POLB50Y3 Canadian Government and Politics
Thursdays, 4-6pm, Rm: SY-110

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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. The goal of the course is to provide students with the knowledge to assess systematically the merits of specific proposals for changing the structure of Canadian government. The course also focuses intensively on the skills associated with applying that knowledge, such as the workflow, writing, and production of professional research reports. 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 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 available during my office hours and via email. In addition to Blackboard, I will also post information and respond to general queries and political discussions on the class Facebook page (www.facebook.com/polb50y2014).

3 Teaching Assistants
- Adrienne Davidson (adrienne.davidson@utoronto.ca)
- Stefan Ferraro (stefan.ferraro@utoronto.ca)
- Andrew McDougall (andrew.mcdougall@utoronto.ca)
- Meghan Snider (meghan.snider@mail.utoronto.ca)

4 Turnitin Codes and Passwords
Turnitin: Your enrolment code and password depends on your TA. Note that the assignment is due to your TA, and not to a different TA. It is important to know your TA’s name before enrolling in his or her section of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Assistant</th>
<th>Tutorial Code</th>
<th>Turnitin Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adrienne Davidson</td>
<td>003,004</td>
<td>8575698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefan Ferraro</td>
<td>001,002</td>
<td>8575716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew McDougall</td>
<td>005,006</td>
<td>8575748</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meghan Snider</td>
<td>007</td>
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5 Assessment

5.1 Schedule and Weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Writing Assignment #1</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Due October 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>October 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised Writing Assignment #1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Due November 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>December Test</td>
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<td>Draft Writing Assignment #2</td>
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<td>Due February 5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>February 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Writing Assignment #2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Due March 19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>April Exam Period</td>
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5.2 Tutorial Participation

You must attend the tutorial in which you are officially enrolled. Switching between tutorials creates difficulties for course administration and, more importantly, it tends to undermine the quality of all tutorials by leaving too few students in some tutorials and too many students in others. The tutorials are capped at 30 students.

The participation component of your grade is based on the quality of your contributions to tutorial discussion. 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. By the time of your tutorial, you are expected to have read the readings so that you may participate in the class discussion.

5.3 Research Paper Assignments

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

5.3.1 Late Penalties

The research 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 emergencies, 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 claims somebody else’s writing as 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].


7 Class Schedule

Class Attendance: In the event that you have to miss a class, please contact your peers for information about the class that you missed.

7.1 September 4: Introduction

7.1.1 Lecture
Introduction

7.2 Tutorial
No tutorial this week.

7.2.1 Readings
- POLB50Y3 Course Syllabus.

8 The Challenge of Government in Canada

8.1 September 11: The Challenge of Governing Canada

8.1.1 Lecture
“As Canadian as Possible Under the Circumstances”

8.1.2 Tutorial Topics
- Papers: Choosing Topics and Doing Research + How Your Paper is Graded
- Debate! Be it Resolved: Canada is not a real nation.

8.1.3 Readings

- Bissoondath, Neil. 2002. Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada (Blackboard)
8.2 September 18: Canada’s Constitutional Tradition

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

8.2.2 Tutorial Topics
- Papers: Identify and Summarize One Relevant Peer-Reviewed Academic Source for your Paper (max: 200 words)
- Debate! Be it Resolved: Canada should codify its constitutional conventions.

8.2.3 Readings

8.3 September 25: Getting to Parliament

8.3.1 Lecture
Elections and Electoral Systems

8.3.2 Tutorial Topics
- Papers: Identify and Summarize Two Additional Relevant Peer-Reviewed Academic Sources for your Paper (max: 400 words)
- Debate! Be it Resolved: Young people don’t vote because politicians don’t care about young people.

8.3.3 Readings

8.4 October 2: The Theory of Responsible Government

8.4.1 Lecture
Power and Accountability

8.4.2 Tutorial Topics
- Papers: Submit an outline of your paper (max: one page).
- Debate! Be it Resolved: the ethnic and gender composition of the House of Commons does not really matter.
8.4.3 Readings


8.5 October 9: The Practice of Responsible Government

8.5.1 Lecture

The Practice of Responsible Government

8.5.2 Tutorial Topics

- Papers: Submit a full draft of your paper, including bibliography.
- Debate! Be it Resolved: The prime minister is too powerful.

8.5.3 Readings


8.6 October 16: Reading Week

8.7 October 23: In-Class Midterm Exam

8.7.1 Tutorial Topics

Midterm Exam - No Tutorial this Week (‘Draft’ Essay Grades Returned)

8.8 October 30: Federalism and the Provinces

8.8.1 Lecture

The Origins and Evolution of Federalism

8.8.2 Tutorial Topics

- Papers: Arrange to meet with your TA if you have questions about the comments on your draft essay.
- Debate! Be It Resolved: Canada should leave important matters like healthcare and education to the federal government.
8.8.3 Readings


8.9 November 6: Federalism and Canadian Society

8.9.1 Lecture

Regions, Regionalism, and Regional Differences

8.9.2 Tutorial Topics

- Papers: Put the Finishing Touches on your Paper. Arrange to meet with your TA if you have questions about the comments on your draft essay.
- Debate! Be It Resolved: Canada will split up within the next 25 years.

8.9.3 Readings


8.10 November 13: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

8.10.1 Lecture

Mega-Constitutional Politics in Canada

8.10.2 Tutorial

No Tutorial This Week: Essay#1 Due to Turnitin.

8.10.3 Readings


8.11 November 20: The Charter and the Courts

8.11.1 Lecture

The Charter and the Courts
8.11.2 Tutorial
Is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Anti-Democratic?

8.11.3 Readings


8.12 November 27: Exam Review

8.12.1 Lecture
Power and Accountability in Canadian Politics

8.12.2 Tutorial
No Tutorial this Week.

8.12.3 Readings
No Readings this week.

8.13 January 8: Critical Approaches to Canadian Politics

8.13.1 Lecture
Critical Approaches to Canadian Politics

8.13.2 Tutorial
No Tutorial This Week

8.13.3 Readings


8.14 January 15: Public Opinion

8.14.1 Lecture
Morality and Political Disagreement

8.14.2 Tutorial
Discussion: Why do People Disagree about Politics?
8.14.3 Readings


8.15 January 22: Parties and Elections

8.15.1 Lecture

Parties and Elections

8.15.2 Tutorial

- Papers: Identify and Summarize One Relevant Peer-Reviewed Academic Source for your Paper (max: 200 words)

- Discussion: Why do young people vote at lower rates than older people? Why are young people less likely to vote today than they were in the past?

8.15.3 Readings


8.16 January 29: Class and Inequality

8.16.1 Lecture

Class and Inequality

8.16.2 Tutorial

- Papers: Identify and Summarize Two Additional Relevant Peer-Reviewed Academic Sources for your Paper (max: 400 words)

- Debate! Be it Resolved: Even though capitalism produces inequality, poor people are still better off because of capitalism.

8.16.3 Readings


8.17 February 5: Aboriginal Peoples

8.17.1 Lecture
Aboriginal Peoples

8.17.2 Tutorial Topics
• Can Native Sovereignty coexist with Canadian sovereignty?

8.17.3 Readings
• Papers: Submit an outline of your paper (max: one page).

8.18 February 12: Immigration and Diversity

8.18.1 Lecture
Immigration and Diversity

8.18.2 Tutorial Topics
• Papers: Submit a full draft of your paper, including bibliography.
• Debate! Be It Resolved: Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable?

8.18.3 Readings
• Report of the Bouchard-Taylor Commission on Reasonable Accommodation (Blackboard).

8.19 February 19: Reading Week

8.20 February 26: In-Class Midterm Exam

8.20.1 Tutorial
No Tutorial this Week (‘Draft’ Essay Grades Returned)

8.21 March 5: Gender

8.21.1 Lecture
The Politics of Sex and Gender
8.21.2 Tutorial Topics

- Papers: Arrange to meet with your TA if you have questions about the comments on your draft essay.
- Discussion: Why are there more men than women at the highest levels of politics in Canada?

8.21.3 Readings


8.22 March 12: Language

8.22.1 Lecture

The Two Solitudes

8.22.2 Tutorial Topics

- Papers: Put the Finishing Touches on your Paper. Arrange to meet with your TA if you have questions about the comments on your draft essay.
- Debate! Be It Resolved: Quebec should separate from Canada.

8.22.3 Readings

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

8.23 March 19: A Changing Political Culture?

8.23.1 Lecture

Post-industrial politics

8.23.2 Tutorial Topics

- No Tutorial This Week: Assignment#2 Due to Turnitin.

8.23.3 Readings

8.24 March 26: The International System

8.24.1 Lecture
The International System

8.24.2 Tutorial Topics
Discussion: From Canada’s standpoint, what are the main challenges in the international system? How might these challenges be resolved?

8.24.3 Readings

8.25 April 2: Exam Review

8.25.1 Lecture
Exam Review

8.25.2 Tutorial Topics
• No Tutorials this week

8.25.3 Readings
• No Readings