

PSCI 1100A
Democracy in Theory and Practice
Fridays, 8:30am – 10:30am
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Course description:

This course is one of two first-year survey lectures in the Department of Political Science that give an overview of the discipline and its major subfields. PSCI 1100 will introduce core ideas of Western political theory (the state, democracy, freedom, distributive justice, citizenship, etc.), and will then examine what impact these ideas have had on political institutions and policy-making in Canada. In addition, PSCI 1100 will also introduce students to basic study, research, and academic writing skills needed to succeed in the social sciences.

The main objective of PSCI 1100 is to acquaint students with selected concepts, themes, and issues discussed in Political Science, focusing especially on the subfields of Political Theory, Canadian Politics, and Public Policy Analysis. In the process, PSCI 1100 will introduce students to some of the most important (and often contentious) political debates in Canada, for instance about the colonial history of Canadian state-building; Canada-Indigenous relations; the powers of executives, legislatures and courts; political equity and diversity; or balancing regional, national and global concerns. Students will learn how to identify and assess competing arguments, how to develop and formulate their own reasoned opinions, and how to debate them respectfully with others.

Required readings:

Students are required to read a brief text in advance of each session. Most of these texts are taken from two short and inexpensive textbooks, which all students are expected to purchase (estimated total cost: \$27.00). The books are available in an electronic or hardcopy format in the Carleton University Bookstore and at other booksellers.

- Miller, David. 2003. *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. Paperback: \$13.50.
- Wright, Donald. 2020. *Canada: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. Paperback: \$13.50.

Some additional required readings will be made available to the class using the MacOdrum Library's ARES electronic course reserves system, which can be accessed via Brightspace.

Course requirements and evaluation:

All students must attend lectures on a regular basis. Required readings must be completed *in advance* of each session. Evaluation will be based on the following components.

Participation in discussion groups	20%	
Research assignment	15%	Due date: October 2, 2026
Midterm quiz	15%	In class: October 16, 2026
Final paper	20%	Due date: November 27, 2026
Final exam	30%	To be scheduled: December 12-23, 2026

Participation in discussion groups: All students must attend their weekly discussion group, which is led by a teaching assistant (TA). The groups will actively engage with the lecture topic and the required readings. Participation marks will be based on attendance as well as quantity and quality of oral contributions. Knowledge of the required readings will be a component of assessment. TAs will give further instructions on these points.

Research assignment: The research assignment tests students in the research skills introduced early in the term. Topics covered include the identification of relevant scholarly sources, correctly citing and paraphrasing sources, and compiling a bibliography. The questions and detailed instructions for the research assignment will be posted on Brightspace on September 18. The assignment is due on October 2. The assignment must be completed by individual students acting alone; group work is not permitted. Textbooks and other course material may be used.

Midterm quiz: A short midterm quiz will be written in class on October 16. The quiz is intended to confirm that students have completed the required readings and have actively followed the lecture and class discussions. The quiz will take place in our regular lecture hall during the first 45 minutes of class time. Students will be asked to write a brief essay in response to one question (from a selection of two) about the material discussed in the first five weeks. Students are not allowed to use textbooks, course materials, or their own notes during the quiz. Unless specifically authorized as an accommodation by the Paul Menton Centre, the use of electronic tools will not be permitted. Please note the rules for a deferred midterm quiz under “course policies” below.

Final paper: The final paper is an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they can apply what they have learned to real-world situations. This paper must be 2000-2500 words in length (6-8 pages, 12-point font, double spaced); it will be due on November 27. In the paper, students must relate a recent controversy in Canadian politics to one of the topics discussed in the course. They must use a media database available through the MacOdrum Library (Factiva, Eureka.cc, or Nexis Uni) to find an article from a Canadian daily newspaper that discusses the controversy. They must then write a paper that sheds further light on the controversy, drawing on the course material and on results of their own research. This may entail explaining the historical or institutional background of the controversy, identifying and assessing theoretical or ideological positions that inform competing perspectives, and/or drawing comparisons between Canada and other countries. The paper must be completed by individual students acting alone; group work is not permitted. Detailed written instructions for the final paper will be provided; the assignment will also be discussed in class.

Final exam: There will be a three-hour exam at the end of term, which will be scheduled during the formal exam period (December 12-23). The exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. It will cover all course material from the entire term, including the required readings. Students are not allowed to bring textbooks, course materials, or their own notes into the exam room. Unless specifically authorized as an accommodation by the Paul Menton

Centre, the use of electronic tools will not be permitted. Written instructions for the exam will be provided; advice on exam preparation will also be given in class. Please note the rules for a deferred final exam under “course policies” below.

Course policies:

In addition to general university and departmental policies, outlined in part in the course outline appendix, please note the following course-specific rules.

Written assignments: The research assignment and final paper must make use of templates provided on Brightspace and must be submitted through Brightspace. Assignments sent by email will not be accepted. Grades will be communicated through Brightspace. If students would like to request an extension, they must contact the instructor (not their TA!) *before* the assignment due date and explain the reason for the request. Unless an extension has been requested and granted, late assignments will be penalized by two (2) percentage points per day, including weekends. Assignments more than ten days late will receive a mark of 0%. There will be no opportunities to make up for missed assignments after these ten days have passed.

Midterm quiz and final exam: Students who intend to request an accommodation through the Paul Menton Centre for the midterm quiz or final exam must do so a minimum of ten days before the date of the quiz/exam. Students who are unable to write the midterm quiz on the scheduled date due to extenuating circumstances (such as a death in the family, illness, etc.) must provide appropriate supporting documentation to the instructor by October 19 at the latest. Upon review, the instructor may offer a deferred quiz. The deferred quiz will be held outside of regular class time, on a Sunday, time and location TBA. Students who are unable to write the final exam due to extenuating circumstances must follow the Registrar’s Office’s [policies on deferred final exams](#). There will be no opportunities to make up for a missed quiz or exam if these rules are not followed. As per university policy, the midterm quiz and final exam will not be returned to students. Students will have the opportunity to review the quiz/exam, and to ask questions about the grading, during the instructor’s office hours.

Use of artificial intelligence: The class will discuss the opportunities provided by AI tools as well as their limitations and pitfalls (including ethical concerns, but also practical issues such as the tendency of AI tools to provide superficial or outright incorrect arguments, or to “hallucinate” non-existing sources). The detailed parameters for the use of AI will be explained in the written instructions for each assignment. As a general rule, AI may be used at early stages in the research process, for instance to identify relevant sources, perspectives or arguments, but all text submitted by students for evaluation must have been written by the students themselves. It is expected that students have read all the sources that they cite in their text and include in their bibliography. The instructor reserves the right to ask students to submit evidence of their own research and/or to call in students for an oral defense of any submitted assignment to test their familiarity with the arguments and sources that they have presented.

Lecture Topics and Readings:

Date	Topic	Required reading	Study and research skills
September 11, 2026	Introduction: Studying politics in democracies	---	Reading, listening and note-taking strategies Interacting with professors and academic advisors
September 18, 2026	Political authority and the state	Miller, David. 2003. <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 2.	Types of scholarly sources Researching scholarly literature
Research assignment posted on <i>Brightspace</i>			
September 25, 2026	State-building in Canada; Canada-Indigenous relations	Wright, Donald. 2020. <i>Canada: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 1-2.	Referencing literature in your own text Compiling a bibliography
October 2, 2026	Democracy	Miller, David. 2003. <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 3.	Research assignment: last-minute questions
Due date for research assignment			
October 9, 2026	Canada's parliamentary democracy	Brooks, Stephen. 2026. <i>Canadian Democracy</i> , 10 th edition. Oxford University Press, Ch. 9. [Available on ARES.]	Academic integrity and avoidance of plagiarism Uses and abuses of artificial intelligence in research
October 16, 2026	Freedom and constitutionalism	Miller, David. 2003. <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 4.	---
Midterm quiz (45 minutes; 3:35pm – 4:20pm)			

October 23, 2026	Canada's constitution	Wright, Donald. 2020. <i>Canada: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 3. Chorney-Booth, Elizabeth, ed. 2022. "The Charter at 40". <i>The Walrus</i> , Dec. 9, 2022, https://thewalrus.ca/the-charter-at-40 . [Read contributions by Wei, Chorney-Booth, and Elghawaby – available on ARES.]	Newspaper articles as primary sources Use of media databases
Final paper instructions posted on Brightspace			
October 30, 2026	No class (Fall Break)		
November 6, 2026	Distributive justice	Miller, David. 2003. <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 5.	Planning your research for the final paper; time management
November 13, 2026	Social policy in Canada	Banting, Keith G. 2025. "The Three Federalisms and Change in Social Policy." In <i>Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy</i> , 5 th edition, edited by Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad. University of Toronto Press, Ch. 10. [Available on ARES.]	Structuring a final paper
November 20, 2026	Citizenship and community	Miller, David. 2003. <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 6.	Navigating Carleton's Political Science Department
November 27, 2026	Canada's communities	Wright, Donald. 2020. <i>Canada: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 4 and 5.	Final paper: last-minute questions
Due date for final paper			
December 4, 2026	Outlook: Democracy in a globalized world	Miller, David. 2003. <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford University Press, Ch. 7.	Exam preparation
Final exam instructions posted on Brightspace			

Selection of Textbooks for Further Study:

General Introduction to Political Science

- Brodie, Janine, Sandra Rein, and Malinda S. Smith. Eds. 2022. *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics*. Oxford University Press.
- Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson. 2026. *Introduction to Politics*, 6th edition. Oxford University Press.
- Heywood, Andrew. 2025. *Politics*, 5th edition. Red Globe Press.
- MacLean, George A., Duncan R. Wood, and Lori Turnbull. 2020. *Politics: An Introduction*, 3rd edition. Oxford University Press.
- Mintz, Eric, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci. 2020. *Politics, Power, and the Common Good*, 6th edition. Pearson.
- Schmitter, Philippe C., and Marc Blecher. 2021. *Politics as a Science: A Prolegomenon*. Routledge.
- Shilliam, Robbie. 2021. *Decolonizing Politics: An Introduction*. Polity Press.

Modern Political Theory

- Ball, Terence, and Richard Dagger. 2024. *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*, 12th edition. Routledge.
- Baradat, Leon P., and John A. Philips. 2019. *Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact*, 13th edition. Routledge.
- Goodwin, Barbara. 2016. *Using Political Ideas*, 6th edition. Wiley.
- Graham, Paul, and Josh Hoffman. 2022. *Introduction to Political Theory*, 4th edition. Routledge.
- Heywood, Andrew, and Clayton Chin. 2023. *Political Theory*, 5th edition. Bloomsbury.

Canadian Politics

- Brooks, Stephen. 2026. *Canadian Democracy*, 10th edition. Oxford University Press.
- Cochrane, Christopher, Kelly Blidook, and Rand Dyck. 2020. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, 9th edition. Top Hat.
- Jackson, Robert J., Doreen Jackson, Royce Koop, and Tamara Small. 2026. *Canadian Government and Politics*, 8th edition. Broadview Press.
- Tossutti, Livianna, Eric Mintz, Kathy L. Brock, and Doreen Barrie. 2021. *Canadian Politics Today: Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government*. Pierson.

Public Policy

- Howlett, Michael, M. Ramesh, and Anthony Perl. 2026. *Studying Public Policy: Principles and Processes*, 5th edition. Oxford University Press.
- Knill, Christoph, and Jale Tosun. 2020. *Public Policy: A New Introduction*, 2nd edition. Red Globe Press.
- Miljan, Lydia. 2022. *Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction*, 8th edition. Oxford University Press.

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/>

ood2Talk: 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 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th floor Library
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501 Nideyinàn
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory