

POSC 110

Introduction to Canadian Politics

Class Times: POSC 90132 - Tues. 6:15-9:55. POSC 90692 - Thurs. 6:15-9:55

Classroom: Tuesday: A-421; Thursday: A-354

Office: D3085

Office Hours: Tues. 5:30 - 6:15; Thurs. 5:30 - 6:15 (& after classes when necessary).

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Required Text:

Patrick Malcolmson and Richard Myers. *The Canadian Regime*. 3rd Edition, Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2005.

Course Objectives:

POSC 110 is designed to introduce students to the institutions of Canadian government at the national level and examine the social and political environment that shapes them.

The course is roughly divided into four parts. The first part is concerned with developing a critical approach to examining Canadian politics as well as an appreciation for Canadian political culture and its multiple dimensions. The second part of the course is concerned with engaging in a critical appraisal of central institutions (eg. the Crown, the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Parliament, and Judiciary). The third part of the course begins to widen the scope of analysis by examining the politics of representation as this bears upon the performance of central institutions (e.g. elections, political parties, and pressure groups). Finally, the fourth part of this course attempts to draw the strands of analysis together by exploring how the forces of political culture, institutions, and representation, are played out in the domain of constitutional politics and in the ongoing debates about political reform. Our primary concern here will be with the *Charter* and the proposals for constitutional reforms (e.g. Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords) as well as more recent proposals for non-constitutional approaches to institutional change.

This course hopes to play the dual role of providing students with the critical tools necessary for a deeper understanding of their role as Canadian citizens, as well as a general survey of the approaches taken in the study of Canadian politics and government.

COURSE CONTENT:

Part One: Critical Approaches

Week 1: Sept. 04 and 06:

*** Introduction to the Course, Instructor, and Quiz.

Week 2: Sept. 11 and 13:

*** Critical Approaches to the Study of Canadian Politics
(Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 1)

Week 3: Sept. 18 and 20:

*** The Evolution of the Canadian State and 'Responsible' Government
(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 3)

Part Two: Central Institutions

Week 4: Sept. 25 and 27:

First Exam

Week 5: Oct. 2 and 4:

*** Canadian Federalism
(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 4)

Week 6: Oct. 9 and 11:

*** The Formal, Political, and Permanent Executive
(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 6)

Week 7: Oct. 16 and 18

*** The Judiciary
(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapters 5 & 8)

Week 8: Oct. 23 and 25

2nd Exam

Part Three: The Politics of Representation

Week 9: Oct. 30 and Nov. 1:

*** Parliament
(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 7)

Week 10: Nov. 6 and 8:

*** Political Culture and Canadian Society
(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 11)

Week 11: Nov. 13 and 15

*** Elections

(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 9)

Part Four: Constitutional Politics

Week 12: Nov. 20 and 22:

*** Party Politics (Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 10)

*** "Mega-Constitutional Politics I": Patriation, The Charter, and the Amending Formula"
(Readings: Malcolmson and Meyers, Chapter 2)

Week 13: Nov. 27 and 29:

Course Review and Exam Prep.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

1st Exam	20%
2 nd Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Participation	20%

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 76 - 79%	C+ = 64 - 67%	D = 50 - 54
A = 85 - 89	B = 72 - 75	C = 60 - 63	NC = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 68 - 71	C- = 55 - 59	

PARTICIPATION AND EXAMINATIONS:

Participation:

PARTICIPATION IN CLASS IS CRUCIAL!! Class attendance is extremely important for all students. POSC 110 covers a broad area of Canadian political studies and so each class is essential for students to receive information pertaining to each week's topics. Further, students will have ample opportunity in class to ask questions and receive clarification regarding course content. Perhaps most important of all, class discussions will be strongly encouraged in order to facilitate learning and the interchange of ideas. **The participation grade will be calculated by *attendance AND participation*.** **Simple attendance will not ensure a satisfactory participation grade.**

Exams:

The examinations for this course will be closed-book and made up of a series of mostly multiple-choice and (possibly) some short answer questions. Exams #1 and #2 will contain approximately 50 questions and the final exam will be comprised of approximately 100 questions. The questions for ***all*** exams will be taken from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. Questions will include definitions, concepts, abstract reasoning, and critical analysis. The examinations are designed to test each student's ability to recall various specific topics as well as relate more general conceptual material. **Exams #1 & #2 will be written in class, (Exam #1 - Sept. 25th and 27th; Exam #2 - Oct. 23rd and 25th), and will be scheduled for the normal duration of a class (i.e. about 3 hours). The final exam will take place during the final exam schedule (TBA).**

INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THIS OUTLINE OR ANY OF ITS CONTENTS WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BETTER FACILITATE STUDENTS NEEDS.