

PSCI 3005 B
Ontario Politics

Fridays, 11:35 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.
This course will be held in person.

Open the bookmark menu to the left for easy navigation.

I **General Information**

Instructor: Elsa Piersig
Classroom: Confirm on Carleton Central.
Online Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Email: elsapiersig@cmail.carleton.ca
Phone number: 647.515.6080

II **Course Description**

Ontario as a legal and constitutional entity carries significant weight in the Canadian federation. It is a diverse province, encompassing racially diverse populations, dense urban spaces, suburban sprawl, rural farmland, and extensive northern wilderness. But, despite these qualities, Ontario and its residents lack a strong sense of identity. Even the use of the word ‘Ontarian’ is relatively new in the last twenty years, reflecting the fact that Ontario residents are the most likely of all Canadians to identify with Canada first rather than their province. Accordingly, Ontario politics are often overlooked. This course unpacks the politics of Ontario from its historical foundations and political culture to its contemporary political institutions and complex political society. We will examine topics including Ontario government, Ontario parties and elections, urbanization and the rural-urban divide, multiculturalism and diversity, Indigenous peoples in Ontario, and Ontario’s political history.

III **Course Format**

The course is delivered in-person on the Carleton University campus. The scheduled three-hour time slot involves lecture and group activities. Lecture slides will be made available but not lecture notes – the slides are no replacement for the lecture content.

IV **Learning Outcomes**

By taking this course, students will:

- Develop a strong knowledge base about Ontario’s political institutions and political society, from historical developments to contemporary debates
- Apply knowledge of Ontario’s political institutions to systematically evaluate Ontario government

- Develop critical thinking, inquiry and analysis, and group work skills through the iterative nature of course assignments
- Improve written and oral communication skills through course assignments
- Explain and evaluate some major Ontario public policy issues.

V Texts

- Collier, C. and J. Malloy, eds. 2017. *The Politics of Ontario*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (Available at the Carleton Bookstore.)
- Additional readings posted on Brightspace and through the ARES system.

VI Course Evaluation: Overview

<i>Assignment/Course Component</i>	<i>Assignment Due Date</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Running Total</i>
Participation	Throughout the semester	10%	10%
Syllabus Quiz	Friday, Jan. 28, 2022		10%
Pop Quizzes (3)	Throughout the semester	3*5%	25%
Political Culture Briefing Note	Friday, Feb. 11, 2022	25%	50%
Reflection 1	Friday, Feb. 18, 2022	5%	55%
Political Culture Briefing Note Feedback	Friday, Mar. 4, 2022	5%	60%
Team Project Presentation	Choice of Friday, Mar. 18, Mar. 25, or April 1, 2022	5%	65%
Team Project	Friday, April 8, 2022	30%	95%
Reflection 2	Friday, April 8, 2022	5%	100%

This course is a *stylized* representation of applying for and performing public service work. Students' goals are to get hired by and complete a report with their team for an Ontario department or political party. The assignments are structured as follows:

1. The first part of the hiring process is answering a series of screening questions. These questions will also help the course instructor get to know you and contribute to the participation grade.
2. As successful candidates, students are asked to submit a mock briefing note for evaluation. When the briefing note has been satisfactorily completed, students accept a research and policy position with the department/party.
3. Congratulations! The new position involves working on a team responsible for analyzing:
 - a) their department's performance during COVID-19 and made recommendations for subsequent waves of the pandemic, or
 - b) their party's track record and drafting a campaign strategy for the 2022 Ontario provincial election. Teams will present their project to senior management (a.k.a. the instructor and the class) for feedback and questions prior to submission.

The assignments are explained in the next section and instructions and rubrics for each individual assignment will be provided on Brightspace.

VII Course Evaluation in Detail

Participation – 10% of Final Grade – Throughout the Semester (Weeks 2-15)

There are three primary avenues of course engagement: weekly lectures, team meetings, and the syllabus quiz. Students will also be asked to complete screening questions as an introductory activity.

1. Weekly Lectures

Students earn participation by engaging with the weekly lectures. The course instructor welcomes comments and questions relevant to the course material. Questions are useful for oneself and fellow students if they help clarify content in the readings and lectures or the assignments.

2. Team Meetings

A significant portion of the course grade comes from the Team Project. Teams will be provided with class time to meet on the following dates listed below. Teams must submit agendas before the team meeting and minutes from the meeting.

- March 4, 2022
- March 11, 2022
- March 18, 2022

3. Syllabus Quiz – Due Friday, January 28, 2022 (Week 4)

The Syllabus Quiz is a quick review of the course components and communication with the course instruction team. Failure to complete the Syllabus Quiz by that date will lock further components of online course page.¹

Pop Quizzes – 3 x 5% of the Final Grade – Throughout the Semester (Weeks 3-15)

There are three pop quizzes each worth 5% of the final grade. A pop quiz can occur during any class starting with Week 3 (January 21, 2022). The quizzes will involve short answer questions and may feature some multiple-choice questions. They will address recent assigned readings and lectures, i.e., the preceding 2-3 weeks prior to the quiz.

Political Culture Briefing Note – 20% of Final Grade – Due Friday, February 11, 2022 (Week 5)

- Though the Ontario political culture has been characterized as “conservative” and “progressive,” these words are rarely used in conjunction to capture Premier Doug Ford. How does the Ford government’s COVID-19 response fit into the common understandings of Ontario’s political culture?

The Political Culture Briefing Note introduces students to a style of concise and precise writing associated with briefing notes. It is a short assignment of 3-4 pages (maximum). Students are asked to evaluate the Ford government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic using Ontario political culture. The briefing note must have a unifying argument in response to the assignment’s question, define the Ontario political culture and describe the core actions taken by the Ford government for the pandemic. The document should be single-spaced and can involve a

¹ The last day to register in a Winter course or switch between courses is January 24, 2022. All students, regardless of registration date, will have until the end of the week to complete the Syllabus Quiz.

combination of short paragraphs and bullet notes. Students can find resources and more details on briefing notes and the assignment on the course Brightspace site.

Reflection 1 (Political Culture) – 5% of the Final Grade – Friday, February 18, 2022 (Week 6)

This is an informal journal entry for personal reflection on the Political Culture Briefing Note assignment, approximately 500 words in length. Students will be provided with 3-4 questions to guide their responses and are expected to critically review their work and thought processes/preconceptions. The Political Culture Briefing Note must have been completed before Reflection 1 can be uploaded.

Political Culture Briefing Note Feedback – 5% of the Final Grade – Friday, March 4, 2022 (Week 7)

This assignment is an opportunity to practice reviewing a colleague's work and to start thinking about the Team Project. Students will review one of their team colleague's Political Culture Briefing Note. The feedback provided must be constructive, professional, and respectful and it will consist of two parts. First, students will outline areas for improvement based on the assignment rubric and, second, consider/brainstorm how the assignment's content can apply to the upcoming Team Project.

Team Project – 35% of the Final Grade – (Weeks 7-15)

- Team Project Presentation – 5% – Friday, March 18, March 24, or April 1, 2022
- Team Project Report – 30% – Friday, April 8, 2022

Building on the Political Culture Briefing Note, the Team Project delves further into COVID-19 government policy and looking forward to the future. The Team Project is due at the start of the last class on Friday, April 8, 2022. Teams can choose one of the following options:

- a) Draft a report for an Ontario ministry on pandemic policy
 - The report will evaluate a ministry's COVID policy and provide recommendations to the ministry for a potential next wave or future pandemic.
 - Reports will address actions taken by the ministry during the pandemic, consider the effectiveness of ministry policy, and set out next steps for the ministry. It is also important to relate government action to Ontario's socio-economic context and the political climate, including Ontario's political culture. Reports may also address the ministry's relations with some relevant stakeholders, such as other orders of government, institutions, and social actors.
 - Teams will be distributed between four ministries: [Colleges and Universities](#), [Education](#), [Health](#), and [Long Term Care](#).
- b) Develop a political campaign for an Ontario political party for the 2022 provincial election
 - The report should review the party's previous electoral campaigns, evaluate potential major policy promises for the party, and draft recommendations for the upcoming campaign in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Reports ought to connect the party to Ontario's party system, political history, and political culture, and consider the socio-economic context. What are the party's strengths and weaknesses? What can the party do within its historical, political, and (socio-economic) policy constraints?

- Teams will be distributed between the four main parties: [Ontario Progressive Conservative Party](#), [Ontario Liberal Party](#), [Ontario New Democratic Party](#), and the [Green Party of Ontario](#).

Teams will have time for meetings during class to brainstorm and develop the project. Team meetings are scheduled for March 4, and March 11, and March 18, 2022. Teams must draft an agenda prior to the meeting and submit meeting minutes.

Team Project Presentation: Teams will present their work in progress to senior management (course instructor and class) during the next three weeks (March 18, March 25, and April 1, 2022). Teams can choose to integrate feedback from the presentations into their final version of the Team Project.

Reflection 2 (Team Project) – 5% of Final Grade – Friday, April 8, 2022 (Week 15)

This is an informal journal entry for personal reflection on the Team Project and Presentation, approximately 500 words in length. Students will be provided with 3-4 questions to guide their responses and are expected to critically review their team’s work – especially their contribution to their team’s work – and thought processes/preconceptions. The Team Project must have been submitted before Reflection 2 can be uploaded.

*** Remember, the course instructor and teaching assistant are here to help! Please reach out to us through email, course instructor office hours, or the Course Questions discussion forum.

VIII Course Procedures and Policies

Online Meetings

- Online meetings are your opportunity to ask questions and discuss course material. When joining a meeting, please ensure that you mute yourself.
- Please be considerate of others’ internet capabilities and avoid sharing the video feed.

Assignment Submission

- All assignments are due on the course Brightspace page. Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file has been uploaded. Assignments should be uploaded as Microsoft Word documents (not PDFs) to the appropriate online dropbox by midnight of the due date.
- Assignment length should follow the guidelines provided. Assignments over or under the expected length by 10% will receive a reduction in the assigned grade.
 - The recommended length for an assignment indicates the amount of effort required. Moreover, staying within the guidelines respects the course instruction team’s time.
- Carleton offers MS Office (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, etc.) for free from ITS: <https://carleton.ca/its/help-centre/get-microsoft-office-for-students/>.
- There is *up to 3%* bonus on the final course grade for completing all assignments as detailed in the syllabus. All assignments must be submitted by the deadline in the syllabus,

regardless of any extensions given for unforeseen circumstances. The bonus is assigned at the course instructor's discretion for final grades in the D to A- range.

Citation is Required!

- Students should use proper citation for all evidence and arguments that come from sources other than themselves. Proper citation is required for all sources not provided in the course material.
- Doing so is important for a) giving credit where credit is due (recognizing intellectual property), b) justifying evidence, and c) avoiding [plagiarism](#). The preferred style and citation format is to use an in-text option such as MLA, Chicago Author-Date system, or the [Canadian Journal of Political Science](#) guide. Please see the course's Brightspace page for more information.

Late Penalties

- Late papers will lose 3% per day, inclusive of weekends and holidays. If there is a valid reason for submitting an assignment late, please contact your teaching assistant or the course instructor as soon as possible. Please see [Sections X](#) and [XI](#) below for academic and other accommodations.

Extensions

- Extensions will only be granted in cases of special circumstances (i.e., illness and bereavement) provided that the student has provided verifiable documentation.

Communication

- The preferred methods of communication are through email, discussion forums, and online office hours. All email communication must be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace, not personal emails.
- Students should use Carleton University email for technical concerns and questions about course procedures. More substantive questions on course content are best dealt with in office hours or scheduling a separate meeting. General questions about course material and assignments can be submitted to the online discussion forums.

IX Course Schedule and Topics

Week	Topic	Theme	Description	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 Jan. 14	Course Overview and Introduction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and course overview • What is Ontario? How does Ontario compare to the other Canadian provinces? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus 	
Week 2 Jan. 21	Ontario History and Political Culture I	Political Culture I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario political history from 1760s to today, including responsible government, confederation, and the party system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White (2017) 	
Week 3 Jan. 28	Ontario Political Culture II	Political Culture II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is political culture? • What is the Ontario political culture? Is Ontario's political culture changing? I.e., has there been a change from 1997 to today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woolstencroft (2017) • Noel (1997) 	Syllabus Quiz
Week 4 Feb. 4	The Provincial Executive	Managerial Efficiency I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Cabinet and the Premier • Structure of the Ontario executive branch of government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evans (2017) • Esselment (2017) 	
Week 5 Feb. 11	Queen's Park and the Legislature	Managerial Efficiency II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provincial parliament • Ontario electoral system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raney (2017) 	Political Culture Briefing Note
Week 6 Feb. 18	Local Government	Managerial Efficiency III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do local governments do? • Local government structures and responsibilities • Toronto and the surrounding municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henstra (2017) • Horak (2017) 	Reflection 1
Week 7	READING WEEK				

Week 8 Mar. 4	Political Parties, the Media, and the Masses	Reciprocity in Political Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ontario party system • How does the media facilitate the link between the parties and the masses? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malloy (2017) • Small (2017) 	Political Culture Briefing Note Feedback Team Meeting I
Week 9 Mar. 11	Ontario's Economy	Pursuit of Economic Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main contours of Ontario's economy? • What are the linkages between the economy and Ontario's political process? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oschinski (2017) • Dyck (2017) 	Team Meeting II
Week 10 Mar. 18	Ontario in Confederation	Presumption of Pre-eminence I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario's historical role in Canadian federalism • How has Ontario's stint as a have-not province affected it and the province's place in the federation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simmons (2017) 	Team Meeting III Team Presentations I
Week 11 Mar. 25	Northern Ontario: Upper Canada's Colony?	Presumption of Pre-eminence II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What separates Northern Ontario from the southern areas? • The politics of alienation • Indigenous peoples in Ontario's North 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comeau (2017) • Weller (1997) 	Team Presentations II
Week 12 April 1	Economic Interests	Balancing Interests I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour issues in the Ontario political economy • Environmental policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savage (2017) • Winfield (2017) 	Team Presentations III
Week 13 April 8	Social Interests	Balancing Interests II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity in Ontario (ethnic, cultural, gender) • Indigenous peoples • Does <i>The Politics of Ontario</i> capture how you experience the province? What would you change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siemiatycki (2017) • Collier (2017) 	Team Project Reflection 2

X COVID-19 Information

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) When accessing campus you must fill in the [COVID-19 Screening Self-Assessment in cuScreen](#) each day before coming to campus. You must also check-in to your final destination (where you plan on being longer than 15 minutes) within a building using the [QR location code](#).

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

XI Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the [Equity Services website](#).

Religious Obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first

two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the [Equity Services website](#).

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. Visit [here](#) for more.

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

XII Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Please follow the link for more information on the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

XIII APPENDIX

Intellectual Property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

Carleton Political Science Society

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.