

**POLS\*1250 - Politics, Controversy, and Contestation: Navigating Contemporary Issues****Credit Weighting:** 0.5**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** N/A**Restrictions:** N/A**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Troy Riddell & Leah Levac**Email:** riddell@uoguelph & llevac@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MCKN 5th floor**GENERAL DETAILS**

Using different political and ideological perspectives, you will engage with academic and community experts in discussions about a wide range of pressing questions such as:

Why did Trump get elected? How should Canada navigate relations with the US? Will Trumpism outlast Trump?

Will artificial intelligence (AI) save us or destroy us? Can or should governments regulate AI?

Do people have a right to housing? What should municipalities do about encampments? How should local, provincial and federal governments address homelessness?

What are different groups' narratives of the Middle East? How do complex historical and contemporary social and political structures and events shape the region? What explains Canada's foreign policy in the region?

Across topics we will consider what is at stake and for whom, how different political actors approach contentious issues, and how debates surrounding such issues help us better explain, predict and respond to political events. Join us for a term of energetic, engaging, and respectful discussions.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- a) understand a range of political and ideological perspectives.
- b) apply different perspectives to contemporary political challenges.
- c) examine how different political actors (e.g., interest groups, activists, politicians, journalists, judges and others) approach contemporary political challenges.
- d) ask thoughtful questions and engage respectfully in small group discussions.

**METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

Course assessment may include:

- In-class participation
- Content-based quizzes
- Small group discussions and reflections

**REQUIRED READING**

All readings will be available online and through the library. There is no textbook for this course.