

POLI 3215 FAO Politics of Ontario/F2023

Instructor: Dr. Todd Stubbs

Class Times: Web-based

Office/Hours: Wed. 10:00-11:00, or by appointment (Zoom)

Email: tstubbs@lakeheadu.ca

Course Description

Contemporary Ontario politics has its roots the province's decades-long period of economic growth, which attracted large-scale capital investment and extensive labour migration. These factors contributed heavily to Ontario's outsized influence nationally not only in politics and economics, but also in culture and other fields. Among the results of the province's growth and stability were fairly predictable political patterns and outcomes. Yet more recently, in an age of massive neoliberal restructuring of the global economy, economic shocks and a wide range of disruptive social, cultural, environmental, and technological forces have transformed the province's politics, diminished Ontario's standing nationally and internationally, and raised anxious concerns about the path forward. To explore these issues, this course examines the institutions, processes, and behaviours that shape politics in Ontario. In particular, the course will pursue the following questions: What is the nature of Ontario politics? What ideas, interests, and institutions have influenced and guided its development? How do Ontarians engage their political system and why do they make the political choices they do?

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to encourage students to work with and master a range of theoretical and practical tools and approaches to analyzing and better understanding the social, economic, and historical contexts of politics in Ontario. A broader objective is to foster the development of transferrable writing, research, and analytical skills.

Evaluation

Midterm Quiz: 15%

Book Report: 30%

Participation: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

Required Materials

Cheryl N. Collier and Jonathan Malloy, eds., *The Politics of Ontario* (Toronto; University of Toronto Press, 2017).

William P. Cross, et al., *Fighting for Votes: Parties, the Media, and Voters in an Ontario Election* (Vancouver; UBC Press, 2015).

Additional readings are posted on D2L. Be sure to consult the syllabus regularly for information on scheduled materials.

Course Structure and Work Requirements

Course Structure:

This course is Web-based and will take place entirely online, in 12 weekly cycles. Pay close attention to the class schedule. Students are expected to read all assigned materials and take an active part in discussions.

Written Assignments/Work Requirements/Tests:

a) Book Report

Due 20 November 2023

Students will prepare a book report based on Cross, et al., *Fighting for Votes*. The paper will accomplish the following:

1. Provide a detailed examination of **one** of the major three parties covered in the study. The analysis will assess...
 - a) the quality of the party's policy proposals;
 - b) its leadership strengths and weaknesses;
 - c) its campaign tactics, covering various media and other techniques; and
 - d) the effectiveness of the party/party leader's appeal to voters.
2. Develop a set of recommendations for how the party could make improvements in view of future elections.

Additional information about the assignment will be posted on D2L, under Course Documents.

b) Participation

Participation is an important component of this course. Students will receive weekly scores out of 2.5 for their online posts. Students must complete ten of twelve weekly posts. If you complete all twelve your lowest two scores will be dropped. See the Discussion Post guidelines for further details.

c) Midterm Quiz

23 October 2023

The online midterm quiz will cover all scheduled course materials (lectures and readings) up to and including the week of the test. The quiz will be one hour in duration but you will have between 12:00 am and 11:00 pm on the 23rd to complete it. Further information about how the quiz be administered will be provided at the start of the course.

d) Final Exam

A final exam will be scheduled for the exam period at the end of the semester. It will be cumulative and cover all materials from the whole semester.

Evaluation of Written Assignments/Projects:

80-100% (A range):

Shows advanced competency in meeting the research and/or analytical and/or communications and/or cognitive and/or technical requirements of the assignment.

- The work is of exceptional quality
- The work is insightful, detailed, articulate, grammatically correct, technically correct, and well organized

70-79% (B range):

Exhibits a good effort in meeting the requirements of the assignment or examination.

- The work may be less focused, detailed, organized or less widely researched than a paper worthy of a higher grade or communicates fewer ideas with less detailed analysis than an assignment worthy of a higher grade

60-69% (C range):

Average approach and level of success in communicating analysis, factual material, and ideas.

- The work offers less detailed analysis and/or a lack sufficient research, and /or a less articulate or less clearly focused argument and/or may have technical flaws

50-59% (D range):

A poor level of competency in meeting the requirements of an assignment or examination.

- The work is poorly organized and/or written, features generalized statements, lacks supporting details and/or critical analysis, and features significant technical flaws

Below 50% (F):

Failure to meet the requirements of the assignment.

Course Policies

Late Assignments:

All written work must be handed in on time. Late work will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends and holidays. Late assignments may not be accepted after more than ten days.

To obtain an exemption for medical or compassionate reasons, students must present signed supporting documentation to the instructor.

PLEASE NOTE: Unsubstantiated technical problems or electronic submission of blank files or otherwise unreadable files are not legitimate excuses for late penalty exemption.

Academic Misconduct:

Students are expected to abide by the principles of academic honesty in all aspects of their studies and course work. Academic dishonesty is defined as a deliberate act or failure to act in a manner resulting in, or intended to result in, the awarding of unearned credit or advantage. The major forms of academic dishonesty pertinent to this course include plagiarism, misrepresentation of authorship, and improper collaboration.

Behaviour deemed academically dishonest may result in a grade of “0,” loss of credit for the course (with a transcript notation indicating the failure was the result of academic misconduct),

and, in certain cases, suspension or expulsion from the university. For more information see the Lakehead Calendar 2012-13 > University Regulation > IX Academic Misconduct.

A copy of the “Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures” including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may also be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

- a. The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- b. A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

- a. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
- b. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e., no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.”

Due Dates and Weekly Schedule

Due Dates

Midterm Quiz: 23 October 2023

Book Report: 20 November 2023

Exam: TBA

IMPORTANT: All due dates are valid to 11:59 pm on the specified day. All written assignments must be submitted electronically to the appropriate D2L drop box in pdf or .doc (Word) format. Please do not submit PAGES-formatted documents.

Weekly Schedule

Please note: most readings are found in the Collier and Malloy and Cross et al., books. Additional materials are accessible on D2L under the “Articles” tab and feature (D2L) before the citation.

Part I – The Framework of Ontario Politics

5-11 September

Week 1 – Introduction: Ontario in Confederation

White, “Ontario Then and Now.”

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, Introduction.

12-18 September

Week 2 – Economy and Society: The Neoliberal Paradigm

Oschinski, “The Political Economy of Ontario.”

Dyck, “The Social and Economic Context of Ontario Politics.”

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, ch.1.

19-25 September

Week 3 – Political Culture

Woolstencroft, “Political Culture in Ontario.”

Malloy, “Political Parties and the Party System in Ontario.”

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, ch.2.

Part II – Institutions

26 September-2 October

Week 4 – Ontario and Federalism

Raney, “The Ontario Legislature.”

Evans, “The Commanding Heights of Power and Politics in Ontario.”

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, ch.3.

3-16 October

Week 5 – Municipalities and Intergovernmental Relations

Simmons, “Ontario and Contemporary Intergovernmental Relations.”

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, chs.4, 5.

17-23 October

Quiz 23 October 2023

Week 6 – Health and Education

(D2L) Pat Armstrong and Hugh Armstrong, “Reforming Health Services in Ontario.”

Part III – Interests and Identities

24-30 October

Week 7 – Women and Ontario Politics

Collier, “A Path Well Travelled.”

(D2L) Elizabeth Payne, “Trolling a major barrier for women entering politics: conference,”
Ottawa Citizen 16 Aug 2022, A.2.

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, chs.6, 7.

31 October-6 November

Week 8 – Indigenous People and Ontario Politics

(D2L) Lawson, “Colonialism, Indigenous Struggles, and the Ontario State.”

(D2L) Tanya Talaga, “Northern chiefs have put Canada on notice: The next Land Back battleground will be north of Lake Superior, as First Nations say no to nuclear waste on their traditional lands,” *Globe and Mail*, 12 Aug 2022, A13.

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, chs.8, 9.

7-13 November

Week 9 – Class and Ethnoracial Identities and Ontario Politics

Siemiatycki, “Ontario’s Multiple Identities.”

(D2L) Wendy Gillis, “It doesn’t seem like we’ve made much progress,” *Toronto Star* 22 June 2022, A.1.

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, chs.10, 11.

14-20 November

Book Report due 20 November 2023

Week 10 – Regionalism

Comeau, “Continuity and Change.”

Horak, “Toronto and the GTA.”

Cross et al., *Fighting for Votes*, ch.12.

21-27 November

Week 11 – Environment

Winfield, “Environmental Policy in Ontario.”

(D2L) Auditor General of Ontario, *Special Report on Changes to the Greenbelt* (King’s Printer, August 2023).

* Read “Reflections,” “1.0 Summary,” “2.0 Background,” and “3.0 Audit Objective and Scope.”

28 November-4 December

Week 12 – What are Ontario’s Most Urgent Current Priorities?

Review