

**POLI 3215 WA
Democracy in Ontario
Winter 2020**

Monday & Wednesday: 8:30 – 10:00 am

Room: RB – 2042

Professor: Dr. Toby Rollo

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12 – 1:30pm

Course Description

In this course we will examine the state of democracy in Ontario. Ontario is one of Canada's largest and most prosperous provinces, and its most populous by a significant margin. This means that the state of democratic institutions and practices in the province has a major effect on Canadian democracy. We will explore political issues related to gender, immigration, labour and economics, the environment, and Indigenous politics in the context of Ontario's unique political history, culture, and parties. Special attention will be given to the Northwest. At the end of the course students will be able to identify and explain the political significance of the principal political, economic, geographic, and social features of Ontario.

Format

Weekly lectures and discussion will focus on identified topics. Lectures complement assigned readings and are not summaries. Students must do the assigned reading prior to the lecture. Students are responsible for lecture material, required readings, films and other material covered in class.

Course Materials

REQUIRED BOOK (available from the book store)

Collier, Cheryl N. & Jonathan Malloy (eds). *The Politics of Ontario*. Toronto: UofT Press, 2017.

Course Requirements

1. Participation and Attendance (20%): Students who attend and participate have an opportunity to earn up to 20% for their time and effort. The mark is heavily weighted toward actual attendance.

2. Reflection Papers (5 papers x 5% each = 25%): A 1-2 page reflection on the readings for the week. You get to choose which five weeks you write on. They are **due in-class every Wednesday** of the week that the reflection covers.

3. Mid-Term Exam (20%): A mid-term exam will be conducted **in-class on Wednesday, February 12, 2020**. You will have the duration of the class to complete it. It will test you on the materials covered in the course up to the time of the exam. It will be a closed book exam consisting of a mixed bag of multiple choice and short answer questions.

4. Final Paper (35%): 8 to 10-page essay on any topic in Ontario politics that interests you. Please confirm your research topic before you begin writing. The paper is **due on the last day of class: April 1st, 2020**.

E-mail

I will try to answer emails within two business days. I welcome e-mail queries and comments. All students are required to have a valid Lakehead e-mail address. It is your responsibility to maintain your e-mail address in good working order. The University expects you to correspond with me through your official e-mail address, and not through a commercial e-mail account.

Failure to receive important class announcements and messages from me because of a faulty e-mail account (for example, an account which screens out my e-mails as junk mail; bounced messages because of overloaded caches) are not legitimate excuses.

Forwarding your Lakehead email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of e-mail account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from your Lakehead addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that e-mails from me may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me, and/or Accessibility Services. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Essays

You are to complete a research essay on a topic in Ontario politics of your choosing. The goal of each essay is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to the research question backed by rational consideration of the evidence.

Summarize your response (argument) in a sentence or two – the thesis statement – and appear in the first paragraph of your essay. Be explicit. The reader should be clear on what you are arguing. Assume an educated reader. Do not spend more than a few paragraphs providing background information. Focus on providing information that advances your argument. While the balance of the paper will defend your argument, you should also acknowledge counterarguments and seek to demonstrate that your argument is superior.

Formatting bibliographies, references

The written assignments will all be double-spaced in 12pt Times New Roman font with standard margins. Essays should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and complete bibliography.

Include a title page with your name, the date, the course number, and my name.

In completing the written assignments, students must cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge and must cite all ideas that are borrowed from other authors. Students must use a recognized standard format correctly in their bibliographies, references, and footnotes. Failure to do so will result in substantial penalty in calculating your assignment grade.

The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences. Also, it is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses.

Late Penalties

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Unless arrangements have been made, late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day including weekends.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to Ontario

Monday, January 6

1. No readings assigned

Wednesday, January 8

1. "Ontario Then and Now" Graham White, *Politics of Ontario*
2. Indigenous Treaties in Ontario:

https://files.ontario.ca/treaties_in_ontario_infographic_en.pdf

https://files.ontario.ca/iao_community_wall_map_en_2019-08.pdf

Week 2: Ontario's Political Culture and Political Parties

Monday, January 13

1. "Political Culture in Ontario" Peter Woolstencroft, *Politics of Ontario*
2. Scandal in Ontario Politics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiQr5BnlR34>

Wednesday, January 15

1. "Political Parties and the Party System in Ontario" John Malloy, *Politics of Ontario*
2. Indigenous People and the Ontario Election.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyITC3v2aYY>

Week 3: Ontario Political Regimes

Monday, January 20

1. "An Inside Look at the Ontario Liberals in Power," Anna Esselment, *Politics of Ontario*

Wednesday, January 22

1. "Populism in the City: The Case of Ford Nation," Daniel Silver *et al.* *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*. (On D2L)
2. Doug Ford and Democracy.

<https://theconversation.com/toronto-must-keep-fighting-doug-ford-for-the-good-of-democracy-103978>

Week 4: Ontario Political Institutions

Monday, January 27

1. "The Ontario Legislature: Living up to Its Democratic Potential amidst Political Change" Tracey Raney, *Politics of Ontario*

Wednesday, January 29

1. "The Commanding Heights of Power and Politics in Ontario" Bryan Evans, *Politics of Ontario*

Week 5: Ontario Intergovernmental Relations

Monday, February 3

1. "Local Government in Ontario," Daniel Henstra, *Politics of Ontario*

Wednesday, February 5

1. "Ontario and Contemporary Intergovernmental Relations: Still a Responsible Partner in Confederation?" Julie M. Simmons, *Politics of Ontario*

Week 6: Diversity and Multiculturalism in Ontario

Monday, February 10

1. "Ontario's Multiple Identities: Politics and Policy in a Diverse Province" Myer Siemiatycki, *Politics of Ontario*
2. "Post-secularism, Multiculturalism, Human Rights, and Religion in Ontario," David Seljak. (On D2L)

Wednesday, February 12

Mid-term Exam.

Week 7: Reading Week NO CLASSES!

Monday, February 17

Wednesday, February 19

Week 8: The North!!

Monday, February 24

1. "Continuity and Change in Northern Ontario," Gina Comeau, *Politics of Ontario*

Wednesday, February 26

1. “Revolution or Devolution: How Northern Ontario Should be Governed”
<http://rplc-capr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/revolution-or-devolution.pdf>

Week 9: Ontario’s Political Economy

Monday, March 2

1. “The Political Economy of Ontario” Matthias Oschinski, *Politics of Ontario*
2. “The Social and Economic Context of Ontario Politics” Rand Dyck, *Politics of Ontario*

Wednesday, March 4

1. “The Politics of Labour and Labour Relations in Ontario” Larry Savage, *Politics of Ontario*
2. The Year we Make History
<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/year-we-make-history>
3. Workers, wages, and the Ontario Election
<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/workers-wages-and-ontario-election>

MARCH 6

LAST DAY TO DROP COURSES

Week 10: Indigenous Politics in Ontario

Monday, March 9

1. *Seven Fallen Feathers*, excerpts (on D2L).
2. Thunder Bay Podcast
<https://www.canadalandshow.com/shows/thunder-bay/>

Wednesday, March 11

1. *Seven Fallen Feathers*, excerpts (on D2L).
1. Thunder Bay Police Services Board Investigation – Final Report (on D2L)

Week 11: Ontario and the Environment

Monday, March 16

1. "Place Politics: Ecological Citizenship in Canada's Chemical Valley," *The Centre for Environmental Health Equity*, Sarah Wiebe
<https://cehe.ca/2016/07/05/chemicalvalley/>
2. Our Environmental Guardian
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dA8BpFSoT3I>
3. Ontario is worse off without commissioner Dianne Saxe
https://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2019/03/28/ontario-is-worse-off-without-commissioner-dianne-saxe.html

Wednesday, March 18

1. "Wind Power Deployment: The Role of Public Participation in the Decision-Making Process in Ontario, Canada," *Sustainability*, Jami & Walsh (on D2L).
2. Thunder Bay: Area of Concern
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/great-lakes-protection/areas-concern/thunder-bay.html>

Week 12: Ontario and Gender Issues

Monday, March 23

1. "A Path Well-Travelled or Hope on the Horizon? Women, Gender, and Politics in Ontario," Cheryl N. Collier, *Politics of Ontario*

Wednesday, March 25

1. "Litigating Parentage: Equality Rights, LGBTQ Mobilization and Ontario's *All Families Are Equal Act*," *Canadian Journal of Law and Society*, Dave Snow. (on D2L)
2. LGBTQ Parental Rights in Ontario.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHrr7qYD2g4>

Week 13: Ontario's Past and Future

Monday, March 30

"Neoliberal Parliamentarism: a comparative analysis of approaches to legislative governance by the Harris and Ford governments in the province of Ontario, 1997 to 2019," *Studies in Political Economy*, Tom McDowell (on D2L)

Wednesday, April 1

1. Final Thoughts and Discussion
2. Final Paper Due