



POLS 211
Canadian Government
Fall 2017

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Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 12:30-2:00

Course schedule: Mon. (3:30-4:30); Wed. (2:30-3:30); Thu. (4:30-5:30)*
Location: Etherington Auditorium

* Thursday classes are reserved for make-up lectures in case of a cancellation. Please be sure to check onQ for changes to the lecture schedule. Week 2 and week 5 are such exceptions.

Course Description

This course examines the basic structure and operation of Canada's political system. Class lectures will focus on the principles underlying Canada's political system and a detailed explication of its rules and institutions. Current events and controversies will frequently be employed as examples and used as a basis for class and tutorial discussions. This focus is meant to complement the societal and cultural focus of POLS 212 (Canadian Politics). Student performance in this course is evaluated primarily on the basis of original written work and exams.

Format of the Course

This course will consist of lectures (2 per week) and tutorial discussions (1 per week). While lectures will normally fall on Mondays and Wednesdays, please reserve the Thursday lecture space (4:30-5:30) in case rescheduling for holidays or class cancellations is required. Tutorial discussions are meant to provide you with the opportunity to review course materials in a smaller group and also to engage with other perspectives and examples relevant to class discussions. Some tutorial sessions may have a small amount of required reading.

Course Materials

- Cochrane, C., Blidook, K., & Dyck, R. (2016). *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* (8th ed.). Toronto: Nelson Education.
- Russell, P., Rocher, F., Thompson, D., and Bittner, A. (2016). *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics*. Toronto: Edmond Montgomery.

The textbooks for this course can be found in the campus bookstore. Any other readings will be accessible through the onQ page for this course.

Evaluation Components

The evaluation components for this course are designed to provide students with some control over their learning, while capitalizing on the different learning styles and skill-sets students bring to class. If you have suggestions on how this course could be made more accessible, please contact the instructor directly or submit anonymous suggestions using the survey available in onQ. If you require a specific accommodation you can contact the Disability Services Office <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/>.

Assessment Activity	Weight	Due Date
Survey	5%	Week 4
Tutorial Participation	10%	On-going
Tutorial Debate	10%	As assigned
Topic Review Paper	10%	Week 7
Literature Review	30%	Week 12
Final Exam	35%	TBD

Tutorial Participation

Your participation grade will be significantly influenced by your active involvement in class, and the quality of that involvement. Lack of participation, or ‘negative participation’, will also significantly influence your participation grade. Activities or behaviours that will be considered ‘negative’ include the following: missing tutorial; talking to classmates about things that are not a contribution to the tutorial discussion; general nonparticipation in or disruption of tutorial activities; coming to tutorial late or leaving early; and, distracted use of electronic devices. Tutorials start on week 3.

Tutorial Debate

Students will be divided into groups of 4 or 5 (2 to 3 students per side) for an in-tutorial debate on the assigned readings for that week. Groups will pick which week they would like to cover (i.e., there are 10 weeks of tutorial topics and only five debates, so there will be some choice available. The final week of tutorial will be an in-tutorial review session).

Tutorial Schedule

General class discussions:

Week 3 – Can Canadians become a sovereign people?

Weeks available for assigned debates:

Week 4 – Is federalism working well in Canada??

Week 5 – [*Thanksgiving*]

Week 6 – Does the Prime Minister have too much power?

Week 7 – Is the policymaking process democratic?

Week 8 – Should the Senate be abolished or reformed?

Week 9 – Should the Supreme Court have a role to play in politics?

Week 10 – Are constitutional debates over in Canada?

Week 11 – Has the Charter pushed “judicialization” too far?

Week 12 – Is Quebec asking for too much? / Exam Review

Survey

A short survey will be available on the onQ page in the second week of class. Students will be asked to fill and submit their responses online. Responses will be anonymous, but participation will be graded.

Mid-Term Topic Review Paper (4 double-spaced pages)

Students may choose **one** of the topics from tutorial and write a review of one of the articles. Each paper should:

- (i) provide a summary and assessment of the author's main argument;
- (ii) compare/contrast how the author presents their argument with other articles from that week; or explore the relationship between institutions, actors, and outcomes within the article;
- (iii) provide a discussion of how the article relates to the content of the course.
- (iv) Justify why you are persuaded/not persuaded by the article.

Literature Review (8-10 double-spaced pages)

The literature review assignment is intended to assist you in developing an important academic skill: the grounding of your work in the existing body of literature on your topic. For this assignment, each student will choose one of the topics from the course and expand their reading to engage with the broader literature on the subject. The aim is to discover some of the dominant arguments and theories about your subject and to provide an analysis of those arguments. The primary learning outcome will be to develop a more nuanced and balanced understanding of the various arguments that authors present on your subject. Your completed paper should take the reader on a tour of the subject area and give them a reasonable understanding of where there is agreement in the field and where there are active and ongoing debates. A review of this length cannot, of course, be comprehensive. You are not expected to cover the full breadth of the literature on the subject. Rather, you are expected to present a representative sample and explore the arguments found within that sample.

Final Exam

The final exam for this course will be cumulative – i.e., it will address the full breadth of the material covered in the course. Students who do the course readings, attend lectures and tutorials and make an effort to digest the course material can expect better results on the final exam. A review session will be held during your final week of tutorials to assist you in preparing for the exam.

Course Schedule

“CP” refers to the text Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches

“ER” refers to the text Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics

“onQ” refers to readings that will be available online through the course webpage

PART I - The Foundations

Week 1 (September 11 & 13) – Introduction

- CP, Chapter 1: The Study of Politics

Week 2 (September 20 & 21) – The Foundation and the Constitution

*** NO CLASS MONDAY; RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 21 ***

- CP, Chapter 2: Institutional Foundations
- ER, 2. Alexander Galt, “Not Derived from the People”
- ER, 3. John MacDonald and George-Étienne Cartier, “The Confederation Debates”
- CP, Chapter 17, part 1: The Canadian Constitution (**only read pages 393-401**)

Week 3 (September 25 & 27) – The Federal System

- CP, Chapter 18: The Federal System
- ER, 44. Richard Simeon and Ian Robinson, “The Dynamics of Canadian Federalism”
- onQ, Donald Smiley “An Outsider’s Observations of Federal-Provincial Relations”

Week 4 (October 2 & 4) – The Electoral System

- CP, Chapter 13: Elections and the Electoral System
- ER, 19. Alan Cairns, “The Electoral System and the Party System in Canada”
- ER, 23. Dennis Pilon, “The Politics of Voting”

PART II - Governing in Canada

Week 5 (October 11 & 12) – Executive power: Crown, Prime Minister and Cabinet

*** THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS MONDAY; RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 12 ***

- CP, Chapter 21: “The Executive”
- ER, 13. Eugene Forsey and Helen Forsey, “Prorogation Revisited”
- ER, 15. Donald Savoie, “The Rise of Court Government in Canada”

Week 6 (October 16 & 18) – The Bureaucracy

- CP, Chapter 22: The Bureaucracy
- onQ, Mitchell Sharp and Jean Chrétien, “The Cabinet and the Public Service”
- onQ, Richard Schultz, “PM Government, Central Agencies, and Operating Departments”

Week 7 (October 23 & 25) – Legislative power: Parliament

Guest speaker: Graeme Campbell, MLIS, Open Government Librarian

- CP, Chapter 23: Parliament
- ER, 14. C.E.S. Franks, “The Parliament of Canada”
- ER, 17. Hugh Segal et al., “Referendum on the Future of the Senate: A Round Table”

Week 8 (October 30 & November 1) – Judicial Power: The Courts

Guest speaker: Sylvie McCallum Rougerie, Justice Canada

- CP, Chapter 24: “The Judiciary”
- ER, 46. Alan Cairns, “The Judicial Committee and Its Critics”
- onQ, Supreme Court of Canada, “Quebec Secession Reference (1998)”

PART III – The Outcomes

Week 9 (November 6 & 8) – Mega-Constitutional Politics

- CP, Chapter 17, part 2: Mega-Constitutional Change (pp. 402-420)
- ER, 36. Jean Chrétien, “Bringing the Constitution Home”
- ER, 39. Peter Russell, “Constitutional Politics”

Week 10 (November 13 & 15) – The Charter of Rights and Freedom

Guest speaker: Prof. Stéphanie Chouinard

- CP, Chapter 19: The Charter of Rights and Freedom
- ER, 47. Peter Russell, “The Political Purposes of the Canadian Charter”
- ER, 49. Beverly McLachlin, “Courts, Legislatures and Executives in the Post-Charter Era”

Week 11 (November 20 & 22) – Intergovernmental Relations Revisited: Quebec

Guest speaker: To be confirmed

- onQ, Quebec Government, “Quebeckers: Our Way of Being Canadian”
- ER, 45. François Rocher, “The Quebec-Canada Dynamic”

Week 12 (November 27 & 29) – Conclusion: Are Canadian Institutions Democratic?

- /no readings

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Scheme

Some components of this course will receive letter grades which, for purposes of calculating your course average, will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale:

Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Assignment Submission Guidelines

Online & In-class Submissions:

The Topic Review paper and Literature Review are due in-class on the date indicated. Before class on the due date, students **must also** submit a copy of their assignment online through the onQ Dropbox for that particular assignment. You must name your files as follows: Course Code-Name-Assignment Name (e.g., POLS211-JP Gauvin-Topic Review).

Assignment Formatting

All assignments must be submitted using a standard 12pt font (no novelty fonts!), double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and page numbers. The first page should be a standardized cover page (template available on onQ).

Citation Style

Use any recognized style – but use it consistently!

Late Submission Policy

A late penalty of one grade level per day will be applied to all late submissions, to a maximum of 7 days late (e.g., ‘A’ become ‘A-’, “B+” becomes ‘B’, etc.; including weekends). Submissions made on the 8th day or later will not be accepted and a mark of zero will be entered.

Appeals to waive the above penalties must be made directly to the instructor, and will only be awarded in cases where documentation supports the claim of an unexpected interruption of studies.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity comprises the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (<http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/home.php>). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the “freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas” essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities). Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar: see Academic Regulation 1 (<http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>) and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen’s. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Students are advised that incomplete standing will be granted only with the permission of the chair of undergraduate or graduate studies (as appropriate) and only where there is a clear demonstration of need. Applications for “Incomplete” standing must be made in the first instance to the instructor

on the form available in the General Office. The simple fact of non-submission of work does not constitute an application and will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Students who feel that there are reasons to have their grades reviewed should follow the steps set out in the Faculty of Arts and Science's Regulation 11, "Review of Grades and Examinations" (<http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-11>).

Copyright of Course Materials

This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in this course. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in this course. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Students with Disabilities

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) office (formerly the Disability Services Office) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at:

<http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services>