unable to attend, please inform the instructor in advance. Students will be given a preliminary grade for participation in the seventh week of the course. The final participation grade may change based on whether in-class performance improves, declines or stays the same.

2.) Midterm exam (25%): In class midterm exam on **February 26, 2025**. The exam will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. There will be choice of written questions.

3.) Research Paper Proposal (5%): The research paper proposal will be submitted online through the OWL course page and will be due at the beginning of class on **March 5, 2025**. This proposal should consist of a 1-page outline of the paper which includes an introduction of the topic, a thesis statement, tentative plan of the paper and (on a second page) a working bibliography of at least **5 (five)** academic sources (refereed books and journal articles) (that do not appear on the course outline).

3.) Research Essay (25%): You are required to write a research paper of **8-10 double-spaced pages in length using Times New Roman 12-point font**. This paper will be submitted online through the OWL course page. There are two due dates for this paper. If you want written comments on the paper, please submit the essay by **11:55pm on March 30, 2025**. If you just want the grade and no comments, please submit the essay by **11:55pm on April 6, 2025**. The intent of this assignment is to have you write a research essay that probes some topic of relevance within the field of elections and voting. You may choose to further delve into a topic covered in class or you may find something outside of the class which is both of interest to you and within the broad subject nature of the class. As this is a research essay, you will be expected to utilize a minimum of **8 (eight)** academic sources (books and refereed journal articles) to develop and support your arguments/ideas.

4.) Final Exam (40%): A final exam to be scheduled during the April examination period. The exam will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. There will be choice of written questions.

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

### ***Submission of Assignments:***

Assignments are due at the beginning of class and must be submitted through the course page on OWL Brightspace.

### ***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: [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20). All papers must be submitted through the Turnitin program portal on the OWL course page.

### ***Late penalty:***

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day. Assignments that are more than 1 week late will **not be accepted** for grading.

### ***Extensions:***

Extensions are not given. However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances an extension may be granted at the discretion of the professor.

***Artificial Intelligence:*** The University regulations on AI use in course work are listed here: <https://ai.uwo.ca/>. I expect you to complete all work for this course adhering to the spirit and principles of intellectual honesty and integrity **and to not use AI for the generation and completion of written assignments this course**. Should I suspect the use of AI, I will convene a meeting with you to verify your understanding of the material and argument. Where the student is not able to defend the content or origination of their work, I will ask the student to redo the assignment with late penalties in force from the original due date.

## **Class Meeting Schedule**

### **1. Introduction – January 8**

#### **2. Electoral Institutions – January 15**

G. Bingham Powell, Jr. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Ch. 1.

Michael Gallagher and Paul Mitchell. 2018. “Dimensions of Variation in Electoral Systems.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, ed. Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew S. Shugart.

Anderson, C and L. Stephenson. 2010. “Reading Political Behaviour Research: A Note on Methodology.” In *Voting Behaviour in Canada*, ed. Cameron D. Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson. Vancouver: UBC Press, Appendix.

Video to watch:

- FPTP vs. PR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2ljLsg9UFk>

#### **3. Models of Voting – January 22**

Cameron D. Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson. 2010. “The Puzzle of Elections and Voting in Canada.” In *Voting Behaviour in Canada*, ed. Cameron D. Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson. Vancouver: UBC Press, chapter 1.

Patrick Fournier, Fred Cutler, Stuart Soroka, Dietlind Stolle and Éric Bélanger. 2013. “Riding the Orange Wave: Leadership, Values, Issues, and the 2011 Canadian Election.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 46 (4): 863–97. doi:10.1017/S0008423913000875.

Harold D. Clarke, Jason Reifler, Thomas J. Scotto and Marianne C. Stewart. 2016. “It’s Spring Again! Voting in the 2015 Federal Election.” In *The Canadian Federal Election of 2015*, ed. Jon H. Pammett and Christopher Dornan, pp. 327-356.

#### **4. Political Parties and Party Systems – January 29**

William Cross. 2016. “The Importance of Local Party Activity in Understanding Canadian Politics: Winning from the Group Up in the 2015 Federal Election.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 49(4): 601-20.

Thomas Poguntke, Susan E. Scarrow, Paul D. Webb et al. 2016. “Party rules, party resources and the politics of parliamentary democracies: How parties organize in the 21st century.” *Party Politics* 22(6): 661-78.

Alan C. Cairns. 1968. “The Electoral System and the Party System in Canada, 1921-1965.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 1(1): 55-80.

#### **5. Political Participation – February 5**

Ruth Dassonneville and Marc Hooghe. 2017. “Voter turnout decline and stratification: Quasi-experimental and comparative evidence of a growing educational gap.” *Party Politics* 37(2): 184-200.

Kostelka, F., Blais, A. and Gidengil, E., 2019. Has the gender gap in voter turnout really disappeared?. *West European Politics*, 42(3), pp.437-463.

Kostelka, F. and Blais, A., 2021. The generational and institutional sources of the global decline in voter turnout. *World Politics*, 73(4), pp.629-667.

## **6. Sociodemographics and Voting – February 12**

- Goodyear-Grant, E. and Tolley, E., 2019. Voting for one's own: racial group identification and candidate preferences. *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 7(1), pp.131-147.
- Cutler, F., 2002. The simplest shortcut of all: Sociodemographic characteristics and electoral choice. *Journal of Politics*, 64(2), pp.466-490.
- Blais, A., 2005. Accounting for the electoral success of the Liberal party in Canada presidential address to the Canadian political science association London, Ontario June 3, 2005. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 38(4), pp.821-840.

## **February 17-21 \*\*\*READING WEEK\*\*\***

## **7. In Class Midterm Exam – February 26**

## **8. Partisanship – March 5**

- Leonie Huddy and Alexa Bankert. 2017. "Political Partisanship as a Social Identity." Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics.  
[https://calgara.github.io/Pol157\\_Spring2019/Huddy%20&%20Bankert%202017.pdf](https://calgara.github.io/Pol157_Spring2019/Huddy%20&%20Bankert%202017.pdf)
- Shaun Bowler and David J. Lanoue. 1996. "New Party Challenges and Partisan Change: The Effects of Party Competition on Party Loyalty." *Political Behavior* 18(4): 327-343.
- Merkley, E., 2022. Polarization eh? Ideological divergence and partisan sorting in the Canadian mass public. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 86(4), pp.932-943.

## **9. Economic Voting and Issues – March 12**

- Michael S. Lewis-Beck and Richard Nadeau. 2011. "Economic voting theory: Testing new dimensions." *Electoral Studies* 30(2): 288-294.
- Ruth Dassonneville and Michael S. Lewis-Beck. 2017. "Rules, institutions and the economic vote: clarifying clarity of responsibility." *West European Politics* 40(3): 534-559.
- François Gelineau and Éric Bélanger. 2005. "Electoral Accountability in a Federal System: National and Provincial Economic Voting in Canada." *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 35(3): 407-24.
- Cameron D. Anderson, R. Michael McGregor, Aaron A. Moore and Laura B. Stephenson. 2017. "Economic Voting and Multilevel Governance: The Case of Toronto." *Urban Affairs Review* 53(1): 71-101.

## **10. Leaders and Candidates – March 19**

- Jason Roy and Christopher Alcantara. 2015. "The Candidate Effect: Does the Local Candidate Matter?" *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties* 25(2): 195-214.
- Alex Badas and Katelyn Stauffer. 2019. "Voting for women in nonpartisan and partisan elections." *Electoral Studies* 57: 245-255.
- Amanda Bittner. 2018. "Leaders always mattered: The persistence of personality in Canadian elections." *Electoral Studies* 54: 297-302.

## **11. Campaigns – March 26**

- André Blais, Elisabeth Gidengil, Richard Nadeau and Neil Nevitte. 2003. "Campaign Dynamics in the 2000 Canadian Election: How the Leader Debates Salvaged the

- Conservative Party.” PS: Political Science and Politics 36(1): 45-50.
- Cindy D. Kam and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2013. “Name Recognition and Candidate Support.” American Journal of Political Science 57(4): 971-986.
- Richard R. Lau, Lee Sigelman and Ivy Brown Rovner. 2007. “The Effects of Negative Political Campaigns: A Meta-Analytic Reassessment.” The Journal of Politics 69(4): 1176-1209.

## **12. Democracy for Realists – April 2**

- Achen, Christopher and Larry Bartels. 2017. *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.
- Fournier, P. (2002). The uninformed Canadian voter. In J. Everitt & B. O'Neill (eds), *Citizen politics: Research and theory in Canadian political behaviour*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.
- Blais, A., Gidengil, E., Fournier, P. and Nevitte, N., 2009. Information, visibility and elections: Why electoral outcomes differ when voters are better informed. *European Journal of Political Research*, 48(2), pp.256-280.

## **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:

- 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."

**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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.**

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) 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.

## **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Note:** Missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

## **Accommodation and Accessibility**

### **Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the



Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

## **Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## **Academic Policies**

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

During exams/tests/quizzes, no electronic devices (e.g. a phone, laptop, iPad) are allowed and must be powered down and stored out of reach.

**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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

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>).

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

If a course uses remote proctoring, please be advised that you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including

some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of a course with remote proctoring will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

## Support Services

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/ssac/)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

# 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. [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

## PLAGIARISM\*

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.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991