

POLB50Y3 Canadian Government and Politics

Thursdays, 4-6pm, Rm: SY-110

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1 Course Description

This course examines the institutions of Canadian government and the societal context in which these institutions are situated. An overarching 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. 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. Succeeding in this course requires demonstrating expertise in each of the following areas of Canadian politics: (1) Responsible Government; (2) Federalism; (3) The Charter of Rights and Freedoms; (4) Voting Behaviour and Public Opinion; (5) Aboriginal Peoples; and (6) Race and Gender.

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 (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/POLB50Y2015/>).

3 Teaching Assistants

- Adrienne Davidson (adrienne.davidson@utoronto.ca)
- Stefan Ferraro (stefan.ferraro@utoronto.ca)
- Francis Mireault (francis.mireault@gmail.com)
- 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.

Teaching Assistant	Tutorial	Turnitin Info	
		Course ID	Password
Adrienne Davidson	TBA	10584238	Davidson
Stefan Ferraro	TBA	10584293	Ferraro
Francis Mireault	TBA	10584351	Mireault
Meghan Snider	TBA	10584374	Snider

5 Assessment

Tutorial participation will be calculated at the end of the year. For the written aspects of the course, you will receive a grade in each semester on the basis of three components of assessment: an in-class test near the beginning of each semester, followed by evaluations of your expertise in two subject areas. There will be one writing assignment in each of these two subject areas. At the end of the term, there will be an exam with a question about each of these subject areas. You may choose to demonstrate your expertise in a subject area by completing an essay assignment throughout the semester and/or by answering the appropriate question on the end-of-semester exam. If you choose to write an essay assignment in a subject area AND answer a question about that same subject area on your end-of-semester exam, you will receive the highest of your two grades in each area.

In short, there are three options for assessment in this course. In each semester, you may choose to:

- **Option A:** write the midterm test, two essay assignments, and both questions on the end-of-term exam. In this case, you will receive as your grade in each subject area the higher of your essay or exam performance in that area. This is the safest and most ambitious option.
- **Option B:** write the midterm test, two essay assignments, and skip the end-of-semester exam. In this case, your essay grade will serve as your final evaluation in each of the two subject areas. This option is less ambitious than Option A, but it is also safe option.
- **Option C:** write the midterm test and the end-of-semester exam. In this case, your grade on the end-of-semester exam questions will serve as your evaluation in each of the two subject areas. This is a risky and unambitious strategy, and it is not at all recommended. The exam questions will be designed to take an absolute minimum of 1.5 hours (and preferably at least two hours) to complete successfully, and you will have only three hours during the exam to answer both questions.

You may also mix options. For example, you may choose to write the essay assignment in one subject area, and then devote the entire end-of-semester exam to answering the question about the other subject area. You may also choose to write both essays, and, if you turn out to be happy with one grade but not the other, then you may devote your entire end-of-semester exam to the subject area in which you received the weaker essay grade.

*Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you have at least one grade for both subject areas by the end of each semester. If you do not have a grade for a subject area at the end of the semester, you will receive a grade of 0 for that area, regardless of whether or not you have two grades in the other subject area.

5.1 Schedule and Weighting

Participation	5%	
Midterm Test#1	7.5%	October 8th (Mandatory)
Writing Assignment#1	10%	Due October 29th (Option A and B)
Writing Assignment#2	10%	Due November 19th (Optional A and B)
December Test	20%	December Exam Period (Option A and C)
Midterm Test#2	7.5%	Due February 11 (Mandatory)
Writing Assignment#3	10%	Due February 25th (Option A and B)
Writing Assignment#4	10%	Due March 17th (Option A and B)
Final Exam	20%	April Exam Period (Option A and C)

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 Writing 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. I expect you to submit your work on time. However, there is no late penalty. If you are sick or have dependents who are sick, take a few extra days to work on your paper. If you are very sick, take one or two extra weeks to work on your paper. Please let me and your TA know if your work will be late. We do not require medical notes for late papers. Papers will not be accepted for any reason after December 8th in the first semester and April 7th in the second semester. If you do not have a paper submitted by these dates, then you will have to contest the appropriate question(s) on the final exam.

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](http://www.utoronto.ca/teaching). 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

If you are sick or experiencing a personal emergency during the scheduled midterm exam, please notify me and your TA as soon as possible and let us know that you are unable to write the midterm. A make-up midterm will be held within two weeks of the original test date. You do not need documentation from a doctor or nurse.

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 3: 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 10: The Challenge of Governing Canada

8.1.1 Lecture

“As Canadian as Possible Under the Circumstances”

8.1.2 Tutorial Topics

- Papers: 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.
- Bisoodath, Neil. 2002. Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada (Blackboard)

8.2 September 17: Canada’s Constitutional Tradition

8.2.1 Lecture

The Canadian Constitution: Principles, Choices, and Consequences

8.2.2 Tutorial Topics

- 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 24: The Theory of Responsible Government

8.3.1 Lecture

Power and Accountability

8.3.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Be it Resolved: the ethnic and gender composition of the House of Commons does not really matter.

8.3.3 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?"

8.4 October 1: The Practice of Responsible Government

8.4.1 Lecture

The Practice of Responsible Government

8.4.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Be it Resolved: The prime minister is too powerful.

8.4.3 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?"

8.5 October 8: In-Class Midterm Exam

8.5.1 Tutorial Topics

Midterm Exam - No Tutorial this Week

8.6 October 15: Reading Week

8.7 October 22: Federalism and the Provinces

8.7.1 Lecture

The Origins and Evolution of Federalism

8.7.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Be It Resolved: Canada should leave important matters like healthcare and education to the federal government.

8.7.3 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?”

8.8 October 29: Federalism and Canadian Society

8.8.1 Lecture

Regions, Regionalism, and Regional Differences

8.8.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Be It Resolved: Canada will split up within the next 25 years.
- **Essay Assignment # 1 (Federalism) DUE to Turnitin**

8.8.3 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)

8.9 November 5: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

8.9.1 Lecture

Mega-Constitutional Politics in Canada

8.9.2 Tutorial

- Debate! Abortion and same-sex marriage would still be illegal in Canada, if not for the Charter.

8.9.3 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)

8.10 November 12: The Charter and the Courts

8.10.1 Lecture

The Charter and the Courts

8.10.2 Tutorial

- Is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Anti-Democratic?

8.10.3 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?”

8.11 November 19: Getting to Parliament

8.11.1 Lecture

Elections and Electoral Systems

8.11.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Be it Resolved: Young people don't vote because politicians don't care about young people.
- **Essay Assignment # 2 (Charter) DUE to Turnitin**

8.11.3 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?”

8.12 November 26: 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 7: 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 14: 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 21: Parties and Elections

8.15.1 Lecture

Parties and Elections

8.15.2 Tutorial

- 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/samara_rightweights.pdf

8.16 January 28: Political Culture

8.16.1 Lecture

Post-industrial politics

8.16.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Canadian politics can be characterized increasingly as a conflict between post materialist values and a backlash against them.

8.16.3 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).

8.17 February 4: Class and Inequality

8.17.1 Lecture

Class and Inequality

8.17.2 Tutorial

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

8.17.3 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?”

8.18 February 11: In-Class Midterm Exam

8.18.1 Tutorial Topics

Midterm Exam - No Tutorial this Week

8.19 February 18: Reading Week

8.20 February 25: Aboriginal Peoples

8.20.1 Lecture

Aboriginal Peoples

8.20.2 Tutorial Topics

- Can Native Sovereignty coexist with Canadian sovereignty?
- **Essay Assignment # 3 (Aboriginal Peoples) DUE to Turnitin**

8.20.3 Readings

- 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?”

8.21 March 3: Immigration and Diversity

8.21.1 Lecture

Immigration and Diversity

8.21.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Be It Resolved: Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable?

8.21.3 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?”

8.22 March 10: Gender

8.22.1 Lecture

The Politics of Sex and Gender

8.22.2 Tutorial Topics

- Discussion: Why are there more men than women at the highest levels of politics in Canada?

8.22.3 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.

8.23 March 17: Language

8.23.1 Lecture

The Two Solitudes

8.23.2 Tutorial Topics

- Debate! Be It Resolved: Quebec is legally able to secede from Canada if more than 50% of Quebecers vote in favour of secession during the next referendum.
- **Essay Assignment # 4 (Race and Gender) DUE to Turnitin**

8.23.3 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).

8.24 March 24: 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 March 31: Exam Review

8.25.1 Lecture

Exam Review

8.25.2 Tutorial Topics

- No Tutorials this week

8.25.3 Readings

- No Readings