

# Political Science 1021F: People, Power and the State

## School of Humanities

### General Information

**Course #:** Political Science 1021F  
**Section #:** 530/531  
**Term:** Fall  
**Year:** 2020  
**Delivery:** Online

### Instructor Information



Name: Andrew Chater

E-mail: [achater@uwo.ca](mailto:achater@uwo.ca)

Video chat: I am available to chat via Zoom most days. To set up an appointment, email me 24 hours in advance of when you would like to talk and send me a few specific times that work for you. I will respond to your email to set up the appointment. We can chat via phone if Zoom is not convenient for you.

Email time: I will be on my email Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 10:00 am EST. If you email me during this time, I will respond right away. Otherwise, I will check my email throughout the day.

### Course Description

This introduction to politics emphasizes how people and the state use power to achieve political aims. Students will learn essential concepts (power, authority, democracy, freedom) and influential ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, nationalism), explore our institutional landscape (legislatures, executives, the judiciary) and agents of change (parties, media, interest groups)

### Required Course Materials

Readings will be posted to the class OWL website (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>).

Optional readings are found in this textbook, available via the link through Western Libraries:

**Leonardo Morlino, Dirk Berg-Schlosser and Bertrand Badie. *Political Science: A Global Perspective*. Sage Publications, 2017. <https://sk-sagepub-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/books/political-science>**

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Critically understand different ways of thinking about politics and apply this learning to current events (critical thinking, problem solving)
2. Analyze various political ideologies by evaluating their relative merits in both debate and writing (critical thinking, problem solving)
3. Evaluate the structures of major political institutions and demonstrate a thorough understanding in class activities (inquiry and analysis, critical thinking)
4. Demonstrate a critical awareness of different ways of participating in politics to assess career options and develop active citizenship (self-awareness and development, social awareness and engagement)
5. Create high-quality research that draws on a variety of scholarly sources and demonstrates a variety of communication skills to aid in further university study and career goals (communication)

## Brescia Competencies

Competency	Goal for the Term
1. Communication	Recognize the requirement that clear communication should be supported by meaningful evidence (level 1)
2. Critical Thinking	Identify key concepts, statements and premises of arguments and the connections between premises and conclusions (level 1)
3. Inquiry and Analysis	Identify or develop a focused subject of inquiry, find appropriate evidence from various points of view and/or methods and develop a general conclusion based on inquiry findings (level 2)
4. Problem Solving	Recognize when a problem exists and apply an appropriate problem-solving framework to develop multiple solutions; implement a solution that addresses a problem statement and reflects on results and outcomes (level 2)
5. Self-Awareness and Development	Identify different patterns of thinking and comment on own performance (level 1)
6. Social Awareness and Engagement	Demonstrate understanding of the complexity of culture by asking questions and expressing openness to differences in cultures and social issues; begin to reflect on the impact of one's own actions on others (level 2)
7. Valuing	Apply ethical issues to various concepts and contexts, start to identify assumptions and objections to those values; recognize internal conflicts to one's own values and the external forces that help shape them (level 2)

## Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This class will take place online. Each week, students will:

- Complete various readings and contribute to a class discussion about those readings;
- Watch several videos and complete participation activities;
- Contribute to class discussions via the online message forum and Zoom, and;
- Complete a short weekly quiz or other assignment.

An optional class discussion will take place each week via Zoom (time to be determined); if you cannot or do not want to participate via Zoom, you can hand in short written reflection questions instead. I will personally respond to each written reflection.

You must complete all activities by the end of each week of class (Friday at midnight). All materials are available on the class OWL website (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>). To accommodate reading week, the week 8 materials and quiz will be due by 6:00 pm.

Each week will require an average of up to 4 hours of work. The class is mostly asynchronous, which means that you can complete activities any time you would like each week.

A more detailed walkthrough of OWL and our course is available under the “Week 1” tab on our class OWL website:



## Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

## Evaluation

### Policy Brief Submission #1 (15%)

Students will write create a six-page policy brief that will analyze an aspect of the governmental response to COVID-19.

You must use a mix of scholarly and non-scholarly sources to create your brief. The purposes of the assignment are to collect evidence and then develop your own thoughts, analysis and criticisms.

A good quality brief will accurately summarize the issue and provide a pertinent analysis as well as possible solutions. It will be concise and well written with very few typos or grammatical errors.

\*\*\*OPTIONAL BONUS MARKS\*\*\*

If you take part in a Zoom meeting with the instructor at least three days before the due date to discuss your assignment, you will receive a 5% bonus on the assignment. This meeting is optional and can happen at any time before the deadline.

### Policy Brief Submission #2 (25%)

Students will correct, revise, add to and resubmit their previous policy brief based on comments received from the instructor and additional research.

The same marking criteria used to mark the first policy brief will apply to the revised policy brief. However, the course instructor will apply them more strictly.

A good quality brief will be a significant improvement compared to the first submission. It will be concise and well written with very few typos or grammatical errors.

\*\*\*OPTIONAL BONUS MARKS\*\*\*

The course instructor will distribute some of the policy briefs of acceptable quality via social media after an additional revision. You will receive a 5% bonus on the assignment if your policy brief is one of the briefs selected and you complete the additional revisions.

### Weekly Quizzes (5% x 3 = 15% total)

Most weeks include an open-book quiz that students will complete via the link on our class OWL website.

Each quiz will contain between 5 and 25 questions of various types, though mostly multiple choice questions. You can do the quiz at any point during the week and take as much time as you would like.

Only your highest three quiz marks will count toward your final mark; however, you must complete all of the quizzes to receive the mark.

There is no late submission of the quizzes each week. However, if you cannot complete a quiz on time, the instructor can give an extension and an alternate short answer quiz. Please contact the instructor before the due date.

### **Exam (30%)**

Students will complete a take-home exam submitted via our class OWL website. The exam will require you to create a piece of review material based on our course. Exam instructions will be posted on our class OWL website on the first day of the exam period. It will be due during the exam period (date to be announced). The exam is open-book and you can spend as much time on it as you would like before the due date. The goal is to demonstrate your mastery of course material.

### **Class Participation (15%)**

Throughout the term, students will be evaluated based on the quality and quantity of their participation. Participation will be based on the completion of weekly activities and contribution to class discussion. To receive a perfect participation mark, you must 1) complete all weekly participation activities, and 2) provide at least 20 quality contributions to class discussion via Zoom, the class discussion forum, writing or other parts of OWL. You will receive your participation mark-to-date at the mid-way point of the term.

### **Evaluation Breakdown**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date/ Deadline</b>	<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Brescia Competencies</b>
Policy Brief #1	15%	October 16	1	1, 3, 6
Policy Brief #2	25%	November 27	1, 2, 3, 5	2, 4
Weekly Quizzes	15%	Various	4	6, 7
Exam	30%	December exam period	1, 2, 3, 4	2, 4, 5
Class Participation	15%	Ongoing	1, 2, 3 4	All

## **Submission and Academic Accommodation**

All assignments are due by midnight on the due date via the class OWL website. Assignments that are handed in more than one week after the due date will not be accepted without documentation from an academic advisor.

To receive an accommodation or extension for course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade (our quizzes), documentation is not required. Please speak to the course instructor directly. Whenever possible, students should provide notification in advance of due dates or absence. If advance notification is not possible, the course instructor should be contacted within two business days.

To receive an accommodation or extension for course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

**Weekly Organizer:**

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments and/or Readings Due	Assignments Due	Optional Readings
1	September 9-11	Introduction What Is Politics?	Course outline	None!	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 1-3
2	September 14-18	Freedom, Liberty, Power, Justice and the State	Excerpt from Nigel Warburton's <i>A Very Short Introduction to Free Speech</i>	Quiz #1	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, introduction
3	September 21-25	Ideologies Part I	"Political Ideologies and their Social Psychological Functions" by John T. Jost, Christopher M. Federico, and Jamie L. Napier	Quiz #2	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 13
4	September 28-October 2	Ideologies Part II	Watch the video "We Should All Be Feminists"	Quiz #3	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 4
5	October 5-9	Democracy	Freedom House's <i>Freedom In The World</i>	Quiz #4	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 5-7
6	October 13-16	Information and the Media	"Battling the Six Evil Geniuses of Essay Writing" by Charles King	Policy Brief Submission #1	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 11

<b>7</b>	October 19-23	Constitutions	Government of Canada's "Your Guide to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms"	Quiz #5	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 8
<b>8</b>	October 26-30	Executives	Excerpt from Paul Wells' <i>The Longer I'm Prime Minister</i>	Quiz #6	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 8
<b>Reading Week November 2-November 6</b>					
<b>9</b>	November 9- 13	Legislatures and The Judiciary	"Mitch McConnell Got Everything He Wanted – But At What Cost" by Charles Homans	Quiz #7	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 8
<b>10</b>	November 16- 20	The Bureaucracy	"We Called for Help, They Killed My Son" by Alex S. Vitale	Quiz #8	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 9
<b>11</b>	November 23- 27	Political Parties and Elections	"On Electoral Reform, What Are Canada's Options" by Amanda Shendruk	Policy Brief Submission #2	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapter 13 and 14
<b>12</b>	November 30- December 4	Civil Society, Non-Government Organization and Interest Groups	"Idle No More, Indigenous Activism, and Canadian Settler Colonialism" by AJ Barker	Quiz #9	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapters 10 and 12
<b>13</b>	December 7-December 9	Review	Exam instructions	Final exam released December 11	Morlino, Berg-Schlosser & Bertrand Badie, chapters 15 and 16

# 2020-21 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

## 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12).

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services ([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

### Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

### Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such

requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/), <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory ([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68)).

#### **4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at: [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls

within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## 6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## 7. SUPPORT

### Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

### Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

### Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

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