

PSCI 3906 A (1.0 credit)
Ottawa Experience Placement

Online class meetings at Carleton and Placement at partner organizations

Instructor:	Dr. Martin Geiger
Office Hours:	Tue, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. EST, or alternative day/time
Email:	martin.geiger@carleton.ca
September 10, 6pm-8pm	Course introduction; placement expectations; orientation to placement organizations mandatory
November 5, 6pm-8pm	Career Development Exercise I mandatory
Fall term:	Placement in Partner Organization (I) mandatory
January 10, 6pm-8pm	Debrief and discussion, first part of placement experience mandatory
Winter term	Placement in Partner Organization (II) mandatory
February 24, 6pm-8pm	Career Development Exercise II mandatory

1) LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

PSCI 3906A aims to provide students with the experience of working in an organization involved in some aspects of politics, whether local, national, or international.

Specific objectives include:

- exposing students to the responsibilities associated with working in a politically-focused organization
- enabling students to apply and develop skills they acquire through undergraduate coursework
- developing career-related goals for students
- strengthening research skills by conceiving and executing a piece of independent research connected to their placement experience

Upon successful completion of this placement course, students should achieve three core learning outcomes:

- strengthened ability to perform tasks in a politically-oriented organization
- deepened understanding of how an organization operates in a political environment
- enhanced awareness of career-related goals

2) STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- To begin the placement on time, it is critical for students to complete their profiles before the start of the classes – before September 10. The profile form can be found on Brightspace, and it should be completed and uploaded to the appropriate Dropbox before the orientation meeting.
- PSCI 3906A involves participation in an unpaid work placement off-campus, which requires students to complete and sign certain documents. Please consult Carleton University's dedicated website (<https://carleton.ca/riskmanagement/student-placements/>) regulating student placements for more information. We will ensure that students complete the appropriate documentation as part of their course orientation, but it is their responsibility to return all required documents to the Department by the specific deadline. All signed and completed forms should be sent to the PSCI Undergraduate Administrator (psci.advising@carleton.ca).
- Please note that although every effort is made to match students with their preferred placement organization, sometimes this is not possible. All decisions regarding placements are the final responsibility of the course instructor. If students do not accept a placement offered by an available organization, they may withdraw from the course by September 30 for a full fee adjustment; or by November 15 without academic penalty.
- A successful placement course experience is built on good communication between the student, the placement organization, and the course instructor. Should problems arise during the placement it is incumbent upon students to communicate with both the placement organization and the course instructor.

Additional remarks/Preclusions

Please note that due to the nature of the placement, late registration in PSCI 3907A cannot be considered and that registration in PSCI 3906A precludes registration in PSCI 3907A or PSCI 3907B. If your program degree includes a concentration, please note that the placement cannot qualify as a concentration requirement. Placement courses deliver experiential learning outcomes consistent with degree program requirements, while regular courses deliver academic learning outcomes that are designed to fulfil a concentration's academic requirements. Both are valuable, but they are assessed differently. This is why this placement course cannot be used to fulfil a concentration requirement.

3) COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENT, AND STRUCTURE

PSCI 3906A is delivered as a placement in a politically-active organization, where students will spend one full day per week during the fall and winter semesters performing tasks associated with their placement. In addition, we will meet twice during each semester, once early for an orientation to the placement, and once later to work on career development. Students are required to attend all class meetings.

Evaluation for PSCI 3906A consists of compiling three monthly activity logs in each semester (= six logs), completing two career development assignments, and writing a final reflective essay that uses the placement experience to consider the role of the organization in the political system of which it is a part (whether local, national, or international). Our Brightspace platform provides instructions for all assignments.

Course Assignments Overview

Assignment:	Grade Percentage	Due Date
Student Profile	n/a	September 9
Student Agreement Document	n/a	September 9
Monthly Activity Logs	20% (combined)	September 30 October 30 November 30 January 29 February 26 March 31
Career Development Assignment	2 x 15% = 30%	November 20 February 24
Reflective Essay Outline	10%	March 17
Reflective Essay	40%	April 14

Please note that because due dates are known well ahead of time and assignments can be completed well before the due date, no extension will be given for any assignment in this course. A late penalty of 3% per day will be imposed for assignments, and assignments will not be accepted for grading beyond one week past their due date.

Organizational Final Report	Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory	End of Placement
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Placement organizations will be asked to provide the Course Instructor with an end-of-placement evaluation that must be Satisfactory in order to receive a grade for this course.

Assignments and Assessment (in detail) – see Brightspace for additional information

Monthly Activity Logs: This assignment consists of three journal entries/semester that are due on the days mentioned in the schedule. Each journal entry is mandatory and should be 400-500 words in length and protocol the student's activities and experience at their organization. These entries should detail any assigned tasks, their relation of the organization, and any features of these tasks that seem appropriate to comment upon.

Career Development Assignment: Students will (1) compile a Curriculum Vitae (CV)/resume, and (2) prepare documents that can be used in subsequent job search to enter a specific career path. For both mandatory assignments, students will receive guidance from Carleton Career Services.

Reflective Essay: This mandatory assignment is a maximum 3,500 words written assignment that describes the placement organization and the organization's self-understanding, work, and activities. The assignment should reflect on the accomplishments this organization has achieved and the challenges it is facing. While the final essay is due only at the end of the term (April 14), students will be asked to discuss and confirm their essay topic with the Course Instructor already earlier during the term, and submit, by March 17, a 300-400 words outline of their essay. There is an expectation that the reflective essay will be of a reflective nature and that it will be based and draw on the student's experience with their placement organization.

4) COURSE SCHEDULE

Fall Term

September 10, 6pm-8pm	Course introduction; placement expectations; orientation to placement organizations (online, mandatory Zoom meeting)
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Fall term	Student placement in partner organization
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November 5, 6pm-8pm	Career Development Exercise I with Carleton Career Services (online, mandatory Zoom meeting) (constructing CV)
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Winter term

January 10, 6pm-8pm	Debrief and discussion of placement experience (online, mandatory Zoom meeting)
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Winter term	Student placement in partner organization
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February 24, 6pm-8pm	Career Development Exercise II with Carleton Career Services (online, mandatory Zoom meeting) (preparing job search)
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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/safety/resources/>

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/>

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 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