

YORK UNIVERSITY
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE STATE & FINANCE
PPAS 4115 6.0 A
Fall / Winter 2026 – 2027

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Director: Joseph Silva, CPA, CIA
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<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/sppa/faculty/joseph-silva/>

Office Hours: By Appointment. Please contact me via email to make arrangements.

Course Schedule: Seminar, Thursdays, 7:00 PM – 9:50 PM

Location: Keele Campus, YK FC 109 (Founders College)

Note: This course outline may be subject to some adjustments as the course progresses. Students will be notified and changes will be discussed in class, as required.

Course Description:

Examines the political economy of the modern state from different approaches, with particular attention to the modern fiscal-welfare state, taxation and economic policy, inter-state coordination. This will also include the study of issues of finance in relation to central bank policies, money markets and the funding of governments. The challenges posed by globalization and the new politics of austerity for economic policy and alternate egalitarian policies will also be examined.

Land Acknowledgement:

First Nations peoples have lived on this part of Turtle Island for millennia, stewarding the land, the water and all that contributes to life in this region. Today, the culture and presence of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples enrich the lands and people of this territory.

More than two centuries ago, the Mississauga people welcomed settlers to this territory, providing sustenance and engaging in trade and commerce. Between 1781 and 1820, eight treaties were signed between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, who opened their territory to settlement. Today, York University's Keele Campus is located on Toronto Purchase Treaty, No. 13 lands and is situated on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee.

Treaty history is foundational, and it is our collective responsibility to honour the land, as we honour and respect those who have gone before us, those who are here and those who have yet to come. We are grateful for the opportunity to be learning, working and thriving on this land, and we commit to learn the truth and be active in the process of reconciliation.

Course Structure:

The course aims to provide a platform for an informed and critical approach to current public policy issues by interrogating foundational/theoretical insight and analytical frameworks through a contemporary lens. This course will provide an overview of, and tackle key political, economic, social and other factors that inform financial considerations and approaches to enable the delivery of effective and efficient public services. We will explore major frameworks, movements, actors and practices, as well as analytical models and tools, that characterize, impact and influence fiscal policy. In addition to considering the federal and provincial context, municipal governance will be included, recognizing the increasing importance of this level of government in contemporary public policy and service delivery discourse.

Learning Outcomes:

Using core reading—which features foundational/theoretical insights, analytical models and tools, and interrogates that knowledge through a contemporary, critical lens—as jumping off point, the focus will be on identifying key elements for further research/exploration, analysis and discussion. These key elements include major frameworks, movements, actors and practices that represent political, economic, social and other factors informing government policy.

Foundational and applied understanding of these elements will be established and strengthened through: course readings (both core and supplemental); where required/relevant, instructor-led exploration of concepts; critical discourse through in-class peer and instructor-facilitated discussion and knowledge exchange; and deepening, reinforcement and application of learning through assessment opportunities that include quizzes, assignments, and a final paper.

Where possible and appropriate, guest speakers will also be featured throughout the course to enhance student learning and experience.

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Gain an appreciation and understanding of major elements (theoretical frameworks, historical movements, organizational actors, policy processes and practices, etc.) that characterize and influence financial and broader government policy;
- Obtain a deeper understanding of, and familiarity with, analytical models and tools considered and applied in the political and economic analysis of public policy;
- Acquire an awareness of major issues, concepts and approaches shaping contemporary policy discourse;
- Apply subject knowledge to the analysis of current issues; and
- Broadly, develop and strengthen applied skills related to research, critical analysis, communications and other tools to support effective policy analysis and advice.

Course Requirements:

Component	Weight (as % of Total Course Mark)	Timeframe
Attendance and In-class Participation	15%	Ongoing throughout the term.
Quizzes	20%	Will be administered in-class throughout the term.
Reflection on Budgets	10%	Two short individual reflections on 2027 budgets (worth 5% each): (1) the Ontario budget to be tabled in the spring, and (2) a choice of <i>either</i> the federal budget to be tabled in the fall or the Markham municipal budget expected to be tabled in the winter. Due date TBC. Submit via Eclass (Turnitin).
Discussion Brief and Discussion Leadership Segment	25%	Two briefs and discussion segments, worth 12.5% each; approximately one brief and segment per term. Briefing Note Due: By Tuesday 11:59 PM before the relevant Thursday class, to be uploaded to Eclass.
Final Paper	30%	Winter Term. Paper Due: April 9, 2027 by 11:59 PM Submit via Eclass (Turnitin)
Total	100%	

Additional information about each component and specific requirements/expectations will be supplied, as required, but the below is provided as general/preliminary overview.

Unless waived due to extenuating circumstances, late submissions of written products would be subject to penalty of 5% of the value of the assignment, per calendar day. Submissions more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

About Attendance and In-class Participation:

True to the seminar nature of the course, class participants are expected to come prepared having read and considered the material, particularly Core readings and, as required, Supporting/Optional content.

Students are expected to engage actively, and respectfully, in class discussion and any in-class interactive activity—demonstrating command of the material, illustrating and clarifying key concepts, comparing and contrasting within historical and contemporary context, drawing linkages to current issues, etc.

Strong marks will be characterized by an ability to clearly identify and apply content from the readings, critically evaluate and apply course content, and connect and integrate insights across course material.

About Quizzes:

To support the acquisition, retention and reinforcement of key concepts, quizzes will be administered in-class regularly throughout the course and, unless warranted/appropriate as determined by the instructor, at the beginning of class (based mainly on assigned core reading for that week).

Unless in cases of extenuating circumstance/exceptional emergency (e.g., doctor-substantiated illness), **there will be no opportunity to rewrite or to make-up a missed in-class quiz.**

About Budget Reflections:

Budgets are considered some of the most, if not the most, significant policy document for a governmental entity / organization. The analytical insights gleaned in this course and the contemporary issues discussed in the seminar can be expected to undergird, inform and featured in governmental budgets that will be tabled in the months ahead. To prompt student exploration and critical review of budgets (including identification and application of relevant theoretical and analytical insights from class) that will be tabled by federal, provincial and municipal (e.g., Markham) governments, students will be required to submit **two short reflections**. One of the reflections will need to be on the *Ontario budget* to be tabled in the spring, while the second one can *either* be on the *federal budget* to be tabled in the fall or the *Markham municipal budget* to be tabled in the winter. More information will be provided to students on expectations, etc.

About Discussion Briefs and Discussion Leadership:

Twice throughout the course (approximately once in Fall, another in Winter term), students are required to take a leadership role in the class discourse (*planned to be done in pairs*).

This involves: closely reading Core content and considering—to extent required/appropriate—Optional / Supporting material; preparing a Discussion Brief (generally 3-4 pages single-spaced; 500 words per page), due by Tuesday 11:59 PM before the relevant Thursday class; and leading the class through topic exploration as part of Discussion Leadership.

The course director will support and, where needed/appropriate, help redirect and expand on content/discussion. As part of the discussion, the class will have an opportunity to identify and discuss current / topical issues, and analyze and map concepts and insights against contemporary context.

About the Final Paper:

Students will be able to delve deeper into a more specific policy topic of their choice, within the broad selection of areas tackled in the course content or, with the instructor's approval, a different area not explored in the course. **The paper is intended to demonstrate and integrate concepts and insights from the course, and apply these to explore, analyze and address a contemporary policy issue with a view to developing recommendations for action.**

Elements of the final paper will include: identification of the relevant policy issue / problem statement(s); background; analysis of issues; identification and assessment of options; crafting of recommendations; and drafting of implementation and evaluation path.

Late Policy and Absences:

Under extenuating circumstances, to the extent possible and with ample notice given and agreed upon with the instructor, Discussion Leadership segments may be adjusted. Please contact the instructor if you are anticipating issues.

Unless waived due to extenuating circumstances, late submissions of written products would be subject to penalty of 5% of the value of the assignment, per calendar day. Submissions more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

For absence-related information, including what constitutes the scope of extenuating circumstances and associated academic considerations, please consult [Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work, Policy on - Secretariat Policies](#).

Student Conduct in the Learning Environment:

York University is committed to fostering teaching and learning environments that are free of disruptive and/or harassing behaviour, are physically safe, and conducive to effective teaching and learning. Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy, civility, and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Individuals who fail to adhere to such standards and who violate University or public law may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

Academic Honesty & Integrity:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Quoting material without citing its source or using authors' arguments without acknowledging them is not only dishonest but subject to significant penalties both in terms of your grade and your standing at the university. Please consult the academic conduct policy at: [Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures - Secretariat Policies](#).

Use of Artificial Intelligence:

According to York's [Academic Conduct Policy](#), students are expected to follow all course and assignment instructions about the use of AI tools. Using AI tools without proper citation, acknowledgement, or documentation, or using them when they are not permitted for an assessment, may be considered a breach of academic conduct.

For the purpose of this class, students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) for the purpose of preparing and completing course requirements. Submitting any work for grading/assessment created through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's [Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#). For more information, please review [AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students](#).

Seminar Schedule, Content and Readings:

About the Seminar Structure:

The course progression, as noted in the Seminar Schedule below, is characterized by a series of key elements informing an exploration of the political economy of the state and finance in Canada. Key elements are categorized and described as **Movements, Frameworks, Actors, Practices, and Contemporary Issues and Policy Approaches, supported by Analytical Tools**, delivered in two segments:

The first part of the course is intended to identify and provide some **foundational grounding** related to key **movements, frameworks, actors and practices**. This segment will also feature and leverage acquisition of knowledge and understanding related to **analytical models and tools considered and applied in the political and economic analysis of public policy**.

The second part of the course will facilitate opportunities to **surface and apply foundational knowledge and understanding**, gained in the first part of the course, in the **analysis and exploration of contemporary issues and policy approaches**.

About Core and Support / Optional Content:

The Seminar Schedule provides a selection of Core and Support / Optional content.

- Core content are intended to provide an overview and foundation for the noted topic, identifying key concepts and creating jumping off points for further exploration, research and discussion. Core readings feature foundational/theoretical insights, and interrogate that knowledge through a contemporary, critical lens. **Students are expected to have read and considered Core content.**
- Supporting / Optional content have been assembled to help define, clarify and deepen participant knowledge and understanding of key concepts noted in the Core readings. **Students may consider as much (or as little) of the Supporting / Optional content as they wish in preparing for class discussion, depending on their level of understanding, proficiency and interest.**

Discussion Leads, however, will be expected to incorporate into their briefs key / relevant aspects of Supporting / Optional content, and to leverage such content to enrich their facilitation.

Students are free to supplement and enhance exploration of certain topics with additional readings, which they may identify during class discussions and incorporate into their Discussion Briefs. Supporting / Optional contents may also be useful as source material for the final paper.

About Required Texts.

For this full-year course, the two required texts are as follows:

(1) A contemporary volume on historical perspectives and contemporary considerations within the Canadian political economy discourse, *Canadian Political Economy, 2020*, editor Professor Heather Whiteside, University of Toronto Press. ([Canadian Political Economy - University of Toronto Press](#), Paperback Cost \$50, E-book Cost \$41.95.)

All of the volume's chapters will be covered and will be among Core content. An accessible e-version is available to students (see below; will require log-in via Passport York): <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=6384634>.

(2) A primer and concise guide on the political and economic analysis of public policy, *The Political Economy of Public Policy, 2025*, author Professor Alena Kimakova, University of Toronto Press. ([The Political Economy of Public Policy - University of Toronto Press](#), Paperback Cost \$42.95, E-book Cost \$34.36).

All of the volume's chapters will be covered and will be among Core content. An accessible e-version is available to students (see below; will require log-in via Passport York): [The Political Economy of Public Policy : A Concise Guide - Record details - EBSCOhost Research Databases](#).

Hard copies have also been placed on reserve at the Scott library.

NOTE: While not required to be purchased, there will be a few Core readings from the following text. Electronic access is available via Passport York as noted below, and a hard copy will also be available at the Scott Library on reserve. *To facilitate student access, the readings from the Change and Continuity text below will be made available for student use via Eclass:*

Change and Continuity – Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium, edited by Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (Kingston: McGill – Queen's University Press, 2019). Available via York Library using Passport York:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5899930>

Other Text Representing Optional Reading / Reference:

Some Optional content are also drawn from the following text. There is no requirement to purchase the material below, as the content represents Optional reading. To help facilitate access, hard copies have been placed on reserve at the Scott Library. Where an e-version is available, the link has also been included below (will require log-in via Passport York).

- *The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition*, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018).

- Michael Howlett, Alex Netherton, M. Ramesh. *The Political Economy of Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1999).
- *Change and Continuity – Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium*, edited by Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (Kingston: McGill – Queen’s University Press, 2019).
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5899930>

Resources on the Public Policy Process:

Throughout the course, including to support the preparation of the final paper, understanding and application of the policy development and implementation process will be advanced and leveraged. The primer on the political economy of public policy by Kimakova will feature a number of public policy models and tools. To complement this, students may wish to review / access additional resources, such as the following. Students may consider many other resources and frameworks to support learning, but the list below is provided as examples, for illustration and ease of reference, and are available free online or via the Scott Library (on reserve).

- Howlett, Michael. “The Policy Process.” In *The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration*, 3rd Edition, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 272 – 294. (on reserve at the Scott Library)
- [Understanding Policy Process](#), Pepperdine School of Public Policy.
- “Policy 101.” Modules from Action Canada. [Policy 101 - Action Canada Fellowship](#)
- “Canadian Government Policy Cycle.” Carleton University. [Canadian Government Policy Cycle | MacOdrum Library](#)

Planned Schedule of Topics and Associated Content:

Topics and content noted below may be subject to change. Additional / alternate material may also be introduced in class.

Depending on availability and relevance, guest speakers may be incorporated as part of select classes; guest segments may result in changes to the schedule.

Students will be notified in advance of any adjustments in-class and/or via e-mail / e-class. Regular communication via e-class should be expected; please take note of and review e-class notifications accordingly.

Where possible, links to Core and Supporting / Optional content are included in the course schedule for ease of access and reference. Students are free to supplement and enhance exploration of certain topics with additional readings, which they may identify during class discussions and incorporate into their Discussion Briefs.

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
Sep 10	Course Introduction, and Overview and Discussion of Course Requirements	Course Syllabus Preface to Kimakova text (For why this matters / what are some top of mind issues...) Is a technical recession technically a problem for Mark Carney? CBC News
Sep 17	Theoretical Insights & Analytical Models: Intro to Political Economy of Public Policy Key Elements in Exploring the Political Economy of the State & Finance (Movements, Frameworks, Actors/Institutions, Practices, Contemporary Issues and Policy Approaches)	Core: Kimakova text Chapter 1 Whiteside, Heather. "Introduction: Changes, Crises and Conflicts in Canadian Political Economy." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), Introduction 3 – 22. McBride, Stephen. "Canada's Continental Political Economy." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 69 – 85.
Sep 24	Theoretical Insights & Analytical Models: Role of Government; Nature and Scope of Public Goods	Core: Kimakova Chapters 2 and 3
Oct 1	Key Historical Movements and Paradigmatic Frameworks: 3 Parts Part 1 - Overview of Staples Approach, Keynesian Model, Monetarist / Neo-Liberal Part 2 - Deeper Dive into Staples Framework	Core: Helleiner, Eric. "Historical Canadian Political Economy." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 25 – 41. Mills, Suzanne and Steven Tufts. "Innis's Ghost: Canada's Changing Resource Economy." In <i>Change and Continuity – Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium</i>, edited by Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (Kingston: McGill – Queen's University Press, 2019), 106 - 127.

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5899930 Supporting / Optional: Michael Howlett, Alex Netherton, M. Ramesh. <i>The Political Economy of Canada</i> (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1999), Chapter 4, Staples Political Economy, 81-100.
Oct 8	Part 3 - Deeper Dive into Keynesian Model and Monetarist/Neo-liberal Approach	Core: Evans, Bryan. "The Politics of Public Administration: Constructing the Neoliberal State" In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 123 – 144. McBride, Stephen. "From Keynesianism to Neoliberalism: The State in a Global Context." In <i>Change and Continuity – Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium</i>, edited by Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (Kingston: McGill – Queen’s University Press, 2019), 149 - 166. https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5899930 Supporting / Optional: Michael Howlett, Alex Netherton, M. Ramesh. <i>The Political Economy of Canada</i> (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1999), Chapter 10, The Macro-Political Economy: Monetary and Fiscal Management, 272- 290.
Oct 15	No Class – Reading Week (Oct 10 – 16)	

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
Oct 22	Key Actors and Practices: Federal and Provincial Levels - Structure, Histories, Frameworks	Core: Intergovernmental Affairs: The Federation at a Glance https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/services/federation/distribution-legislative-powers.html Lithwick, Dara. A pas de deux: The Division of Federal and Provincial Legislative Powers in Sections 91 and 92 of the Constitution Act, 1867. Library of Parliament. 2015. YM32-5-2015-128-eng.pdf Smith, Alex. The Roles and Responsibilities of Central Agencies. Library of Parliament. 2015. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/bdp-lop/bp/2009-01-eng.pdf Supporting / Optional: Thomas, Paul. "Parliament and the Public Service." In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 142 – 165. Dunn, Christopher. "The Central Executive in Canadian Government: Searching for the Holy Grail." In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 115 - 141.
Oct 29	Key Actors and Practices: Municipal Level – Structure, Histories, Frameworks	Core: Fanelli, Carlo and Carol-Anne Hudson. "Urban Political Economy, Poverty and Inequality in Canada." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 254 - 277. How Local Government Works. Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/how-local-government-works Municipal Finance Orientation Package. Municipal Finance Officers Association. https://www.mfoa.on.ca/mfoa/main/pdfs/MFOA_Orientation_Package_2021_11_24.pdf Supporting / Optional: Sancton, Andrew. "Local Public Administration." In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 181 – 194.
Nov 5	Theoretical Insights & Analytical Models: Other Public Policy Considerations - Voting; Collective Action Problems	Core: Kimakova Chapters 4 and 5
Nov 12	Key Practices: Overview, Theoretical Insights & Analytical Models: Fiscal Policy Fiscal Architecture at the Federal and Provincial Levels	Core: Kimakova Chapter 6 Pu, Shaowei. <i>The Parliamentary Financial Cycle</i>. Library of Parliament. 2021. The Parliamentary Financial Cycle Peruse – Latest Federal Budget. Finance Canada. https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/services/publications/federal-budget.html Federal Equalization Program: Equalization Program - Canada.ca Federal Health & Social Transfers: History of Health and Social Transfers - Canada.ca Supporting / Optional: An Overview of the Federal Government's Expenditure Management System - A Report of the

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons. 2006. Report of the Auditor General of Canada — November 2006 Prince, Michael. “Budgeting in Canada: Centre Stage of Government and Governance.” In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 349 – 363. Robson, William and Alexandre Laurin. “Adaptability, Accountability and Sustainability: Intergovernmental Fiscal Arrangements in Canada.” In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 35 - 51.
Nov 19	No Class – Independent Reading / Catch-up on Material/Requirements	
Nov 26	Key Practices: Fiscal Architecture at the Municipal Level	Core: REFRESHER (Covered earlier): Municipal Finance Orientation Package. Municipal Finance Officers Association. https://www.mfoa.on.ca/mfoa/main/pdfs/MFOA_Orientation_Package_2021_11_24.pdf Changes to Municipal Budgeting: 10. Strong mayor powers and duties The Ontario municipal councillor’s guide ontario.ca Albo, Greg and Carlo Fanelli. “Fiscal Distress and the Local State: Neoliberal Urbanism in Canada.” In <i>Change and Continuity – Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium</i>, edited by Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (Kingston: McGill – Queen’s University Press, 2019), 265 - 298. https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5899930

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		Johal, Sunil, Kiran Alwani, Jordan Thirgood and Peter Spiro. "Rethinking Municipal Finance for the New Economy." Mowat Centre. 2019. Link to Paper Andrew Sancton. 2026. Growing Pains: Rethinking Development Charges in Canadian Municipalities. Toronto: C.D. Howe Institute. Growing Pains: Rethinking Development Charges in Canadian Municipalities Supporting / Optional: Kitchen, Harry, Enid Slack and Tomas Hachard. Property Taxes in Canada: Current Issues and Future Prospects. Institute on Municipal Finance & Governance. 2019. https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/98034/1/Perspectives-27-Kitchen-Slack-Hachard-Property-Tax-Issues-Prospects.pdf Municipal development and community benefits charges, and parklands. https://www.ontario.ca/page/municipal-development-and-community-benefits-charges-and-parklands Who Should Pay for Growth? The Agenda with Steve Paikin. TVO. June 1, 2023. https://www.tvo.org/video/who-should-pay-for-growth
Dec 3 (last class of Fall term)	Key Actors and Practices: Accountability and Transparency in the Public Sector	Core: Peruse: Guide to Internal Control over Financial Management. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. https://www.tbs-sct.canada.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=32649&section=html McGlashan, Lindsay. The Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Beyond Bean Counting. Library of Parliament. 2014. 2011-71-1-eng.pdf

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		Hanna, Lauren. Watchdogs wading in: Ontario's Legislative Officers in Public Policy Development. Paper presented at the 2012 Annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, Edmonton, Alberta. https://cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2012/Hanna.pdf Internal Audit Function. Government Finance Officers Association. https://www.gfoa.org/materials/internal-audit-function Supporting/Optional: Abela, Carmen and James Mitchell. Unlocking the Power of Internal Audit in the Public Sector. Institute of Internal Auditors. 2014. https://www.theiia.org/globalassets/site/affiliates/canada/documents/unlocking-the-power-of-internal-audit-in-the-public-sector/unlockingthepower_rr_v7.final.pdf About the Auditor General of Ontario. https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/aboutus/wh-atwedo.html About the Parliamentary Budget Officer. https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/about--a-propos
Fall Term classes end Dec 8, 2026 Our seminar / class resumes Jan 7, 2027		
Jan 7	Key Actors and Practices: Alternatives to Traditional Service Delivery	Core: Unlocking the public service economy in Ontario: a new approach to public-private partnership in services. Ontario Chamber of Commerce. 2014. https://occ.ca/wp-content/uploads/UnlockingPublicServiceEconomyOntario-1.pdf Evaluating Service Delivery Arrangements. Government Finance Officers Association.

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		https://www.gfoa.org/materials/evaluating-service-delivery-alternatives Real-life example / case study: Canadian Food Inspection Agency Use of ASDs Evaluation of Alternative Service Delivery - inspection.canada.ca Optional / Supporting: Siemiatycki, Matti. "Public-Private Partnerships in Canada: Reflections on Twenty Years of Practice" In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 334 - 338. Zussman, David. "Alternative Service Delivery." In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 1st Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2002), 53 - 76.
Jan 14	Key Actors and Practices Overview, Theoretical Insights & Analytical Models: Monetary Policy	Core: Kimakova Chapter 7
Jan 21	No Class – Independent Reading / Catch-up on Material/Requirements Start to consider potential topics for Final Paper	
Jan 28	Key Actors and Practices Historical & Contemporary Context: Money and Banking in Canada and Beyond	Core: Monetary Policy via the Bank of Canada: What does the Bank of Canada do? - Bank of Canada Monetary policy - Bank of Canada Understanding how monetary policy works - Bank of Canada Seccareccia, Mario and David Pringle. "Money and Finance." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i> , edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 320 - 348.

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		Supporting / Optional: Michael Howlett, Alex Netherton, M. Ramesh. <i>The Political Economy of Canada</i> (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1999), Chapter 10, The Macro-Political Economy: Monetary and Fiscal Management, 272- 290.
Feb 4	Social Issues – Part 1 Overview, Theoretical Insights & Analytical Models: Social Policy	Core: Kimakova Chapter 8
Feb 11	Social Issues – Part 2 Contemporary Issues and Policy Approaches: Poverty, Inequality, Welfare	Core: Peters, John. “Inequality.” In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 237 – 253. Graefe, Peter. “The Political Economy of Social Policy in Canada.” In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 278 - 296. Supporting / Optional: Social determinants of health and health inequalities - Canada.ca
Feb 18	No Class – Winter Reading Week (Feb 13 – 19)	
Feb 25	Social Issues – Part 3 Other Actors: The Role of Civil Society (Non-profit and Co-operatives)	Core: Macarthur, Julie. “Co-operatives.” In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 193 - 214.

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		Joy, Meghan and John Shields. "The Political Economy of the Non-profit Sector." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 215-236. Supporting / Optional: Annual Report – United Way Greater Toronto. https://www.unitedwaygt.org/about-us/annualreport/ Research and Reports – United Way Greater Toronto. https://www.unitedwaygt.org/the-work/research-and-reports/
Mar 4	Other Actors: Labour Sector	Core: Smith, Charles. "Political Economy and the Canadian Working Class: Conflicts, Crisis and Change." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 145 - 172. Ross, Stephanie and Mark Thomas. "Organizing in Precarious Times: The Political Economy of Work and Workers' Movement after the Great Recession." In <i>Change and Continuity – Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium</i>, edited by Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (Kingston: McGill – Queen's University Press, 2019), 333 - 352. https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5899930 Supporting / Optional: Collective Bargaining – A Policy Guide. International Labour Organization. 2015. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_425004.pdf

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		Elementary Teachers at the Bargaining Table. The Agenda with Steve Paikin. Nov 2019. https://www.tvo.org/video/elementary-teachers-at-the-bargaining-table
Mar 11	Key Actors and Practices: Indigeneity, Sustainability and the Environment	Core: Starblanket, Gina and Elaine Coburn. "This country has another story: Colonial Crisis, Treaty Relationships, and Indigenous Women's Futurities." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 86 – 102. Carter, Angela. "Canadian Ecological Political Economy," In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i>, edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 103 - 122. Supporting / Optional: Shepherd, Robert. "Indigenous Peoples and the Reconciliation Agenda: Funding, Accountability and Risk." In <i>The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration, 3rd Edition</i>, edited by Christopher Dunn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2018), 246 – 268. Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports. https://nctr.ca/records/reports/#trc-reports Stanford, Jim. "Staples Dependence Renewed and Betrayed: Canada's Twenty-first Century Boom and Bust." In <i>Change and Continuity – Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium</i>, edited by Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (Kingston: McGill – Queen's University Press, 2019), 79 - 105. https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=5899930

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
Mar 18	Other Actors: Business / Corporate Sector Contemporary Issues and Policy Approaches: Economic Development	Core: Brownlee, Jamie. "Corporations and Corporate Power." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i> , edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 173 – 192. Smardon, Bruce. "Dependent Technological Change: The Long Arc of Canadian Innovation and Political Economic Development." In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i> , edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 42 – 68. Supporting / Optional: About Us and Resources. Toronto Region Board of Trade. https://bot.com/About Economic Development. Who Does What Series. Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance. The Municipal Role in Economic Development – IMFG Michael Howlett, Alex Netherton, M. Ramesh. <i>The Political Economy of Canada</i> (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1999), Chapter 11, The Micro-Political Economy: Industrial Development, 291 – 318.
Mar 26	TBC: No Class – Watch / Review 2027 Provincial Budget and Work on the Reflection	
Apr 5 (Final class)	Key Actors and Practices: Canada and The Global Stage - Structure, Histories, Frameworks Course Wrap-up	Core: Fridell, Gavin. "Canadian Trade and Trade Agreements: Free or Fair?" In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i> , edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 297 - 319. Conclusion – Advancing Canadian Political Economy. In <i>Canadian Political Economy</i> , edited by Heather Whiteside (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 349 onwards.

Date	Planned Topic of Focus / Activity	Readings
		Kimakova Chapter 9
Winter Term classes end Apr 5 Final Paper due Apr 9		