

POLI 2212
Canadian Government
Fall 2016
Wednesday & Friday: 10:00-11:30 AM
AT 1003
COURSE OUTLINE

Professor: Dr. Zahir Kolia
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Course Description:

How does Canada attempt to coexist amongst multiple social and political identities, and reconcile competing interests and different ideas about how Canadians ought to be governed? This course introduces students to fundamental issues in Canadian politics by focusing on how competing social and institutional forces, identities, and behaviour have shaped the Canadian political landscape. In doing so, this course will explore some pressing issues related to Canadian politics such as: political culture, interest groups, Indigenous governance, and multiculturalism. We will ask how political forces and norms shape our perception of these issues and how coexistence, justice, and equality can potentially structure Canadian political life.

Students are encouraged to critically think about Canadian politics, governance, and identities in terms of shifting relations of power.

Format:

Weekly lectures will focus on identified topics. Lectures complement assigned readings and are not summaries. Students must do the assigned reading prior to the lecture. Students are responsible for lecture material, required readings, films and other material covered in class.

Course Materials:

REQUIRED BOOKS (available from the book store)

Eric Mintz, Livianna Tossutti, Christopher Dunn, *Canada's Politics: Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government, 3rd Edition* (Toronto: Pearson Press, 2017)

James Cairns, Alan Sears, *The Democratic Imagination: Envisioning Popular Power in the Twenty-First Century* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012)

Course Requirements:

1. Participation (15%) [attendance, contribution in lecture, and quizzes via *socrative*]
2. Fall Term Paper (15%)

Response to Documentary Film: "Trick or Treaty?" NFB

3. Mid-Term Exam (20%)

4. Final Term Paper (25%) 10-12 page essay (approx. 2,500-3,000 words),
5. Final Exam (25%)

E-mail:

E-mail will be answered within two business days. Do not submit any class assignments by e-mail, unless instructed to do so. Please use e-mail only for quick queries and to set up appointments out of regularly scheduled office hours.

I welcome e-mail queries and comments. All students are required to have a valid Lakehead e-mail address. It is your responsibility to maintain your e-mail address in good working order. The University expects you to correspond with me through your official e-mail address, and not through a commercial e-mail account.

Failure to receive important class announcements and messages from me because of a faulty e-mail account (for example, an account which screens out my e-mails as junk mail; bounced messages because of overloaded caches) are not legitimate excuses.

Forwarding your Lakehead email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of e-mail account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from your Lakehead addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that e-mails from me may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me, and/or Accessibility Services. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Essays:

You are to complete two essays, one in first term, and one in second term. The goal of each essay is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to the research question backed by rational consideration of the evidence. Essay topics will be distributed separately in the first and second term.

Summarize your response (argument) in a sentence or two – the thesis statement – and appear in the first paragraph of your essay. Be explicit. The reader should be clear on what you are arguing. Assume an educated reader. Do not spend more than a few paragraphs providing background information. Focus on providing information that advances your argument. While the balance of the paper will defend your argument, you should also acknowledge counterarguments and seek to demonstrate that your argument is superior.

Formatting bibliographies, references:

The written assignments will all be in 12 pt Times New Roman font with standard margins. Essays should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and complete bibliography.

Include a title page with your name, the date, the course number, and my name.

In completing the written assignments, students must cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge and must cite all ideas that are borrowed from other authors. Students must use a recognized standard format correctly in their bibliographies, references, and footnotes. *Failure to do so will result in substantial penalty in calculating your assignment grade.*

The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences. Also, it is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses.

Cornell University provides useful *online* guides to the APA and MLA citation styles.

Also, consider consulting reference books on research and writing.

Two examples:

1. Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese, *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing: Social Sciences*, 4th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2009)

2. Diane E. Schmidt, *Writing in Political Science: A Practical Guide*, 4th ed. (Boston: Longman, 2010)

***** Late Penalties**

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date.

No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

Tentative Schedule:

Subject to change

Week 1

Introduction; Democracy and Government:

Wednesday, September 7

No readings assigned

Friday, September 9

Canada's Politics: Introduction, pp. 1-22

Week 2:

Canada in Historical Context:

Wednesday, September 14

Canada's Politics: "The Context of Canadian Politics", pp. 23-52

Friday, September 16

*Daiva Stasiulis and Radha Jhappan, "The Fractious Politics of a Settler Society: Canada", in Nira Yuval-Davis and Daiva Stasiulis, (eds.), *Unsettling Settler Societies: Articulations of Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Class*, (London: Sage, 1995): 95-131

Week 3

Indigenous Peoples and Canada:

Wednesday, September 21

Canada's Politics: "Aboriginal Rights and Government", pp. 299-321

*John Burrows, Ch. 5, "Questioning Canada's Title to Land: The Rule of Law, Aboriginal Peoples, and Colonialism" in *Recovering Canada: The Resurgence of Indigenous Law* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002)

Friday, September 23

Video: Trick or Treaty

Week 4

Economics and the Challenge of Inequality:

Wednesday, September 28

Canada's Politics: "The Canadian Economy and the Challenges of Inequality", pp. 92-120

Friday, September 30

Democratic Imagination: "Democracy as an Open Ended Question", pp. 1-25

Week 5

Political Culture:

Wednesday, October 5

Democratic Imagination: "Political, Social and Economic Democracy", pp. 25-49

Friday, October 7

Canada's Politics: "Political Culture", pp. 121-144

*Eva Mackey, *The House of Difference*, Chapter 2, pp. 23-40; Chapter 5, pp. 91-107

Assignment 1 Due (Reflection Essay on "Trick or Treaty")

Week 6

Reading Week

Week 7

Citizenship and Inequality, Mid-Term Exam Prep

Wednesday, October 19

Return Assignment 1

Democratic Imagination: "Citizenship and Inequality", pp. 49-73

Friday, October 21

Exam Review

Week 8

Midterm Exam, Political Participation and Civic Engagement:

Wednesday, October 26

Mid-Term Exam

Friday, October 28

Canada's Politics: "Political Participation and Civic Engagement", pp. 145-174

Week 9

Elections and Representation:

Wednesday, November 2:

Canada's Politics: "Political Parties", pp. 204-238

Friday, November 4:

Canada's Politics: "Elections, the Electoral Process and Voting Behaviour", pp. 239-267

Democratic Imagination: "There and Not There: Representation and Participation", pp. 73-95

Week 10

Institutional Structures:

Wednesday, November 9:

Canada's Politics: "Political Influence", pp. 175-203

Friday, November 11:

Canada's Politics: "The Executive", pp. 352-382

Week 11

Parliament and the Public Bureaucracy:

Wednesday, November 16:

Canada's Politics: "Parliament", pp. 383-418

Friday, November 18:

Canada's Politics: "The Public Bureaucracy", pp. 419-449

Democratic Imagination: "Red Tape, Democracy and the State", 95-115

Week 12

Foreign Policy:

Wednesday, November 23:

Canada's Politics: "Foreign Policy", pp. 513-541

Friday, November 25:

* Sherene Razack, "Casting Out", Selections

Week 13

Canada and the Future:

Wednesday, November 30:

Democratic Imagination: "The Struggle Continues", 157-173

Friday, December 2:

Final Questions

Final Paper Due

(Final Exam held during exam period)