

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: POSC 322		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: American Government and Politics Course Short Title: American Government & Politics															
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences		Department (or program if no department): Political Science													
Calendar Description: Analyzes the development of American political institutions, democratization, and the role of the United States as a world power. Explores partisan politics, social mobilization, public policy, and current issues in U.S. politics today.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		45 university-level credits.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):															
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):															
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Every other year Maximum enrolment (for information only): 28													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	45									Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	45														
Total hours	45														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: October 2022													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: November 4, 2022													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: January 27, 2023													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Summarize the process of United States democratization.
2. Analyze how political institutions influence political behaviour in the United States.
3. Consider issues in the U.S. political system using Indigenous theoretical perspectives.
4. Integrate ethnic and racial minority, immigrant, and gendered perspectives into their analysis of U.S. politics.
5. Explain the roles that political parties, social movements, and civil society play in U.S. politics today.
6. Critique current debates about U.S. politics.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	55%	Quizzes/tests:	20%	Final exam:	25%
	%		%		%

Details:

Group presentation: 20%

Choose-your-own assignment (opinion piece, briefing note, or speech): 15%

Final paper: 20%

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Brooks, S., Koopman, D.L. and Wilson, J.M.	Understanding American Politics (3 rd). UToronto Press.	2023
2. Indigenous knowledge	Dunbar-Ortiz, R.	An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. Beacon Press.	2015
3.			
4.			
5.			

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)***Course Content and Topics**

- Introduction – How could Donald Trump happen?
- How does American government work? Institutions
- How was American government formed? Settler-colonialism and the constitution
- How did America become a democracy? Democratization
- How does the American justice system work? Federal courts
- How do Americans choose their government? Political parties and elections
- Who is the American president? What is congress?
- Why are U.S. politics so divisive? Inequality and ideology
- What role do social movements and interest groups play in American politics? Case study: the NRA
- Why is America so powerful globally? American foreign policy and hegemony
- Issues in U.S. politics: immigration, reproductive rights
- Issues in U.S. politics: systemic racism, gun control
- Issues in U.S. politics: climate change, healthcare