





# Political Science (POLI) 301

## Governance, the Public Sector, and Corporate Power (Revision 3)

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

**Delivery mode:** [Individualized study online](#) 

**Credits:** 3

**Areas of study:** Arts or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** None; however, a previous course in political science, public policy, or public administration / management would be helpful. This is a senior course and as such students are expected to have advanced analytical and writing skills.

**Precluded:** GOVN 301. POLI 301 is a cross-listed course—a course listed under 2 different disciplines—with **GOVN 301**. (POLI 301 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for GOVN 301).

**Challenge:** POLI 301 has a challenge for credit option.

**Faculty:****Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** 

## Overview

POLI 301: Governance, the Public Sector, and Corporate Power explores the changing relationships between business, society, and government in contemporary Canada. It examines the colonial structure upon which it is based, and it studies the changing patterns of governance; the position of corporate Canada in society's power structure; the phenomenon of globalization and the international extension of business power; the role of the mass media in shaping culture and dominant ideas within society; the restructuring of economic and social policy; constitutional change; the marketization of the state; the transformation of citizens into customers; the demands of marginalized groups for inclusion; and the increased threat to social cohesion. Finally, it considers the future of the public sector in Canada.

## Outline

The course is divided into the following nine units.

- Unit 1: Exploring the Course Themes: Conceptual and Historical Remarks
- Unit 2: Globalization and Governance
- Unit 3: The State–Market Relationship: Theoretical Approaches to Understanding the Settler State
- Unit 4: Changing Patterns of Governance in Canada
- Unit 5: Public Sector Reform: New Public Management and the Privatization of the Social Responsibility
- Unit 6: The Changing Role of the Voluntary Sector in Canada
- Unit 7: Technology, the Media, and Democratic Governance in the Twenty-First Century
- Unit 8: Civil Society, Social Cohesion, and Social Exclusion in Canada

- Unit 9: Governance and the Erosion of State Power

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for POLI 301, you must complete all of the assignments listed below and achieve a minimum grade of **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) for the course.

Students will be evaluated on their understanding of the concepts presented in the course and on their ability to apply those concepts. The final grade in the course will be based on the marks achieved for the following activities.

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Critical Reflection Paper	10%
Assignment 2: Connections Assignment	15%
Assignment 3: Thesis Statement Assignment	15%
Assignment 4: Annotated Bibliography	15%
Assignment 5: Research Paper	30%
Assignment 6: Check your Knowledge Assignment	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#) .

## Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a **Course Administration and Technology Fee** [↗](#) , but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

All materials for this course are provided online.

# Challenge for credit

## Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the POLI 301 challenge registration, you must complete all required components, and achieve an overall grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#).

Activity	Weight
Written Assignment 1	10%
Written Assignment 2	10%
Written Assignment 3	10%
Exam	70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

[↗](#) **Challenge for credit course registration form**

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)

> [Request assistance](#) 

> [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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*Updated January 27, 2025*

View [previous revision](#) 

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