

PSCI 3006A
Social Power in Canadian Politics
Thursday, 8:35-11:25
Confirm location on Carleton Central
(Revised)

Instructor: Professor Christina Gabriel
Office: Loeb – To be Confirmed
Phone: 520-2600 x. 1413
E-mail: christina.gabriel@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:00
Thursday, 12:30-1:30

Course Description:

This course explores the role of social forces in Canadian political life including advocacy groups, social movements and elites. It will focus on some of the approaches and tools that scholars have developed to examine collective action, strategies and state-society relations. Through a case study approach the course addresses how actors and groups have been successful (or not) in influencing public policy and changing definitions of the ‘political’.

Learning Goals

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of debates and theories on collective action including social movements and interest groups.
- Develop and strengthen critical research skills through writing exercises
- Conduct independent research using secondary research sources
- Create and deliver a collaborative seminar presentation

Format:

Classes combine lectures with class discussions of assigned readings and films. Some classes feature a guest speaker. Weekly lectures will focus on identified topics. Lectures complement assigned readings but there is not necessarily a one-to-one correspondence. It is expected that all students will do the assigned readings prior to the class.

Course Materials:

All other course materials are available through the Ares System on Brightspace and through the Reserve Desk at the library. Many readings are available electronically. If you encounter a problem, please advise the Professor immediately.

Evaluation at a Glance (Specific Details on Brightspace):

Students will be evaluated on the following basis.

Assignment	Due Date	Value
Essay Proposal	February 26	5%
Essay (1,750 Words)	April 2	20%
Group Presentation	Throughout Term – Starting February 5	10%
Participation and Attendance in Class	On-going	15%
Mid Term Test	In Class – February 12	20%
Final Exam	Exam Period – April 11 - 23	30%
Optional Bonus – Written Response (300 words) Amy Janzwood, McGill Author, <i>Mega Pipelines, Mega Resistance: Tar Sands, Social Movements and the Politics of Energy Infrastructure.</i>	Talk - March 12 – 2:30 – 4:00 pm, A602 Loeb Written Response due – March 19	2%

STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FINAL GRADE

Policies on Assignments:

All assignments in this course must be 12 pt font, double-spaced and have standard one-inch margins. As much as possible they should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations (endnotes or footnotes) and bibliography.

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

Written assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the date specified through the Brightspace portal. Papers received after this time will be date stamped the following working day.

Please make every effort to back-up your work regularly, retain a copy of your submitted work and all rough notes, drafts etc., until your submitted work is returned to you.

Policies on Mid-Term Test:

Please inform your Professor as soon as possible if you miss the mid-term test. Students will be permitted to write a rescheduled mid-term only in cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement).

A rescheduled mid-term will take place on **Thursday, March 5, 2026** from 8:35 – 11:25.

Late Penalties

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of **2%** a day including weekends.

No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Do not ask for an extension on the due date of the assignment. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement). If you anticipate a problem with one of the above deadlines, please approach me as soon as you can in advance of the assignment.

Use of AI in this Course

Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions, including:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor)
- Basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor)

It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that isn't listed above, please consult the instructor.

This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout, and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without the support of AI.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as 'presenting, whether intentionally 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, artworks, 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, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- 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
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty of Global and Public Affairs follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Additionally, in this course it is **not** acceptable to submit an assignment/essay (or part of an assignment/essay) that you have produced for another course. Please consult me if you need further clarification.

If you have a question that needs a detailed response, please e-mail me to set up an appointment. E-mail will be answered within two business days. I do not check e-mails after work hours or on the weekend. Do not submit any class assignments by e-mail unless you have made an arrangement with me.

Note: All email communication is to be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace, not personal emails.

Electronic Devices

Students are to refrain from using their cell phones in class.

In the seminar laptops are to only be used for course-related work – consulting readings, taking notes, etc.

Note on Grades:

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

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Jan. 8 Introduction to Course

- Course Overview
- Requirements & Expectations

Jan. 15 Collective Action I: Social Movements & Interest Groups

- Eric Montpetit. 2014. “Are Interest Groups Useful or Harmful? Take Two” *Canadian Politics. Sixth Edition* James Bickerton and Alain Gagnon. University of Toronto Press. Pp.329-448.
- Michael Orsini. 2020. “Of Pots and Pans and Radical Handmaids. Social Movements and Civil Society”. In *Canadian Politics. Seventh Edition*. Editors, James Bickerton and Alain Gagnon. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Pp. 373 – 395.
- Miriam Smith. 2018. “Chapter 1 – Power and Group Politics” In *A Civil Society: Collective Actors in Canadian Political Life*. University of Toronto Press. Pp 33-70.

“Working in Groups”

Setareh Najmi, Centre for Student Academic Support

Jan. 22 Collective Action II: Historical Contexts

- Miriam Smith 2018. “Chapter 2: Historical Trajectories of Influence in Canadian Politics” In *A Civil Society: Collective Actors in Canadian Political Life*. University of Toronto Press.
- Keith Fleming. 2020. “Socially Disruptive Action... Have Become as Canadian as Maple Syrup. Civil Disobedience in Canada 1960-2012. *Journal of Canadian Studies* 54:1 (Winter) pp. 181-212.
- Graphic History Collective. 2025. “Chapter 20 – Remember 1 Resist 1 Redraw: A Radical History Poster Project”. In *The Art of Solidarity. Labour Arts and Heritage in Canada*. Editors Rob Kristofferson and Stephanie Ross. Toronto: Between The Lines.

Presentation Group Enrollment Opens on Brightspace

Art and Activism

Guest: Cara Tierney, Academic and Public Programs Specialist, Carleton University Art Gallery

Jan. 29 Indigenous Activism and Politics

- Adam Barker. 2015. "A Direct Act of Resurgence. A Direct Act of Sovereignty: Reflections on Idle No More, Indigenous Activism, and Canadian Settler Colonialism". *Globalizations* 12.1 pp. 43-65
- Pam Palmater. 2025. "Reconciliation Can't Wait Another Generation" <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2025/11/reconciliation-second-generation-cut-off/>
- Suzanne Staggenborg and Howard Ramos. 2023. "Indigenous Protest". In *Social Movements. Fourth Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. Pp. 81-102.

Time in Class for Group Work Logistics

Note: Presentation Group Enrollment Closes on Brightspace on January 30. After this time students will be assigned automatically.

Guest: Gabriel Maracle, Professor, Department of Political Science

Feb. 5 Workers' Activism and Organizing

- Mark Thomas et. al. 2025. "Chapter Nine "Worker's Movements in the 21st Century" In *Work and Labour in Canada*. Fourth Edition. Eds. Mark P. Thomas, Adam D. K. King and Andrew Jackson. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.
- Karl Gardner, Dani Magsumbol and Ethel Tungohan. 2021. "The Politics of Migrant Worker Organizing in Canada" in *Rethinking the Politics of Labour in Canada, 2nd Edition*. Toronto: Between the Lines Press.
- "Sounds Like Activism: Musicians who Fight For Change in Pictures" *Guardian* December 10, 2025 <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2025/dec/10/music-celebrity-activist-photos>
- Watch - Billy Bragg Sings "There Is Power In A Union" & Talks About 1984 Mineworkers Union Strike <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZqQ5LQI3k>

Music and Activism

*Jim Dooley, Alumnus, Institute of Political Economy & Author *Red Set. A History of Gang of Four*.*

Feb. 12 Mid-Term Test

- There will be a two-hour mid-term test in class.

**** Feb. 16 – Feb. 20 - Reading Week (No Class, No Office Hours) ****

February 26 Movement Politics and Anti-Black Racism

- Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Rinaldo Walcott, and Glen Coulthard, “Idle No More and Black Lives Matter: An Exchange”. *Studies in Social Justice*, 12 (2018), 75-89.
- Debra Thompson. 2020. “The Intersectional Politics of Black Lives Matter” in *Turbulent Times, Transformational Possibilities?* Eds., Fiona Macdonald and Alexandra Dobrowolsky. Toronto: UTP Press, pp. 240-257.
- Adjadi, et. al. 2025. “Is addressing anti-Black racism in Canada still a policy priority? <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2025/06/anti-black-racism/>

Group Presentation #1 & #2

Essay Proposal Due

March 5 Women’s Movement

- Jacquette Newman. 2020. “Acting in and on History: The Canadian Women’s Movement”. *Canadian Politics. Seventh Edition*. James Bickerton and Alain Gagnon. University of Toronto Press.
- Marina Morrow and Christabelle Sethna. 2022. “Historical and Contemporary Reflections on the Women’s Health Movement”. In *Women’s Health in Canada: Challenges of Intersectionality. Second Edition*. Eds., Marina Morrow, Olena Hankivsky and Colleen Varcoe. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Pp.61-98
- Joan Sangster, Sarah Nickel, Meg Luxton, Lisa Pasolli, Rebecca Priegert Coulter and Margaret Hillyard Little. 2022. “From the Royal Commission on the Status of Women to the National Action Committee” *Labour/Le Travail* 89 Spring. Pp. 147-179 only.

Group Presentation #3 & #4

Canadian Women’s Movement Archives
Meghan Tibbits-Lamirande, Archivist, Archives and Special Collections. University of Ottawa

March 12 Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Movement

- Kinsman, Gary. 2017. "Aids Activism: Remembering Resistance versus Socially Organized Forgetting" Editors Michael Orsini, Marilou Gagnon, Suzane Hindmarch. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Francesco MacAllister-Caruso. 2025. "Elbows Up for Trans People Too"
<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2025/07/elbows-up-for-trans-people-too/>
- Suzanne Staggenborg and Howard Ramos. 2016. "The LGBT Movement". In *Social Movements. Fourth Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Watch: You tube: 2SLGBTQ+ advocates challenge societal norms and break barriers

Group Presentation #5 & #6

Liam O'Brien, Doctoral Candidate, Political Science

March 19 Environment and Climate Action

Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood et. al. 2023. "*Don't Wait for the State: A Blueprint for Grassroots Climate Transitions in Canada*" (Ottawa: CCPA)
<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/dont-wait-for-the-state.pdf>

Ellen Griffith Spears. "The 'Tar Wars' and Climate Justice Activism in North America. A Transboundary Movement linking the US and Canada" in *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Movements* pp. 45-62

Group Presentation #7 & #8

Hadrian Mertins Kirkwood, Senior Researcher, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

March 26 Consumer Activism

- Jessica Vredenburg and Amanda Spry. "Consumer Activism and Social Movements" In *The Routledge Companion to Marketing and Society*. Eds. Krsysztof Kubacki et. al. London: Routledge.
- Jasmine Lorenzi. 2022 "Chapter 15 - Political Consumerism and Food Activism" *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Movements*, Eds., Maria Grasso and Marco Giugni. London: Routledge. Pp. 215-228

- Gavin Fridell and Erika Koss. 2019. “Let’s Get a Coffee” In *Power and Everyday Practices*. Eds. Deborah Brock, Rebecca Raby, Mark P. Thomas, Aryn E. Martin. Toronto: UTP. Pp. 309 – 326.

Group Presentation #9 & #10 & #11

April 2 Conclusions and Wrap Up

- No required readings

Essay Due

Note: There is a Final Exam in the Exam Period

Political Science Course Outline Appendix

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

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

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

<https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services:

<https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC):

<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS):

<https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:

<https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: 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 [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for 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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

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). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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 can include:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in *“substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”*

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)

B640 Loeb

Registrar's Office (3500)	300
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Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th floor Library
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Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302
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Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
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Career Services (6611)	401
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