

# 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](http://www.facebook.com/polb50y2014)).

## 3 Teaching Assistants

- Adrienne Davidson ([adrienne.davidson@utoronto.ca](mailto:adrienne.davidson@utoronto.ca))
- Stefan Ferraro ([stefan.ferraro@utoronto.ca](mailto:stefan.ferraro@utoronto.ca))
- Andrew McDougall ([andrew.mcdougall@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.mcdougall@utoronto.ca))
- Meghan Snider ([meghan.snider@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto: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.

Teaching Assistant	Tutorial	Turnitin Info	
		Course ID	Password
<a href="#">Adrienne Davidson</a>	003,004	8575698	Adrienne
<a href="#">Stefan Ferraro</a>	001,002	8575716	Stefan
<a href="#">Andrew McDougall</a>	005,006	8575748	Andrew
<a href="#">Meghan Snider</a>	007	8575730	Meghan

## 5 Assessment

### 5.1 Schedule and Weighting

Participation	10%	
Draft Writing Assignment#1	5%	Due October 9th
Midterm test	10%	October 23rd
Revised Writing Assignment#1	15%	Due November 13th
December Test	15%	December Exam Period
Draft Writing Assignment#2	5%	Due February 5th
Midterm Test	10%	February 26
Revised Writing Assignment#2	15%	Due March 19th
Final Exam	15%	April Exam Period

### 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](http://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].
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education [Available in Bookstore].
- Strunk, William Jr., and E.B. White. 2000. The Elements of Style, 4th Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon [Recommended, but not required].

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 1.
- Bisoodnath, 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**

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 2.
- Mallory, J.R. 1984. The Structure of Canadian Government, rev. ed. Toronto, ON: Gage, Chapter 1. (Blackboard)

## **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**

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 13.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 6 "Is a Mixed-Member Proportional Electoral System in Canada's Interest?"

## **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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 23.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 24 "Should representation in Parliament mirror Canada's Social Diversity?"

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 21.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 5 "Is the Prime Minister too Powerful?"
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 20 "Should Party Discipline be Relaxed?"

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 18.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 20 “Should the Federal Government Play a Leading Role in Health Care?”

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 3.
- Laselva, Samuel. 1996. [The Moral Foundations of Canadian Federalism: Paradoxes, Achievements, and Tragedies of Nationhood](#). Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, Chapter 1. (Online via U of T Library)

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 19.
- Morton, F.L., and Rainer Knopff. 2000. The Charter Revolution and the Court Party. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 13-32. (Blackboard)

## 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**

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 24.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 3 “Is the Charter of Rights and Freedoms Anti-Democratic?”

## **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**

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 1.

## **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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 12.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 24 “Should Religious Beliefs Be Excluded from Consideration of Public Policy?”

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapters 14 and 15.
- Samara Democracy Report, available online: <http://www.samaracanada.com/docs/default-document-library/samaraightweights.pdf>

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 8.
- Graeber, David. 2012. Debt: The First 5000 Years. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House, 1-19 (Blackboard).
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 9 “Can Trade Liberalization Benefit Both the Rich and Poor?”

## **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).
- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 4.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 2 “Can Native Sovereignty Coexist with Canadian Sovereignty?”

## **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**

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 6.
- Report of the Bouchard-Taylor Commission on Reasonable Accommodation (Blackboard).
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 8 “Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable?”

## **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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 7.
- Black, Jerome. 2000. "Entering the Political Elite in Canada: the Case of Minority Women as Parliamentary Candidates and MPs." Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology 37: 143-66.

## 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapter 5.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 8 "Is ethnic diversity an inherent cause of conflict?"
- 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

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapters 11.
- Nevitte, Neil. 1996. Decline of Deference. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press, Chapter 2 (Blackboard).

## **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**

- Dyck, Rand, and Christopher Cochrane. 2013. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Seventh Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Chapters 10.
- Charlton, Mark, and Paul Barker (Eds.) 2014. Crosscurrents: Custom (POLB50Y) Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education, Issue 25 "Do Canadian government foreign aid programs help to alleviate poverty?"
- May, Elizabeth, George Monbiot, Lord Nigel Lawson, and Bjorn Lomborg. 2010. "Climate Change: Be it resolved climate change is mankind's defining crisis and demands a commensurate response." In The Munk Debates, ed. Rudyard Griffiths. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 171-221. (Blackboard)

## **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