POLB50Y3 Canadian Government and Politics
Thursday, 3-5pm, Rm: HW-216

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1 Course Description

This course examines the institutional foundation of Canadian government and the tensions generated by the changing societal context in which these institutions are situated. At the end of this course, students should be able to examine and assess the intentions and consequences of institutional design and reform in Canadian government. The main goal of the course is to provide students with the capacity to assess the merits and potential pitfalls of specific proposals for changing the structure and policies of Canadian government. These skills will be employed in the lead-up and execution of a “Model Parliament” in the winter semester. Course Topics include: the Constitution and federalism; the formal and political executives; the House of Commons and the Senate; the bureaucracy; the Charter of Rights and the courts; societal and economic inequality; immigration and diversity; the place of Quebec; Canada’s participation in international institutions; social movement politics; and the practice of politics and governing.

2 Contact Policy

For most questions about the course (e.g., when is the exam, what did we cover in the last class, what is the format of the exam, etc.), please use the question function on Coursepeer. I will monitor the questions and respond when necessary; for the most part, however, you will receive a correct response, almost immediately, for your fellow students. For private questions about tutorial attendance, or your grade on an essay or an assignment, please contact your TA. If you would like to contact me directly, I am always available during my office hours, via email, and via Coursepeer.

3 Teaching Assistants

Adrienne Davidson and Andrew McDougall are Ph.D candidates in Canadian Politics on the downtown campus, and they already have considerable teaching experience, including experience in this course. They are both outstanding teachers.

- Adrienne Davidson (adrienne.davidson@utoronto.ca).
- Andrew McDougall (andrew.mcdougall@utoronto.ca).

4 Course Codes and Passwords

Twitter:
name: cochrane_utsc
hashtag: #POLB50

Turnitin:
course id: 6845254
password: Canada

Coursepeer:
web address: www.coursepeer.com (create an account, then use link below)
course name: Canadian Government and Politics (POLB50Y)
enrollment link: http://crspr.com/?rid=50692

5 Assessment

5.1 Schedule and Weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #1</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Due October 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #2</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>November 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #3</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Due November 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>December Exam Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assignment #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Due February 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assignment #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due March 21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>April Exam Period</td>
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5.2 Participation

The participation component of your grade is based on the quality of your contributions to tutorial
discussion, as well as to discussions on the class webpage. Contributing to tutorial does not mean
talking all of the time. It means: a) reading the required readings; b) making thoughtful and relevant
comments in tutorial and/or on the class webpage about the readings; c) being courteous to your
fellow students and respectful of opposing points of view; and d) not monopolizing tutorial discussion.
You will notice from the titles of the tutorial topics that the tutorials for each week, as well as the
readings, are on a topic related to the lecture from the previous week. By the time of your tutorial,
you are expected to have read and to have understood the readings and the key concepts so that you
may participate in the class discussion. Please note that the topic and readings for each tutorial are
based on the lecture from the previous week. The expectation is that all students in the class will be
well-prepared to discuss the materials.

5.3 Essay Assignments

Some of the essay assignments in this class will involve doing research in addition to the course readings.

5.3.1 Essay Late Penalties

The essay assignments are due to turnitin.com by midnight on their respective due dates. The late
penalty is 5% of the assignment value for each day, or part thereof, that the work is late (including
weekends). Extensions are granted only in cases of documented medical or other unforeseeable emer-
gencies, and are not granted for reasons relating to workload, extra-curricular activities, computer
malfunctions, internet failures, essays in other courses, travel plans, and so on. Although these and
other things may interfere with your work in this course, these interferences should be anticipated
and the 5% penalty is designed to provide some flexibility, while also ensuring fairness, for all of the
students in the class.

5.3.2 Statement on Academic Integrity

Students who work hard and play by the rules will not come out of this course with a lower grade than
someone who cheats. As the University Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities points out:
Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental values shared by students, staff and faculty at the University of Toronto. The University’s policies and procedures that deal with cases of cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, are designed to protect the integrity of the institution and to maintain a community where competition is fair. As a result, U of T treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. If it has been alleged that you committed an academic offense, you will find that the allegation is dealt with formally and seriously, and that the penalties can be severe if it is determined that you did cheat. All of the policies and procedures surrounding academic offenses are dealt within one policy: The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (the 'Code'). This booklet on Academic Integrity is intended to supplement the Code, but not to take its place as the official document on these matters. Nor does this booklet take the place of legal counsel. The full text of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters can be found in your Faculty Calendar or online at www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html.... Ignorance of the rules does not excuse cheating or plagiarism.

All instances of academic misconduct will be forwarded to the University for further review and discipline. For more information, please visit the website of the Center for Teaching Support and Innovation at the University of Toronto: Academic Integrity at the University of Toronto. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me. For your benefit, however, here is just one example of an academic offence:

- A student includes word-for-word a sentence or a part of a sentence from a source, and although they cite the source as a reference at the end of the sentence and in the bibliography, they do not include the relevant passage within quotation marks. This is an example of plagiarism (see The Code) because it is tantamount to a claim that the words and the writing are your own. Changing a few words in a sentence does not resolve this problem. If the writing is from a source, and not from you, it belongs in quotation marks (i.e., “ ”).

5.3.3 Statement on the Use of Turnitin

To deter and detect academic misconduct, and to protect the integrity of the grades for the vast majority of students who are honest and careful, this course uses, among other things, turnitin.com, a tool which facilitates an analysis of textual similarities between sources. Thus, students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

5.4 Exams

The examinations in this class will be comprised of short answer and essay questions.

5.4.1 Missing the Midterm

Students who do not write the midterm exam will have to provide appropriate documentation, as per University policy. University policy stipulates, for example, that petitions based on medical grounds must be supported by an original medical certificate stating both that the student was examined and diagnosed at the time of illness and was examined on the day of the exam or immediately after (i.e. the next day). A statement from the physician that merely confirms a report of illness and/or disability made by the student will not be acceptable to justify the absence.
If you are experiencing family or personal difficulties that you are not comfortable discussing with me, I can also accept documentation from the Health & Wellness Center.

5.4.2 Missing the Final
For information about missing the final exam, which is not handled at the course level, please see The Office of the Registrar.

6 Texts and Materials

• Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education. You may use earlier editions, though you should check with your colleagues to ensure that you have updated materials, especially regarding the Critical Approaches sections that have been substantially revised from earlier editions [Available in Bookstore].


• The course text is available at the bookstore. All supplemental readings are available online via Coursepeer or the University of Toronto library website.

7 Class Schedule

Class Attendance: In the event that you have to miss a class, please use the discussion board on the class website to catchup. I encourage you to use this board whenever you have a question, and to monitor this board regularly for an opportunity to answer the questions of others.

7.1 September 5: Introduction

7.1.1 Lecture
Canadian Politics at the “End of History”

7.2 Tutorial
No tutorial this week.

7.2.1 Readings
• POLB50Y3 Course Syllabus.

8 The Challenge of Government in Canada

8.1 September 12: The Challenge of Governing Canada

8.1.1 Lecture
“As Canadian as Possible Under the Circumstances”
8.1.2 Tutorial
How persuasive is “modernization theory.” What are its implications for Canadian politics and government?

8.1.3 Readings

8.2 September 19: Canada’s Constitutional Tradition

8.2.1 Lecture
The Canadian Constitution: Principles, Choices, and Consequences

8.2.2 Tutorial
Is Canada a nation? Was it ever a nation? Could it become a nation?

8.2.3 Readings

8.3 September 26: The Parliamentary Tradition

8.3.1 Lecture
The Parliament of Canada: Crown, Legislature, and Cabinet

8.3.2 Tutorial
It is often argued that society shapes political institutions and that political institutions shape society. What insight does the Canadian experience shed on this debate?
8.3.3 Readings

• Lipjhart, Patterns of Democracy, Chapter 2 and 3. (Coursepeer)

8.4 October 3: Parliament and Public Administration

8.4.1 Lecture
Responsible Government and Public Administration

8.4.2 Tutorial
Essay Writing and Research Workshops

8.4.3 Readings

• “How not to Plagiarize” (Coursepeer).
• Orwell, George. 1946. “Politics and the English Language”. (Coursepeer)

8.5 October 10: Parliament and Canadian Society

8.5.1 Lecture
The Embedded Parliament

8.5.2 Tutorial
In what ways have the lines of power and accountability changed in the Canadian bureaucracy? What are the implications for democracy and public administration in Canada?

8.5.3 Readings

• Aucoin, Peter, Lori Beth Turnbull and Mark D. Jarvis. 2011. Democratizing the Constitution. Chapter 2. (Coursepeer)
8.6 October 24: Federalism and the Provinces

8.6.1 Lecture
The Origins and Evolution of Federalism

8.6.2 Tutorial
How does understanding individual behaviour—whether psychologically, sociologically, or both—help us understand Parliament?

8.6.3 Readings

8.7 October 31: Federalism and the Courts

8.7.1 Lecture
Federalism and “The Least Dangerous Branch of Government”

8.7.2 Tutorial
Why is federalism so different today than what the Fathers of Confederation envisioned for the country? How does Canadian federalism compare to federalism in other countries?

8.7.3 Readings

8.8 November 7: Federalism and Canadian Society

8.8.1 Lecture
Regions, Regionalism, and Regional Differences
8.8.2 Tutorial

No Tutorial this week.

8.8.3 Readings


8.9 November 14: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

8.9.1 Lecture

Mega-Constitutional Politics in Canada

8.9.2 Tutorial

Define democracy. In what ways does the Charter enhance democracy? In what ways does it undermine democracy? In what ways is your answer to these questions shaped by your definition of democracy?

8.9.3 Readings


• Alain Cairns 1977. The Governments and Societies of Canadian Federalism. CJPS 10(4) 695-725. (Coursepeer)


8.10 November 21: The Charter and the Courts

8.10.1 Lecture

The Charter and the Courts

8.10.2 Tutorial

Did Pierre Trudeau fundamentally misconceive the nature of Canada?
8.10.3 Readings
- The Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

8.11 November 28: The Charter and Canadian Society

8.11.1 Lecture

8.11.2 Tutorial
When judges interpret the Constitution, should they stick to trying to figure out what the creators of the Constitution originally intended? If not, how should judges decide, and on what basis should they use these decisions to strike down laws passed by Parliament and legislatures?

8.11.3 Readings

8.12 January 9: The State in Canadian Society

8.12.1 Lecture
The State in Canadian Society

8.12.2 Tutorial
No tutorial this week.

8.12.3 Readings
- No Readings this week
8.13 January 16: Capitalism, Modernization, and the Vestiges of History

8.13.1 Lecture
Capitalism, Modernization, and the Vestiges of History

8.13.2 Tutorial
In what ways does the state shape society? In what ways does society shape the state? What are the assumptions behind these questions and to what extent are they problematic?

8.13.3 Readings

8.14 January 23: Canada in the World

8.14.1 Lecture
Canada, the United States, and the World

8.14.2 Tutorial
To what extent are Barber and Fukuyama correct? What are the implications for Canadian politics?

8.14.3 Readings

8.15 January 30: A Changing Political Culture

8.15.1 Lecture
Cultural change in Canadian Politics

8.15.2 Tutorial
What are the benefits and challenges to Canada of American influence and globalization?
8.15.3 Readings


8.16 February 6: The Shifting Foundations of Class

8.16.1 Lecture
Class in a Changing Society

8.16.2 Tutorial
What is culture? Where does culture come from? What are the challenges for politics of Canada’s changing political culture?

8.16.3 Readings


8.17 February 13: Immigration and Diversity

8.17.1 Lecture
Canada as an Immigrant Society

8.17.2 Tutorial
Canada has been characterized as a “class-free society.” Is it? What evidence can you muster to support your position?

8.17.3 Readings


8.18 February 27: Language and Ethnicity

8.18.1 Lecture
Language, Ethnicity and the Preservation of History

8.18.2 Tutorial
Be it Resolved: Quebec is well within its rights to adopt a Charter of Quebec Values that encourages immigrants to conform with the values that a majority of Quebecers support.
8.18.3 Readings


8.19 March 6: Aboriginal Peoples

8.19.1 Lecture
Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian State

8.19.2 Tutorial
Has Quebec’s place in Confederation changed over time? Are Quebec’s interests best pursued within Canada? If Quebec chooses otherwise, should it be allowed to separate from Canada in order to pursue its own interests more effective?

8.19.3 Readings

- Noel, Alain. “Canada: Love it or Don’t Leave it.” (Coursepeer)

8.20 March 13: Gender

8.20.1 Lecture
Gender in a Changing Society

8.20.2 Tutorial
In what ways are Aboriginal claims consistent and inconsistent with liberal political values?
8.20.3 Readings


8.21 March 20: The Environment

8.21.1 Lecture
The Challenges and Consequences of Environmental Preservation in Canada

8.21.2 Tutorial
Why are so few women in politics and does it matter?

8.21.3 Readings


8.22 March 27: Social Movement Politics

8.22.1 Lecture
Mobilization, Dissent, and Change

8.22.2 Tutorial
Should Canada enact measures to protect the environment? What measures? What are the consequences of these measures? How feasible are these measures politically?

8.22.3 Readings

8.23  April 3: Getting Involved

8.23.1 Lecture

Guest Lectures - Life as a Young Parliamentarian

8.23.2 Tutorial

Why do values change? When do social movements succeed and when do they fail?

8.23.3 Readings


