

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Canadian Government and Politics

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

2230E 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Daisy Raphael

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to core concepts and scholarly debates in Canadian political science, considering Canada as a white settler-colony, a liberal multicultural democracy, a constitutional monarchy, a parliamentary democracy, a multi-national state, and a country of the Global North and the Global South. Students consider debates about Canadian sovereignty, democracy, nation-building, nation-to-nation relationships, citizenship, immigration, language, political culture, political economy, race, gender, multiculturalism, and reconciliation. The course examines political institutions, including federalism, legislatures, the executive, constitutions, courts, legal systems, parties, and elections. We also consider politics in homes, communities, grassroots social movements, media, classrooms, and workplaces. The course presents diverse scholarly lenses, featuring readings from experts in the study of political economy, institutions, feminist politics, Indigenous politics, Quebec politics, and race.

Part One: Treaties, Settler-Colonialism, & the First National Policy, introduces questions about Indigenous and Canadian sovereignties, treaty-making, settler-colonialism, and nation-building. Part Two, Constituting Canada: National Unity & Patriation focuses on the construction of Canadian identity in the mid-twentieth century, the growth of Quebec nationalism, struggles over the patriation of the constitution, pan-Indigenous rights movements, feminist mobilizing, and the impact of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Part Three: Ideas & Institutions turns our focus to debates about democracy and institutions including the executive, courts, political parties, legislatures, elections, and the bureaucracy. Finally, Part Four: Canadian Values? Political Culture & Political Economy uses recent scholarship in the study of Canadian political culture and political economy to consider scholarly arguments about racism, multiculturalism, environmental politics and policymaking, migration, and Canada's status in global perspective.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

define key concepts in the study of Canadian politics, such as: settler-colonialism, sovereignty, constitutions, decolonization, reconciliation, responsible government, liberal democracy, federalism, the welfare state, Keynesian economics, neoliberalism, social movements, political culture, multiculturalism, interculturalism, race, and gender;

describe the first, second, and third national policies and explain their significance;

explain, in broad strokes, constitutional change in Canada;

engage in critical discussions about the relationships between Canadian and Indigenous sovereignties;

describe how democratic institutions function in Canada and engage in informed and critical discussion about Canadian democracy;
identify important thinkers in the scholarly study of Canadian politics
apply concepts and arguments from course readings to construct a coherent argument about contemporary Canadian politics

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Students are required to purchase (approximately \$25) or borrow one book for the Canadian Politics Book Club assignment.

Printing copies of readings is encouraged. There is no textbook for this course. Course readings, films, and podcasts will be posted to OWL Brightspace and accessible electronically.

Students should bring a notepad and pens to class.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		20
Quizzes		20
Midterm		20
Book Club		15
Reading Synthesis		25

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$050.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.