

POSC 110 (Winter, 2011)

Introduction to Canadian Politics

Classes: **AB-1:** Wed. 7 – 9:50 p.m. in room A-210 / **AB-2:** Thurs. 1 – 4:50 p.m. in room A-421

Office: D-3085

Office Hours: Immediately following each class.

Email: david.macdonald@ufv.ca

Required Text:

Stephen Brooks. Canadian Democracy (6th ed.) Oxford University Press, 2009.

Course Objectives:

POSC 110 is designed to introduce students to the institutions of Canadian government at the provincial and national levels and to consider the social, political, and economic environments which shape them.

An Introduction to Political Life

Week 1:

Introduction to the course and Chapter One: “*An Introduction to Political Life*” (pp. 2-30).

Week 2:

Chapter Two: “*Political Culture*” (pp. 32-72).

Week 3:

Chapter Three: “*The Social and Economic Setting*” (pp. 74-99).

Week 4:

Chapter Four: “*Regionalism and Canadian Politics*” (pp. 101-122).

Week 5:

Examination #1

Government Institutions

Week 6:

Reading Week

Week 7:

Chapter Five: “*The Constitution*” (pp. 126-160).

Chapter Six: “*Rights and Freedoms*” (pp. 161-191).

Week 8:

Chapter Seven: “*Federalism*” (pp. 194-228).

Week 9:

Chapter Eight: “*The Machinery of Government*” (pp. 230-277).

Week 10:

Examination #2

Participation and Contemporary Issues

Week 11:

Chapter Nine: “*Parties and Elections*” (pp. 280-322).

Week 12: TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS!!

Chapter Thirteen: “*Diversity and Politics*” (pp. 412-448).

Week 13:

Chapter Fourteen: “*Aboriginal Politics*” (pp. 451-478).

Evaluation Profile:

1st Exam	30%	
2 nd Exam	30%	
Term Paper (Optional)	30%	(Students may choose to either write the final exam OR a term paper)
Final Exam (Optional)	30%	
Participation	10%	

Grading Profile:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 76 - 79%	C+ = 64 - 67%	P - Pass
A = 85 - 89	B = 72 - 75	C = 60 - 63	N.C. – No Credit
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 68 - 71	C- = 55 - 59	

EXAMINATIONS and TERM PAPERS:

Exams:

The examinations for this course will be closed-book and made up of a series of multiple-choice questions. All exams will contain approximately 50 questions. Exam questions will be taken from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. They 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.

Term Paper:

The topics for the term paper can be taken from any of the chapters in the course text. The essay should be 6-8 pages in length. Students are encouraged to find research sources in the campus libraries. However, research may also come from the "CBC News Clips" and "Hot Links" found at the end of each chapter.

Term papers are to be submitted electronically via email on or before their due dates. Late penalties will be calculated at 5% / day.

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