

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Political Science 4217 FA**

**Constitutional Politics in Canada**

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**RECOMMENDED ESSAY TOPICS**

**Due: November 27, 2011**

**Length: 4,000 words**

**Cite material systematically.**

**KEEP A COPY OF YOUR ESSAY.**

1. Is it useful to delineate a constitutional path to the separation of Quebec from Canada? Does the court opinion on Quebec secession and the Clarity Act provide a path?
2. Are the limitations on the prime minister's power sufficient or do we have an executive dictatorship? Should the rules for dissolution of parliament be codified, that is brought together in one document?
3. Should the government of Canada induce the province of Quebec to sign the constitution?
4. Examine Harper's plan to change the senate by only appointing elected senators. (Alberta has held senate elections) Does changing the senate require a constitutional amendment? Will senate reform improve the functioning of Canadian democracy Politics?
5. How should Supreme Court judges be appointed? (Harper will soon appoint two 2 judges presumably one from Ontario. Should the court represent Canada demographically? E.g., aboriginal judge
6. What do Canadians mean by the "democratic deficit? How have Canadians tackled this issue?
7. Is there a dialogue between courts, legislatures and citizens about rights as argued by Hogg, Does this dialogue provide for democratic accountability?
8. Have aboriginal people expanded their role in constitutional politics? Have court decisions expanded the rights of aboriginal people? Has this resulted in improved circumstances for aboriginal people? Or would different approaches be more effective
9. Examine the use of referendums in provincial politics? Some provinces require constitutional amendments be passed in a referendum.
10. Consider the rule that courts played in the adoption of same sex marriage.

