

POL356H1 Canadian Political Parties and Elections

Section: L0101

Date/Time: Monday, 10AM-12PM

Location: UC 161

Instructor: Prof. Eric Merkley

Email: eric.merkley@utoronto.ca

Office: Room 3121, Sidney Smith Hall

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 W or by appointment

1. Overview and Objectives

Political parties are one of the key building blocks of any democracy. They play a crucial role in organizing government, integrating citizens into the political system, and aggregating their interests to facilitate democratic responsiveness. This course will examine Canada's federal political parties in-depth, how they operate, and how they conduct election campaigns. It will introduce students to the structure and evolution of the Canadian party system. It will chart the historical development and characteristics of the major parties and shed light on their internal processes, such as candidate selection, leadership elections, and the role of party members and activists. The class will conclude with a focus on elections in Canada, introducing students to important topics like the electoral system and electoral reform, money in politics, political campaigning, voter behaviour, and voter turnout.

Over the course of the term students should be able to:

- Describe the evolution of Canada's party system, including its major parties, third parties, and the internal rules governing candidate recruitment and nominations, and leadership elections
- Understand the importance of the electoral system in shaping Canadian politics, along with electoral rules related to voter eligibility, campaign finance, and the distribution and creation of electoral districts
- Evaluate the ability of Canadian parties to reflect the diversity and interests of Canadian society
- Describe changes in the art of election campaigning in Canada and explain key factors that influence election outcomes, voter behaviour, and voter turnout
- Engage with key debates related to Canadian political parties and elections, such as voter equality, the lack of representation of women and minorities in Parliament, electoral reform, political polarization, and intra-party democratic reform

2. Course Format

Your attendance at in-person lectures is mandatory. You will be regularly asked quiz-style questions that require a response via Top Hat in lecture. Your participation in these in-class question-and-

answer sessions is the foundation of your class participation. COVID-19 permitting, in-person lectures may also include group activities that reinforce the material covered. Participation in these activities will also be graded.

3. Required Texts and Materials:

- Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017).
- **Readings available through the library or electronically.** As listed below in the detailed syllabus, required readings for the course are usually available through the library. Links to these readings are provided. Others, labelled (Quercus), will be made available through Quercus. It is your responsibility to download all readings from the appropriate location. **Note:** reaction readings are only required for those doing a response paper for a given week.
- **Course webpage and emails.** There is a course webpage on Quercus. I will use this page to post important course documents (readings, syllabus, lecture slides, etc.), post announcements and send emails to you throughout the term. Lecture slides will be posted before each class. It is your responsibility to regularly check Quercus for updates. Written assignments will also be submitted through Quercus.

4. Grading and Assessed Coursework

Assignment	Date/Due Date	Percentage of Overall Grade
Lecture Participation (Top Hat/Activities)	All lectures	10%
Reaction Memo 1	October 31st, 11:59pm	5%
Reaction Memo 2	December 5th, 11:59pm	5%
Election Case Study	November 21st, 11:59pm	10%
Pop quizzes	Any lecture	10%
Research Outline	October 12th, 11:59pm	5%
Research Essay	December 8th, 11:59pm	25%
Final Exam	TBA	30%

4.1 Final Exam (30%)

There is a final exam. This exam will test you on all the material covered in the lectures, activities, and readings. The date and time of the final exam are to be set by the Registrar and will be released later in the term.

4.2 Pop Quizzes (10%)

You will be asked to periodically complete very short, surprise closed-book quizzes throughout the course of the term covering material in the course. These quizzes will be submitted via Qualtrics, a web-based survey tool.

4.3 Class Participation (10%)

We will be using **Top Hat Pro** (www.tophat.com) for class participation. In all lectures you will be asked to answer questions using Top Hat. Part of your participation mark will depend on your engagement with these questions. Your mark does not depend on whether you get the answers right. The questions are exercises to provoke discussion and learning. However, to get credit for participation at a given lecture, you must be present at the lecture and input responses to all questions using your own device (Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message). If this is logistically a problem, contact me immediately. For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and enrol in our Top Hat Pro course, please refer to the invitation sent to your school email address or consult Top Hat's [Getting Started Guide](#).

If you already have a Top Hat account, go to <https://app.tophat.com/login> to be taken directly to our course. If you are new to Top Hat, follow the link in the email invitation you received or...

- Go to <https://app.tophat.com/register/student>
- Click "Search by school" and input the name of our school
- Search for our course with the following join code: 104299

If a paid subscription is required, it will be listed at checkout when you enrol in our Top Hat Pro course. Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

In addition to questions and structured discussion via Top Hat, most class meetings dedicate some time to practical exercises, for which you will be working with your peers in small groups. You will be asked to discuss specific questions with your group, share your answers with the class, and email your collective response to me at eric.merkley@utoronto.ca.

For classes featuring group activities, 50% of your grade will be Top Hat participation and 50% will be the group activity. In classes with no group activity, Top Hat will be 100% of your grade.

4.4 Reaction Memos (5% X 2)

You will write two reaction memos on readings designated as "Reaction Readings" in the syllabus. This memo should be between 1.5 and 2 pages (maximum). It will first identify the thesis of the author in 2-3 sentences. The remainder should draw out the implications of the author's argument or findings for Canadian politics and why you agree or disagree with the author's argument.

You will be graded for correctly identifying the thesis, along with the clarity and succinctness of the writing. The bulk of your grade will be given for the thoughtfulness of your analysis (not to be mistaken with excessive criticism!). Marks will be deducted if you exceed the page limit. Because of

the nature and length of this paper, an introduction and conclusion should be omitted, but it must still be written in proper paragraph form.

You will complete one reaction memo on any one reaction reading related to lectures 3 through 6. This will be due on October 31st at 11:59PM on Quercus. You will complete a second reaction memo on any one reaction reading related to lectures 7 through 10. This will be due on December 5th. Extensions on deadlines will be given for documented emergencies only. Without documentation, late assignments will be penalized 2 points out of 100 per day, including weekends.

Bonus mark opportunity: You will get a bonus of 3% if you submit your reaction memo on a specific reaction reading before the date of its related lecture. But note, this bonus does not apply for those who choose to do the last possible reading for reaction memo 1 or 2 (i.e., Lecture 6 “Politics at the Centre” and Lecture 10 “Why Is There So Little Strategic Voting?”). If you want the bonus, you will need to choose a different reading.

4.5 Election Case Study (10%)

You will research an important Canadian federal election (not including 2019 or 2021) and write a two to three page memo briefly describing the outcome of the election, identifying the most important factors that contributed to its outcome, and explaining the importance of the election for Canadian political history. This memo **must** be properly sourced. Peer-reviewed academic research and news reports are both acceptable to cite for the purposes of this assignment. It must also be written in proper essay form. Due to the brevity of this assignment, please keep the introduction and conclusion brief and concise. Extensions on deadlines will be given for documented emergencies only. Without documentation, late assignments will be penalized 2 points out of 100 per day, including weekends.

Bonus mark opportunity: If you submit your election case study more than one week in advance of the deadline you will receive a bonus of 3% (i.e., November 14th at 11:59pm or earlier).

4.6 Research Paper and Outline (25% + 5%)

You will write a research paper on a topic related to Canadian political parties and elections. You will be graded on the demonstration of your knowledge, the strength of the evidence you bring to bear in support of your argument, as well as the quality and clarity of your essay structure and writing.

There are two steps to this process. First, you will write an outline for this paper (worth 5%, between 600 and 900 words). This outline should cover your thesis statement, major arguments and topic sentences, and initial evidence in support for your arguments. The outline can consist of detailed bullet points, but evidence **must** be properly sourced. The outline is due on Quercus at 11:59PM on October 12th. It will be graded pass or fail. The main purpose of this task is to provide feedback for your research paper. Late outlines will be accepted for the purpose of providing feedback, but they will be assigned a zero unless prior accommodation has been made.

Next, you will write an 1800-2400 word, properly sourced, final paper that builds on your research outline and takes into account instructor feedback. The paper is due on December 8th at 11:59pm. This paper is worth 25% of your grade for the course. Detailed instructions will be posted on Quercus. Extensions on deadlines will be given for documented emergencies only. Without documentation, late essays will be penalized 2 points out of 100 per day, including weekends.

5. Course Schedule and Readings

Section I. Introduction to the Canadian Party System

Topic 1 (September 12) – Introduction/Political Parties

Readings:

- Course Syllabus
- Richard S. Katz and Peter Mair. 1995. “Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party.” *Party Politics* 1 (1): 5–28.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_scopus_primary_402174681.
- R. Kenneth Carty and William Cross. “Political Parties and the Practice of Brokerage Politics.” In David E. Smith and John C. Courtney, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 11, pg. 1-8.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106454249906196.

Topic 2 (September 19) –The Canadian Party System

Readings:

- Steve Patten. “The Evolution of the Canadian Party System: From Brokerage Politics to Marketing-Oriented Politics.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 1.
- Richard Johnston. “Political Parties and the Electoral System.” In David E. Smith and John C. Courtney, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 12.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106454249906196.
- Richard Johnston. “Polarized Pluralism in the Canadian Party System.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 4

September 26 – NO CLASS

Section II. Canada’s Political Parties

Topic 3 (October 3) – The Major Parties – Part 1

Readings:

- R. Kenneth Carty. 2015. *Big Tent Politics : the Liberal Party’s Long Mastery of Canada’s Public Life*. Vancouver: British Columbia: UBC Press, Ch. 2-3.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106963745706196.

- Stephen Clarkson. (2005). *The Big Red Machine : How The Liberal Party Dominates Canadian Politics*. UBC Press, Ch. 1.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106007071206196.
- Blais, André. “Accounting for the Electoral Success of the Liberal Party in Canada Presidential Address to the Canadian Political Science Association London, Ontario June 3, 2005.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38, no. 4 (2005): 821–40.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_pr oquest_miscellaneous_59704503.
- **Reaction Reading:** R. Kenneth Carty. 2015. *Big Tent Politics : the Liberal Party’s Long Mastery of Canada’s Public Life*. Vancouver: British Columbia: UBC Press, Ch. 7.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106963745706196.

October 10 Thanksgiving – NO CLASS

October 12 Research Outline Due

Topic 3 (October 17) – The Major Parties – Part 2

Readings:

- Peter Woolstencraft. “The Conservatives: Rebuilding and Rebranding, Yet Again.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 8.
- Steve Patten. “The Triumph of Neo-Liberalism within Partisan Conservatism in Canada.” In James Farney and David Rayside, eds., *Conservatism in Canada* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013), Ch. 4.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106963539906196.
- Lynda Erickson and David Laycock. “Party History and Electoral Fortunes, 1961-2003.” In David Laycock and Lynda Erickson, eds. *Reviving Social Democracy : the Near Death and Surprising Rise of the Federal NDP*. Vancouver, British Columbia: UBC Press, Ch. 1.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106963759306196.
- **Reaction Reading:** Jean-François Godbout, Éric Bélanger, and Frédéric Mérand. “Uniting the Left? The Potential for an NDP-Liberal Party Merger.” In David Laycock and Lynda Erickson, eds. *Reviving Social Democracy : the Near Death and Surprising Rise of the Federal NDP*. Vancouver, British Columbia: UBC Press, Ch. 11.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106963759306196.

Topic 5 (October 24) – Third Parties

Readings:

- François Petry. “Ideological Evolution of the Federal NDP, as seen through Its Election Campaign Manifestos.” In David Laycock and Lynda Erickson, eds. *Reviving Social Democracy: the Near Death and Surprising Rise of the Federal NDP*. Vancouver, British Columbia: UBC Press, Ch. 6.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106963759306196.
- Éric Bélanger. “Third Parties in Canada: Variety and Success.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 10.
- James Bickerton. “Parties and Regions: Representation and Resistance.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 3.
- **Reaction Reading:** Alain-G. Gagnon and François Boucher. “Party Politics in a Distinct Society: Two Eras of Block Voting in Quebec.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 13.

Section III. Inside Canada’s Political Parties

Topic 6 (October 31) – Internal Party Organization

Reaction Memo #1 Due

Readings:

- William Cross and Lisa Young. 2013. “Candidate Recruitment in Canada: The Role of Political Parties.” In Amanda Bittner and Royce Koop, eds. *Parties, Elections, and the Future of Canadian Politics*. Vancouver: UBC Press, Ch. 2.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991105867460606196.
- Scott Pruysers and William Cross. 2016. “Candidate Selection in Canada: Local Autonomy, Centralization, and Competing Democratic Norms.” *The American Behavioral Scientist* (7): 781–98.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_pr_oquest_miscellaneous_1835023289.
- William Cross. 2004. *Political Parties*. Vancouver: UBC Press, Ch. 3.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106964196206196.
- William Cross. 2014 “Party Leadership Canada.” In William Cross and Jean-Benoit Pilet, eds. *The Selection of Political Party Leaders in Contemporary Parliamentary Democracies: a Comparative Study*. New York: Routledge.

https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106937677006196.

- **Reaction Reading:** William Cross and André Blais. 2012. *Politics at the Centre the Selection and Removal of Party Leaders in the Anglo Parliamentary Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Ch. 9.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106824781406196.

November 7 Fall Reading Week – NO CLASS

Topic 7 (November 14) – Representation

Readings:

- Joanna Everitt. “Where are the Women in Canadian Political Parties?” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 14.
- Melanee Thomas and Marc André Bodet. 2013. “Sacrificial Lambs, Women Candidates, and District Competitiveness in Canada.” *Electoral Studies* 32 (1): 153–66.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_gal_e_infotracacademiconefile_A322436576.
- Erin Tolley. 2022. “Gender Is Not a Proxy: Race and Intersectionality in Legislative Recruitment.” *Politics & Gender*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X22000149>.
- **Reaction Reading:** Standing Committee on the Status of Women. (2019). “Elect Her: A Roadmap for Improving the Representation of Women in Canadian Politics.” (pg. 23-53).
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FEWO/Reports/RP10366034/feworp14/feworp14-e.pdf>.

Section IV. Elections

Topic 8 (November 21) – The Rules of the Game

Election Case Study Due

Readings:

- Dennis Pilon. “Party Politics and Voting Systems in Canada” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 11.
- John Courtney, 2004. *Elections*. Vancouver: UBC Press, Ch. 2-4.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106081890406196.
- **Reaction Reading:** Lawrence LeDuc. 2009. “The Failure of Electoral Reform Proposals in Canada.” *Political Science* 61 (2): 21–40.

https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_prquest_miscellaneous_743799475.

Topic 9 (November 28) – Campaigns

Readings:

- Alex Marland and Thierry Giasson. “From Brokerage to Boutique Politics: Political Marketing and the Changing Nature of Party Politics in Canada.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 16.
- Richard Nadeau and Frédérick Bastien. “Political Campaigning.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 17.
- Thierry Giasson, Alexander J. Marland, and Anna Lennox Esselment. 2017. *Permanent Campaigning in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press, Ch. 1 (pp 3-22).
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106558655406196.
- **Reaction Reading:** Tamara Small and Thierry Giasson. 2020. “Political Parties: Political Campaigning in the Digital Age.” In Tamara A. Small and Harold J. Jansen, eds. *Digital Politics in Canada : Promises and Realities*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, Ch. 6.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106981085006196.

Topic 10 (December 5) – Campaigns and Voter Behaviour

Reaction Memo #2 Due

Readings:

- Cameron Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson. 2010. *Voting Behaviour in Canada*, Vancouver: UBC Press, Ch. 1.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106119223306196.
- Elisabeth Gidengil. “An Overview of the Social Dimension of Vote Choice.” In Mebs Kanji, Antoine Bilodeau, and Thomas J. Scotto, eds. *The Canadian Election Studies : Assessing Four Decades of Influence*. Vancouver: UBC Press, Ch. 6.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106486225606196.
- Bittner, A. (2018). “Leaders Always Mattered: The Persistence of Personality in Canadian Elections.” *Electoral Studies*, 54: 297–302.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_gale_infotracademiconefile_A547963893.
- **Reaction Reading:** André Blais. 2002. “Why Is There So Little Strategic Voting in Canadian Plurality Rule Elections?” *Political Studies* 50 (3): 445–54.

https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_pr_oquest_miscellaneous_60621558.

Topic 11 (December 8) – Voter Behaviour and Exam Review

- Henry Milner. “Participation, Mobilization, and the Political Engagement of the Internet Generation.” In Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017). Ch. 19.
- André Blais et al. (2004). “Where Does Turnout Decline Come From?” *European Journal of Political Research*, 43(2): 221-236.
https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/fedca1/cdi_cr_ossref_primary_10_1111_j_1475_6765_2004_00152_x.

6. Course Policies

6.1 Contacting the Course Instructor

I strongly recommend asking substantive questions about course content and requirements in scheduled office hours or by appointment. Email should be reserved strictly for time sensitive questions or quick points of clarification. I will try to respond within 24 hours, but emails received during the weekend will be answered on Monday and I will not respond to emails on the due date of an assignment.

6.2 Possible Changes to the Syllabus

I reserve the right to make adjustments to the course syllabus depending on evolving COVID-19 policies set by the University of Toronto and the Faculty of Arts & Science. I will give you notice in the event of any changes, and amended syllabi will be posted on Quercus.

6.3 Re-grading

If you would like anything re-graded, you must prepare a single-page memo outlining your case for re-grading. The memo needs to be serious and specific. I will then re-examine a particular assignment. Know, however, that a given grade can either increase or decrease in response to re-grading.

6.4 Missing Class and Late Assignments

Attendance and participation is required at all class sessions. Late assignments will be penalized 2 points out of 100 per day (excluding the outline, which will be graded zero), including weekends, except in the event of a documented serious illness or serious personal emergency (see section on Accommodation below). Missed examinations or quizzes will result in a grade of zero except in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

6.5 Accommodation for Emergency Situations

Students who need additional time for an assignment or will miss a lecture or exam for a medical or serious personal reason **must contact me before the due date or exam/lecture date** and as soon as the problem arises. All requests for accommodation must be made to me directly via email.

Some documentation will usually be required to make accommodation. Please note that accommodations will not be made for foreseeable circumstances, such as having multiple papers due in the same week. Accommodations are reserved for unforeseeable events that are outside a student's control (e.g., illness, a death in the family).

Requests for accommodation **made on or after an assignment's due date, or after the missed quiz or lecture will not be considered**. Due date extensions will not usually be granted for work lost due to computer crashes or the loss of a computer file. There are simple and free ways of regularly and automatically backing up your work. Students are strongly advised to backup copies of their essays and assignments before submitting via Quercus. These backups should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

6.6 Other Accommodations

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the [Accessibility Services office](#).

The University provides reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays. Students have a responsibility to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences and instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations or other compulsory activities at these times. Please reach out to me as early as possible to communicate any anticipated absences related to religious observances, and to discuss any possible related implications for course work.

6.7 Equity and Harassment

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

6.8 Academic Integrity and Responsibility

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor in all relevant courses
- Making up sources or facts
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test
- Misrepresenting your identity

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources (for example, the [University of Toronto website on Academic Integrity](#)).

6.9 Plagiarism Detection

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>)