

POLI 2110
Canadian Government and Politics
Winter 2022

Monday & Wednesday: 2:30-4:00 PM
Ryan Building 2026

Professor: Dr. Toby Rollo
Office: RB 2033

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Office Hours: On Request

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, regionalism, Indigenous sovereignty, and democracy. 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 think critically 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 BOOK (online, available from the book store)

Canadian Politics Today: Democracy, Diversity and Good Government, 1st edition
Livianna Tossutti, Eric Mintz, Kathy L Brock, Doreen Barrie (Pearson, 2021)

Course Requirements

1. Participation and Attendance (15%): Students who attend and participate have an opportunity to earn up to 15% for their time and effort.

2. Mid-Term Paper (15%): A short paper due on **Monday, October 3**. Must be roughly 3+ pages in length, not including title page, bibliography, etc. Write on a topic in Canadian politics that you yourself are interested in or are perhaps even passionate about. Clear your topic with me.

3. Mid-Term Quiz (20%): Quiz will be conducted in class on **Wednesday, October 19th**. You will have the duration of the class to complete it. It will test you on the materials covered in the course up to the time of the exam. It will be a closed book exam consisting of a mixed bag of multiple choice and short answer questions.

4. Final Paper (25%): A research paper due on **Wednesday, November 23**. Must be roughly 8+ pages in length, not including title page, bibliography, etc. Clear your topic with me. Do not write on the same topic you wrote on for the Mid-Term Paper.

5. Final Quiz (25%): Quiz will be conducted in class on **Monday, December 5**. You will have the duration of the class to complete it. It will test students on the topics covered in the second half of the course (after the midterm). It will consist of two parts: Section one will consist of short answer questions which require students to define specific terms and discuss their relevance for politics. Section two will consist of essay type questions that require students to provide longer and detailed essay type answers.

E-mail

E-mail will be answered within three business days.

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.

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 section, and one in the second. The goal of each essay is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to a research question, backed by reasoned consideration of the evidence.

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 double-spaced in 12pt Times New Roman font with standard margins. Essays should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and complete bibliography. Use whatever citation style you choose, just use an established system and use it consistently throughout the paper.

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.

Late Penalties

Assignments are officially due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will technically be subject to a penalty of 2% a day including weekends. That said, if you need extra time to write your best paper, please ask for an extension.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introductions

Wednesday, September 7

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch.1: "Introduction"

Week 2: The Concept of Political Power

Monday, September 12

1. Robert Dahl, "The Concept of Power"

Wednesday, September 14

1. Janine Brodie, "Power and Politics" in *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 4th Edition*, (Pearson, 2009): pp. 3-8

Week 3: Indigenous Nationhood

Monday, September 19

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 11: "Indigenous Rights and Government"
2. Video: [Trick or Treaty?](#)

Wednesday, September 21

1. John Borrows, "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)

Week 4: Empire and State Building

Monday, September 26

1. Barker, Rollo, and Lowman, "Settler Colonialism and the Consolidation of Canada in the 20th Century," *Handbook of the History of Settler Colonialism*

Wednesday, September 28

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 2: "Canada's Political Development and Challenges"

Week 5: Confederation and the Constitution

Monday, October 3

1. Ninette Kelley and Michael Trebilcock, *Selected Sections of The Making of the Mosaic: A History of Canadian Immigration Policy* (University of Toronto Press)
 - a. First section: read from “The Trans-Canada Railway” until end of chapter: 93-110
 - b. Second section: read from “Second Wave” until end of chapter: 287-310

*****Mid-Term Paper*****

Wednesday, October 5

1. Robert Vipond “1787 and 1867: The Federal Principle and Canadian Confederation Reconsidered” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 22:1 (March 1989): 3-25
2. Carol Goar, “[Canada Starved Aboriginal People into Submission](#)”, The Star (June 10, 2014)
3. Parliamentary Debates, May 1885: pp. 1587-1590

Week 6: Canadian Political Culture and Ideologies

Monday, October 17

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 10: “The Constitution, Constitutional Change, and the Protection of Rights and Freedoms”
2. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 3: “Canada and the Governance of Cultural Diversity and International Migration”

Wednesday, October 19

***** Mid-Term Quiz*****

Week 7: Reading Week – NO CLASSES: OCTOBER 10 AND 12

Week 8: Social and Economic Setting of Canada

Monday, October 24

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 5: “Political Culture”

Wednesday, October 26

1. Janine Brodie, “Neoliberalism” in *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics 5th Edition*, (Pearson, 2014): pp. 61-74
2. Stephen Metcalf, “[Neoliberalism: The Idea That Changed the World](#)” The Guardian (August 17, 2017)

Week 9: Political Economy and the Environment

Monday, October 31

1. McBride and Shields, Ch.1, “The Canadian State and the Neoliberal Revolution” in *Dismantling a Nation: The Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada* (Halifax: Fernwood, 1997): 17-34

Wednesday, November 2

2. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 4: “The Canadian Economy, Inequality, and the Environment”
3. Leanne Simpson. 2002. “Indigenous Environmental Education for Cultural Survival” *Canadian Journal of Environmental Education* 7(1).

Week 10: Political Participation and Influence

Monday, November 7

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 6: “Political Participation and Civic Engagement”

Wednesday, November 9

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 7: “Political Influence: Interest Groups, Lobbyists, and Social Movements”

Week 11: Political Parties and Elections

Monday, November 14

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 8: “Political Parties”

Wednesday, November 16

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 9: “Elections, the Electoral System, and Voting Behaviour”

Week 12: Canadian Government

Monday, November 21

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 13: “The Executive”

Wednesday, November 23

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 14: “Parliament”

*****Final Paper*****

Week 13: Canadian Judiciary & Public Administration

Monday, November 28

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 15: "Public Administration and Public Policy"

Wednesday, November 30

1. *Canada's Politics Today* Ch. 16: "The Judicial System: Law and the Courts"
2. Maryka Omatsu, "The Fiction of Judicial Impartiality" *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* 9:1 (1997): 1-16

Week 14: The End

Monday, December 5

*****Final Quiz*****