What are the politics of Ontario? While Ontario is a legal and constitutional entity, it is big and complex and does not have an easily identifiable identity as a polity and society. Consider:

- The distance across Ontario, from the Quebec to Manitoba borders, is approximately 2000 km and would take 24 continuous hours to drive.
- While the Ontario population as a whole is increasingly racially diverse, it is an uneven distribution, especially between urban and rural areas.
- Toronto and the surrounding GTA is by far the largest metropolitan centre in Ontario, but the province has four other urban areas with at least a half-million people (Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge, and London).
- While 22% of all indigenous people in Canada live in Ontario, they form only 2.4% of the provincial population and the indigenous reality of Ontario is often muted and overlooked.
- While other provinces have often framed themselves as separate or alienated from the rest of Canada, Ontario as the largest province is often by default “the rest.”
- While Ontario cities struggle with sprawl and affordable housing, rural and remote areas struggle with aging and diminishing populations.

This course will consider all of these and the complex political society that is Ontario.

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.
- Describe and analyze the recent political history of Ontario and its distinctive political regimes.
- Interpret and analyze some key issues concerning indigenous people in Ontario and/or northern Ontario.
- Identify and evaluate major similarities and differences between Ontario and other Canadian provinces.
- Describe and analyze some major policy issues facing Ontario.
Text:

Required


*Note: As I am one of the editors of this text, I will donate the approximate amount of royalties for the book as small prizes for the “Ontario knowledge quiz” in the first class.*

And either:


Or


List of additional books on Ontario politics

The following are other good books on Ontario politics. Most are available on reserve at the library.


*Books published since 1985:*


Steve Paikin, *Bill Davis* (2016)
Bob Rae, *From Protest to Power* (1996)

**Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Ontario Map Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17</td>
<td>Essay #1 Has Doug Ford Changed Everything?</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>Essay #2: Book Response</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be scheduled</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ontario Map Quiz**

The purpose of this short in-class quiz is to ensure general familiarity with the geography of Ontario as a foundation for discussing the politics of the province. It will focus on significant rather than trivial details. Study aids will be provided.

- note this is different from the “Ontario Knowledge Quiz” in the first class which is just for fun, not credit
Essay #1 – Has Doug Ford Changed Everything?

How does the election of Doug Ford and his Progressive Conservative government fit into understandings of Ontario political culture and party politics? In an essay of approximately 1500 words, answer the above question by responding to the following sub-questions:

-What has been the traditional understanding of Ontario political culture and, remembering that political culture is a *long-term* phenomenon, how does the Ford government fit into that understanding?

-While only in its initial months, how does the Ford government compare to previous Ontario governments since 1990? Answer with respect to policies, processes and communication styles, and public reaction and opinion.

-How have the opposition parties responded to the Ford government and are these responses consistent with traditional understandings of Ontario political culture and party politics?

Given its timely nature, evaluations of the Ford government should be based on reputable and substantive news sources, ideally major media outlets such as *The Globe and Mail, Ottawa Citizen, Toronto Star*, and the CBC, CTV, and Global news sites. All other discussion should be drawn from scholarly sources and books and these should comprise the majority of references in the essay.

Assignments will be graded on the following criteria:

- a clear thesis that structures and guides the essay
- clear responses to the three sub-questions
- display of a clear grasp of the literature on Ontario political culture and party politics
- an appreciation of key arguments from different sides and perspectives.
- appropriate sources and engaging use of these sources
- the general organization and coherence of the arguments
- a length of approximately 1500 words

Spelling and grammar are also important.

Political science does not have a uniform citation style. Citations will be discussed in class, but any of APA, Chicago or MLA Style are acceptable.

Papers are due at the beginning of class (2:35) on October 17. The political science drop box outside Loeb B640 is for exceptional circumstances only, not an everyday drop - off. Papers received after 4PM on the due date will lose one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., from B+ to B), including weekends, unless valid reasons are presented.
Essay #2 – Book Response

This assignment requires you to read and write a response to one of two recent books on important Ontario public issues, both with a focus on northern Ontario:

Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City by Tanya Talaga.

or

One Job Town: Work, Belonging, and Betrayal in Northern Ontario by Stephen High

Note: Seven Fallen Feathers is about the unexplained deaths of seven Indigenous youth in northern Ontario. It discusses suicide, substance addiction, and other challenging topics that some may find traumatic.

Your essay should be about 1500 words. This is similar to a “book review” and should include a short summary of the book itself. But the bulk of the assignment should focus on the issues discussed in the book and how the book approaches and analyzes them. You must argue a clear thesis in your response that is about the issues in the book, not just the book itself (i.e, not “I liked the book”, etc.)

The essay should draw links between the book and material covered in class and in The Politics of Ontario book. It should also respond to most or all of the following guiding questions:

-What is your own reaction to the book and its contents?
-What was the author’s research design and methodology for the book?
-Does the book put forward substantive and realistic solutions to pressing issues?
-In your view does the book give “the full picture” of an issue?
-To what extent do you believe Ontarians are generally aware of the issues discussed in the book?
-To what extent do you believe Ontario politicians and the Ontario government are aware of - and responding to - the issues discussed in the book?

Additional research beyond The Politics of Ontario book is not mandatory for this essay, but is encouraged.

Assignments will be graded on the following criteria:

-a clear thesis that structures and guides the essay
-clear responses to the guiding questions
-an effective but brief summary of the book
-display of a clear grasp of the general issues discussed in the book
-as appropriate, an appreciation of key arguments from different perspectives
-connections and engagement with The Politics of Ontario and possibly other sources
-the general organization and coherence of the arguments
-a length of approximately 1500 words
Spelling and grammar are also important.

Political science does not have a uniform citation style. Citations will be discussed in class, but any of APA, Chicago or MLA Style are acceptable.

Papers are due at the beginning of class (2:35) on November 21. The political science drop box outside Loeb B640 is for exceptional circumstances only, not an everyday drop-off. Papers received after 4PM on the due date will lose one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., from B+ to B), including weekends, unless valid reasons are presented.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will take place during the official examination period. Format details will be provided in class.

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance will be taken at each class. At the beginning of the course students will be divided into small groups that will meet weekly during class time for small discussions and activities.

**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings from <em>The Politics of Ontario</em></th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>“Ontario Knowledge Quiz”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>What is Ontario? Where is it Going?</td>
<td>Chap 1, White Chap 4, Woolstencroft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Ontario Parties and Political History I</td>
<td>Chap 11, Malloy Chap 13, Esselment</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Ontario Parties and Political History II</td>
<td>Chap 9, Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Guest/Author Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Oct 03</td>
<td>Ontario Parties and Political History III</td>
<td>Guest: David Reevely, <em>Ottawa Citizen</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>The Ontario Economy</td>
<td>Chap 2, Oschinski</td>
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<td>Chap 3, Dyck</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Political Institutions</td>
<td>Chap 5, Raney</td>
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<td>Chap 6, Evans</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>First Assignment Due (20% of grade)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Northern Ontario and Indigenous Peoples in Ontario</td>
<td>Chap 10, Comeau</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Talaga, <em>Seven Fallen Feathers</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High, <em>One Job Town</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 07</td>
<td>Diversity and Ontario</td>
<td>Chap 12, Collier</td>
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<td>Chap 15, Siemiatycki</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Ontario in Confederation</td>
<td>Chap 8, Simmons</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Ontario’s Municipalities</td>
<td>Chap 7, Henstra</td>
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<td>Chap 17, Horak</td>
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<td>Second Assignment Due (20% of grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>The Ontario Political Economy</td>
<td>Chap 14, Winfield</td>
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<td>Chap 16, Savage</td>
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</table>
Academic Accommodations

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:

Pregnancy 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: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

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: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for 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. carleton.ca/pmc

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 is 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

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 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. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

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

**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:

- 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;
- 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 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.

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 and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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Approval of final 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 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 cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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/ and our website https://carletonpss.com/, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

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