

**PPOL 607 – Politics and Collective Choice
Course Outline**

Course:	PPOL 607 Politics and Collective Choice	Term:	Fall 2016
		Section:	01
Time:	Thursdays 17:00- 20:00	Place:	Nexen Technology and Conference Center, DTC (Downtown Campus: 5 th Floor, 906-8 th Avenue SW)
Instructor:	Dr. Tom Flanagan		
Office:	No office in DTC	Telephone:	403-239-6988
Office Hours:	Thursday 4 - 5 PM in Waves coffee shop or by appointment	E-mail:	tflanaga@ucalgary.ca

Readings:**For purchase—will read whole book**

Frans de Waal, *Chimpanzee Politics: Power and Sex among Apes*. Baltimore, MD.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007, revised 25th anniversary edition. Paperback.

Randy T. Simmons, *Beyond Politics: The Roots of Government Failure*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute, 2011, revised ed.

Optional purchase—will read large parts but not all of book—links to e-book versions will be on D2L (Bonus offer: if you buy the hard copy, the author will autograph it, thus giving you a priceless heirloom)

Tom Flanagan, *Game Theory and Canadian Politics*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998. Paperback.

D2L Links—will read selected chapters

Flanagan, Tom. *Winning Power: Canadian Campaigning in the 21st Century*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014. Hardcover.

Potts, Malcom, and Thomas Hayden. *Sex and War: How Biology Explains Warfare and Terrorism and Offers a Path to a Safer World*. Dallas, TX: Ben Bella Books, 2008.

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark S. Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*. New York: Norton, 1997.

Sowell, Thomas. *Applied Economics: Thinking Beyond Stage One*. New York: Basic Books, 2009. Rev. ed.

Thaler, Richard H., and Cass R. Sunstein. *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness*. New York: Penguin, 2009. Revised edition.

Tullock, Gordon, Arthur Seldon, and Gordon L. Brady. *Government Failure: A Primer in Public Choice*. Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute, 2002.

Desire2Learn:

Desire2Learn (D2L), a web-based course management tool, will be used in the course. Students registered in this course can log in at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/>. Note that D2L features a class e-mail list that will be used and I will use this list to communicate with you. It is your responsibility to ensure that D2L uses the e-mail address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to understand

- a) The nature of politics as coalition-building
- b) The influence of politics on policy-making
- c) Rational choice, game theory, and public choice as tools for studying politics and public policy
- d) The limitations of rational choice

Note: You may study elementary game theory in PPOL 609 as well as in PPOL 607. However, the emphasis will be different. PPOL 607 will emphasize n-person games as models of coalition formation, while PPOL 609 will emphasize games as models of rational decision-making. There

may be some overlap, but that is not a bad thing in learning a difficult subject such as game theory.

Syllabus

Chimpanzee and Human Politics

Sept. 15 Politics and policy, chimpanzees *Chimpanzee Politics*

Sept. 22 Chimpanzees and humans *Sex and War*, 39-97

Game Theory and Politics

Sept. 29 Coalitions, size principle *Game Theory and Canadian Politics*,
74-92; *Winning Power*, 11-29; 70-91

Oct. 6 Spatial models of competition, median voter theorem, entry from the
margin, multidimensional politics *Winning Power*, 46-69; *Game
Theory and Canadian Politics*, 140-163

Oct. 13 Voting games, Arrow theorem *Game Theory and Canadian Politics*,
105-107; 120-139

Oct. 20 Electoral systems and reform readings TBA

Oct. 27 Rational choice *Game Theory and Canadian Politics*,
3-20; *Nudge*, 1-102

Nov. 3 Prisoner's Dilemma, other models *Game Theory and Canadian Politics*,
20-26, 37-40; *Analyzing Politics*, 197-220

Nov. 10 **[No class]**

Public Policy

Nov. 17 Markets and property rights *Beyond Politics*, Introduction, Chs.
1, 2 & 6

Nov. 24 Government failure *Government Failure*, Introduction, Chs. 1 –
7; *Beyond Politics*, Ch. 4; Sowell, Ch. 1

Dec. 1	Examples	<i>Beyond Politics</i> , Chs. 9-10
Dec. 8	Examples	<i>Beyond Politics</i> , Chs. 12-14

Grade Determination:

First paper	25% (Due date TBD)
Second paper	25% (Due date TBD)
Final examination	50% (Scheduled by the Registrar)

Term Paper

Length: Each paper should be 10 typed pages double-spaced, plus title page and bibliography.
Due:

The goals of these paper are (1) to inform yourself about an important issue of Canadian public policy and (2) analyze it politically, answering such questions as why did government introduce (or fail to introduce) this policy, who supports it and who opposes it, who benefits from it and who loses, is it politically possible to introduce, amend, or repeal it (depending on circumstances), how do politicians manipulate it for coalition-building? Below are a few examples of acceptable topics; the list is only illustrative, not exhaustive:

- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Employment Insurance
- Equalization
- Charter Schools
- Employment equity
- Family reunification in immigration
- Carbon tax
- HST in Alberta

The opportunity to choose your own topic makes this a good platform for starting your capstone project. Whether you want to do this or not, please have a conversation with me about your choice of topic, because I may be able to suggest some sources for research. You can make an appointment if you wish, but in most cases it will be sufficient to catch me before or after class, or during the break. I will always be in Waves 4-5 PM on class days.

The first paper should describe the history and current details of the policy you wish to study. The second paper should contain your political analysis.

Writing is a major part of this course. I will be available for extra office hours to discuss your papers with you as you are working on them, and I hope to have a special assistant to give extra help to those whose writing skills need improvement.

Grading: Letter grades as described in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar (see section E.1 of Calendar online) will be given for all elements of grade determination noted above. The course grade will be determined based on a weighted average of those grades according to the percentages shown above. In the event that elements are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, they will be converted to letter grades. As a guide to determining standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	97-100	B	75-79	C-	60-62
A	90-96	B-	70-74	D+	55-59
A-	85-89	C+	67-69	D	50-54
B+	80-84	C	63-66	F	0-49

Important Notes:

- The School of Public Policy expects the highest standards of professional conduct by students, faculty and staff. Abusive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This includes any expression of prejudice in any of its forms.
- It is the student's responsibility to be fully aware of the academic regulations outlined in the University Of Calgary Faculty Of Graduate Studies Calendar. Provisions regarding Student Misconduct (plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct) will be strictly enforced. Please review the University of Calgary's Regulations on Plagiarism, Cheating and Other Academic Misconduct, online:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>
- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Examinations will not be given prior to the scheduled date.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. The Student Accessibility Services website is here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>
- All material used in this course is for the sole use of the individual and should not be recopied in either print or digital format. For copyright guidelines, including those relating to photocopying and electronic copies, please refer to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) fair dealing guidelines.

<http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright/fair-dealing>

- The University of Calgary complies with the requirements of the *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*. The University's policy on the sharing of student information with third parties can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/pg-pi-of-students-to-3rd-parties.pdf>. The University's policy on the sharing of student information with the subject can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/pg-pi-of-student-to-subject.pdf>
- In the event of an emergency, students may be required to evacuate the building. If evacuation is ordered, follow these procedures:
 - Stay calm, do not rush, and do not panic.
 - Safely stop your work.
 - Gather your personal belongings if it is safe to do so. (keys, purses, jackets, cell phones, etc. It may be hours before you are allowed back in the building.)
 - If safe, close your office door and window, but do not lock them.
 - If directed by wardens, follow their instructions.
 - Use the closest emergency exit. Do not use the elevator.
 - Proceed to the designated Emergency Assembly point in front of the Holiday Inn on 8th avenue to the west of the Downtown Campus.
 - Do not re-enter the building or work area until you have been advised by emergency responders that it is safe to do so.

Graduate Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Abu Abdelhafiz

Phone: 403-220-5997

E-mail: gsavpa@ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students Association

214 MLT, 2500 University Dr. NW

Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4

CANADA

Tel: 403 220-5997

Fax: 403 282-8992

Emergency Assembly Point

Holiday Inn Lobby (weather permitting)

1020 8th Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 1J2

Or remain at nearest exit point

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333


