

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Canadian Foreign Policy

Course Number and Section:

POLISCI

2298F 550

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

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the history, processes, ideational foundations, and major debates in Canadian foreign policy. During the term, and following a discussion about foreign policy analysis, such topics as the geographical determinants of Canadian foreign policy, Canada's position in relation to other major global powers, the domestic factors influencing Canadian foreign policy including key issues and actors, and the role the provinces play in Canadian foreign policy will be discussed. The sources of foreign policy making within parliament and within the Canadian bureaucracy will further be addressed. Finally, and in order to build bridges between the conceptual discussions and the practical aspects of carrying out foreign policy in 'real time', students enrolled in this course will hear from foreign policy practitioners who will shed light on such topics as Canadian diplomacy in praxis, and Canada's relationship with international organizations.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand what major historical developments shaped, and shapes, Canadian foreign policy.

Identify and critically evaluate the ideational foundations of Canadian foreign policy-making.

Learn about and apply the tools used to evaluate foreign policy

Understand the role of the different levels of the Canadian state in the development and praxis of foreign policy-making.

Analyze current foreign policy issues and 'puzzles'

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Required Textbooks:

Nossal, Kim Richard, Stephane Roussel, and Stephane Paquin. The Politics of Canadian Foreign Policy. 4th ed. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015. [Estimated cost: \$45.95]

Recommended:

Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese. Making Sense in the Social Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing, Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2012. [Estimated cost: \$45.99]

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation in in-class discussions	12/09/2025	15
Midterm exam	10/14/2025	20
Book review	10/28/2025	15
Class essay	11/12/2025	20
Final examination	12/09/2025	30

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

Monday, August 18, 2025