

FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO:	UTSC Academic Affairs Committee
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PRESENTER: CONTACT INFO:	Prof. Katie Larson, Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs (416) 208-2978, vdundergrad.utsc@utoronto.ca
DATE:	January 30, 2025, for February 06, 2025
AGENDA ITEM:	7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Minor Modifications: Undergraduate Curriculum Changes, Social Sciences UTSC (For approval)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The UTSC Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) “is concerned with matters affecting the teaching, learning and research functions of the Campus (AAC *Terms of Reference*, section 4).” Under section 5.6 of its *Terms of Reference*, the AAC is responsible for approval of “major and minor modifications to existing degree programs.”

The AAC has responsibility for the approval of major and minor modifications to existing programs as defined by the [University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process](#) (UTQAP, Section 3.1 and 3.3).

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTSC Academic Affairs Committee [For Approval] (February 06, 2025)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This package contains minor modifications to the undergraduate curriculum submitted by the UTSC Social Sciences academic units listed below. These changes require governance approval. Minor

modifications are defined as adjustments that do not substantially alter program or course learning outcomes but may involve modest changes to the structure of a program or course. Upon approval, these updates will be implemented for the 2025-2026 academic year.

- Department of Political Sciences (Report: Undergraduate Minor Curriculum Modifications Social Sciences for Approval)
 - 1 New Course
 - POLB95H3: Democracy in Crisis: The Roots of Populism and Sources of Democratic Resilience in the World Today

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no significant financial implications to the campus operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved:

THAT the proposed Social Sciences undergraduate curriculum changes for the 2025-26 academic year, as detailed in the respective curriculum report, be approved.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

1. Report - Undergraduate Minor Curriculum Modifications Social Sciences for Approval



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

University of Toronto Scarborough
 2025-26 Curriculum Cycle
 Undergraduate Minor Curriculum Modifications Social Sciences for Approval
 February 06, 2025

Political Science (UTSC), Department of

1 New Course

POLB95H3: Democracy in Crisis: The Roots of Populism and Sources of Democratic Resilience in the World Today

Description:

In recent years, democracy has confronted surprising challenges in countries such as the United States where pluralism is well established. What explains the current crisis and what are the prospects for democracy in America and the rest of the world? Why are autocrats such as Trump in the United States and Viktor Orbán in Hungary suddenly so popular? To what extent is Canada vulnerable to populism? This course will provide an introduction to the study of democracy and dictatorship with a focus on recent events, such as the election of Trump, that threaten long existing institutions.

Area of Focus: Comparative Politics

Delivery Method:

In Person

Methods of Assessment:

Research paper (35%): will promote critical thinking about current events, provide training in argumentation, teach how to link abstract concepts to real world events and learn about different approaches to political change (addresses LO 2,3,4 and 5)

Presentation on research paper (5%): communication (addresses LO 1)

Weekly multiple-choice quizzes on reading (20%): learn about different approaches to political change; (addresses LO 5)

Tutorial participation (5%): communication, critical thinking (addresses LO 1 and 2)

Final exam: (35%): teach how to link abstract concepts to real world events and learn about different approaches to political change (addresses LO 4 and 5)

Breadth Requirements:

Social & Behavioural Sciences

Course Experience:

None

CNC Allowed:

Y

Credit Value:

Fixed: 0.5

Learning Outcomes:

1. Communication (2 parts)

- Written communication to develop effective argumentation and clearly and succinctly articulate ideas through critical essay practice on a topic related to the sources of democracy and/or democratic crisis in a specific case.
- Oral communication to develop verbal communication skills in an effort for students to work on their ability to speak clearly, listen actively, and deliver student presentations of their papers to their peers.

2. Critical thinking about current events;

3. Argumentation: How to make a convincing, evidence-based argument

4. Link abstract concepts to empirical historical and current events

5. Learn about different approaches to political change

Topics Covered:

- Theories about the origins of democracy and dictatorship
- Ways of understanding the character democracy and dictatorship
- Recent threats to democracy in the United States, Europe, Africa, and Latin America

Rationale:

This course is being proposed to respond to student interest in the recent rise of authoritarian populists in established democracies. Additionally, as part of the new Foundational Pathways Initiative at UTSC, this course is being created to draw in interest and promote programs and curriculum offered in Political Science.

The course is at the B-level with no prerequisites and open to any students. There is no prior knowledge required for the course. This course will serve our students primarily in the Major Program in Political Science, specifically towards their applications requirement. However, as part of the new Foundational Pathways Initiative, this course will serve as a point of direction for course selection for 1st year students.

Consultation:

Proposal approved by DCC: December 20, 2024

Course code approved by Office of the Registrar: December 19, 2024, by Tarraiz Malandrino

OVPD consultation: December 13, 2024

Resources:

This course will be covered by the existing departmental budget and be taught by an existing faculty member- Professor Lucan Way. We will have tutorials for this course which will also be coming out of the departmental budget. Tutorial hours will be roughly 440 for the course. There is no additional equipment or infrastructure support being requested, and we do not require any ancillary or laboratory fees for the course.

Overlap with Existing Courses:

None

Estimated Enrolment:

230

Instructor:

Professor Lucan Way

Proposal Status:

Under Review