

POLI 2110-FA
Canadian Government
Fall 2017
Tuesday & Thursday: 11:30-1:00 PM
Room: RB-1042
COURSE OUTLINE

Professor: Dr. Zahir Kolia
Office: Ryan Building 2033
E-mail: zkolia@lakeheadu.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm

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 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)

Course Requirements:

1. **Participation and Attendance (15%)**: Determined by use of in-class participation and attendance via an online learning tool: **Socrative**. This application is free to download and will be used each class: you may use it either on your phone or laptop device. If you do not use electronic devices, you may write them down when required.

Socrative: <<https://www.socrative.com/>>
[Go to “apps” section and download the **Student App**]

2. **Fall Term Paper** (15%): Short paper analysis due in class **Thursday October 5th, 2017**. Must be roughly 4-5 pages in length, not including title page, bibliography, etc. (approx. 1,000-1,250 words). I will provide detailed instructions for this assignment on a separate document. To be uploaded to D2L.
3. **Mid-Term Exam** (20%): Exam will be conducted **in class on Tuesday October 24th, 2017**. 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%): 10-12 page essay (approx. 2,500-3,000 words): To be uploaded to D2L during final exam period: specific date to be announced.
5. **Final Exam** (25%): Exam will be conducted **in class on Thursday, November 30th, 2017**. 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 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 section, and one in the second. The goal of each essay is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to the research question backed by rational 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.

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.

I would suggest you use MLA citation style (below is a link for quick guidelines):

http://library.csun.edu/egarcia/documents/mlacitation_quickguide.pdf

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 and Concept of Power

Tuesday, September 5

No readings assigned

Thursday, September 7

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

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

*On D2L

Week 2:

Historical Context:

Tuesday, September 12

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

Recommended:

Robert Vipond "1787 and 1867: The Federal Principle and Canadian Confederation Reconsidered" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 22:1 (March 1989): 3-25

*On D2L

Thursday, September 14

Same as above

Week 3

Confederation and Power:

Tuesday, September 19

Ninette Kelley and Michael Trebilcock, Selected Sections of *The Making of the Mosaic: A History of Canadian Immigration Policy* (University of Toronto Press)

First section: read from "The Trans-Canada Railway" until end of chapter: 93-110

Second section: read from "Second Wave" until end of chapter: 287-310

*On D2L

And

Parliamentary Debates, May 1885: pp. 1587-1590

*On D2L

Thursday, September 21

Video: *Trick or Treaty?*

Week 4

Indigenous Sovereignty:

Tuesday, September 26

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)

*On D2L

Thursday, September 28

Same as above.

Recommended:

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

Carol Goar, "Canada Starved Aboriginal People into Submission", *The Star* (June 10, 2014)

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2014/06/10/canada_starved_aboriginal_people_into_submission_goar.html>

Week 5

Political Culture:

Tuesday, October 3

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

Thursday, October 5

Exam Review

***Assignment 1 Due**

Week 6

Reading Week

Week 7

Social and Economic Setting of Canada

Tuesday, October 17

Janine Brodie, “Neoliberalism” in *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics* 5th Edition, (Pearson, 2014): pp. 61-74

*On D2L

Stephen Metcalf, “Neoliberalism: The Idea That Changed the World” *The Guardian* (August 17, 2017)

<<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/aug/18/neoliberalism-the-idea-that-changed-the-world>>

Thursday, October 19

Canada’s Politics: “The Canadian Economy and the Challenges of Inequality”, pp. 91-120

Recommended:

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

Week 8

Mid-Term Exam & Political Parties 1:

Tuesday, October 24

Mid-Term Exam

Thursday, October 26

Canada’s Politics: “Political Parties”, pp. 204-224

Week 9

Parties 2 & Elections:

Tuesday, October 31:

Canada’s Politics: “Political Parties”, pp. 224-238

Thursday, November 2:

Canada’s Politics: “Elections, the Electoral Process and Voting Behaviour”, pp. 239-267

[November 3rd = Last day to drop course]

Week 10

Institutional Structures:

Tuesday, November 7:

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

Thursday, November 9:

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

Week 11

Judiciary and The Courts

Tuesday, November 14:

Canada's Politics: "The Judicial System: Law and the Courts", 451-475

Maryka Omatsu, "The Fiction of Judicial Impartiality" *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law* 9:1 (1997): 1-16

*On D2L

Thursday, November 16:

Exam review

Week 12

Review & Political Influence:

Tuesday, November 21:

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

Thursday, November 23:

TBA

Week 13

Final Exam:

Tuesday, November 28:

Final Thoughts

Thursday, November 30:

Final Exam

(Final Paper Due in Exam Period)

