

POSC 110

Introduction to Canadian Politics

Class Times: Tues. 6:15-9:55 / Fri. 8:30-12:10

Classroom: A-362

Office: D3085

Office Hours: Tues. 5:30-6:15 p.m. / Fri. 12:10-1 p.m.

Email: david.macdonald@ucfv.ca

Required Course Text: Patrick Malcolmson and Richard Meyers. *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 environments that shape 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 (e.g. the Crown, the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Parliament, Judiciary, etc.). 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 interest groups). Finally, the fourth part of the 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 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 roles 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: January 8th and 11th:

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

Week 2: January 15th and 18th:

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

Week 3: January 22nd and 25th:

*** The Evolution of the Canadian State and “Responsible Government”
(Readings: Chapter 3)

Week 4: January 29th and February 1st: **EXAM #1**

Part 2: Central Institutions

Week 5: February 5th and 8th

*** Canadian Federalism
(Readings: Chapter 4)

Week 6: February 12th and 15th

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

Week 7: February 19th and 22nd

*** The Judiciary
(Readings: Chapters 5 and 8)

Week 8: February 26th and 29th **EXAM #2**

Part Three: The Politics of Representation

Week 9: March 4th and 7th (Readings: Chapter 7)

*** Parliament

Week 10: March 11th and 14th
 *** Political Culture and Canadian Society
 (*Readings: Chapter 11*)

Week 11: March 18th and 21st

*** Elections
 (*Readings: Chapter 9*)

Week 12: March 25th and 28th

*** Party Politics
 *** Mega-Constitutional Politics
 (*Readings: Chapters 10 and 2*)

Week 13: April 1st and 4th
 *** **Writing Assignment Due in class.**
 *** **Review and Prep for Final exam.**

EVALUATION PROFILE:

1 st Exam	25%
2 nd Exam	25%
Term Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

GRADING PROFILE:

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

EXAMINATIONS:

The examinations for this course will be closed-book and comprised of a series of multiple-choice and (possibly) some short-answer questions. Exams 1 and 2 will contain

approximately 50 questions each. The Final Exam will contain approximately 100 questions. The questions for ***all*** examinations will be taken from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions.

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