



Department of Political Science 2018
PS 2212FAO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Wednesday-Friday 10:00-11:30 OA 2015
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Office Hours Wednesday and Friday 9:00-10:00

This course is an examination of Canadian political institutions, including Parliament, Federalism and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is designed as an introductory course in understanding the basic elements of Canadian Government and Politics for students majoring in Political Science.

GRADING:

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT September 21st.....10%
Wellbeing SUMMARY October 5th10%
MID-TERM TEST October 19th20%
ARTICLE SUMMARY October 19th.....10%
LETTER TO EDITOR November 16th5%
SERVICE ORG. OVERVIEW November 16th5%
RESEARCH PAPER November 30th20%
FINAL EXAMINATION (TBD)20%

Required Text: Brooks, S. and M. Menard. (2011) Canadian Democracy: A Concise Introduction. (Toronto: Oxford, 2011) latest edition

https://www.oupcanada.com/higher_education/companion/politics/9780199021659.html

MODULE 1

MODULE 1 (one week) An Introduction to Political Life in Canada		
	Topic	An Introduction to Political Life in Canada
	Reading Schedule	Brooks and Menard : Canadian Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-28 • The Canadian Political Science Association http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/about.php#.VYn4G0ZKW1o
	Learner Outcomes	Upon completion of this Module, Students will have achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A basic understanding of the essential nature of what ideas animate the practice of politics in Canada. • An awareness of the vocabulary of politics and Political Science. • The ability to navigate through and understand the service and profession of Political Science in Canada.
	Assignment	A four page reflection on the question: What do I know about politics in Canada? (double-spaced, 12 point font = 10 marks)

MODULE 2

MODULE 2 (3 weeks) The Societal Context of Politics in Canada	Topic	The Societal Context of Politics in Canada
	Reading Schedule	Brooks and Menard : Canadian Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29-172 Ian Angus “Hermeneutic Continuity or Sovereign Performative? The Difference between Canadian and American Political Cultures Revisited” http://www.academia.edu/1361180/Canadian_and_U.S._Political_Cultures Canadian Index of Wellbeing https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/ Democracy Watch http://democracywatch.ca/20140609-liberals-and-ndp-get-e-in-ontario-report-card/
	Learner Outcomes	Upon completion of this Module, Students will have achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working understanding of Political Culture in Canada. • An overview of the Canadian economic landscape: social mobility, understanding poverty, regional disparity. • An understanding of the root causes of racism, gender inequality and the measurement of the quality of life. • A critical awareness of democracy in Canada. • An understanding of the vocabulary of Canadian political, social and economic values. • An overview of the impact of geographic and economic regionalism in Canada.
	Assignment	Canadian Index of Wellbeing Provide a 6 page summary analysis of one (1) of the 8 measured domains in the Ontario Report on Wellbeing (double-spaced, 12 point font = 10 marks) https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/sites/ca.canadian-index-wellbeing/files/uploads/files/ontarioreport-accessible_0.pdf

MODULE 3

<p style="text-align: center;">MODULE 3 (3 weeks)</p> <p>The Structures of Governance in Canada</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Topic</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Structures of Governance in Canada</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Schedule</p>	<p>Brooks and Menard : Canadian Democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 173-315 <p>Christian Leuprecht and Peter H. Russell (2011) eds. Essential Readings in Canadian Constitutional Politics. U of T Press.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Robert MacGregor Dawson, "The Constitution" 2. Alan Cairns, "The Living Canadian Constitution" 3. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, "Quebec and the Constitutional Problem" 4. John Borrows, "Recovering Canada: The Resurgence of Indigenous Law" 5. Alan Cairns, "Reflections on the Political Purposes of the Charter" <p>John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights</p> <p>http://www.jhcentre.org/human-rights-education</p> <p>Ontario Human Rights Commission</p> <p>http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Learner Outcomes</p>	<p>Upon completion of this Module, Students will have achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the functions and activities Canadian political structures and institutions. • An understanding of the process by which policy becomes legislation in Canada. • A critical awareness of the Canadian Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. • An understanding of the scope and function of federalism in Canada.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the social and political contexts for the discussion, debate and implementation of human rights in Canada. • An awareness of national and inter-provincial standards of political activity. • An understanding of the relationship between Quebec and the Rest of Canada (ROC) • An understanding of the political positions of indigenous peoples living in Canada.
	Assignments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 hour Mid-Term Examination = 20 marks 2. Write a 6 page Article Summary on one (1) of the articles from Christian Leuprecht and Peter H. Russell (2011) eds. Essential Readings in Canadian Constitutional Politics. U of T Press. (double-spaced, 12 point font = 10 marks)

MODULE 4

MODULE 4 (2 weeks) Participation in Canadian Politics	Topic	Participation in Canadian Politics
	Reading Schedule	Brooks and Menard : Canadian Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 317-420 FAIR Vote Canada http://www.fairvote.ca/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Why Proportional Representation?” • “Questions for Candidates” DESMOG Canada http://www.desmog.ca/ CBC News http://www.cbc.ca/news The Canada Guide http://www.thecanadaguide.com/political-parties
	Learner Outcomes	Upon completion of this Module, Students will have achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A basic understanding of the Canadian party systems. • A basic understanding of the Canadian electoral systems. • A critical awareness of the value of political participation. • An understanding of the operations and activities of interest groups in Canada. • An understanding and critical awareness of the power of the traditional and social media in Canada.
	Assignment	1. A Letter to the Editor of a local paper on a topic of choice (1 page = 5 marks) 2. A 5 page overview of the operation, funding, vision and activities of a local interest group (double-spaced, 12 point font = 5 marks)

MODULE 5

MODULE 5 (2 weeks) Canadian Political Issues	Topic	Canadian Political Issues
	Reading Schedule	<p>Brooks and Menard : Canadian Democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 421-462 <p>Douglas Brown “Language Politics in Canada” PowerPoint presentation. http://www.slideserve.com/teague/language-politics-in-canada</p> <p>Assembly of First Nations http://www.afn.ca/</p> <p>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</p> <p>http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Reconciliation” <p>http://www.trc.ca/websites/reconciliation/index.php?p=312</p> <p>Community Food Centres Canada http://cfccanada.ca/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scharf, Levcoe and Saul“ In Every Community a Place for Food” http://thepod.cfccanada.ca/document/scharf-levkoe-and-saul-2010-every-community-place-food
	Learner Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of this Module, Students will have achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more complete understanding of the politics of language and culture in Canada. • An understanding of the complexity of Canadian multicultural policy. • An awareness of the actions and politics and culture of indigenous peoples living in Canada. • A basic understanding of Food Security and Food Sovereignty in Canada. • An overview of globalization and Canada’s position in world politics.
	Assignment	<p>Provide a 7 page Research Paper on one (1) of the issues covered in this Module (5 references required - double-spaced, 12 point font = 20 marks)</p>

MODULE 6

MODULE 6 (1 week) Final Thoughts: Next Steps		
	Topic	Final Thoughts: Next Steps
	Reading Schedule	Review of all course material for final examination. Review of all assignments. General discussion about further study in Political Science and being an active citizen.
	Learner Outcomes	Upon completion of this Module, Students will have achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general understanding of the outcomes of active citizenship. • An understanding of the requirements for the completion of a university Political Science degree.
	Assignment	Final scheduled 2 hour examination = 20 marks

Plagiarism in this course is not tolerated. Late papers will be graded down 1 mark for each day late. Reasonable extensions will be granted.