

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** Canadian Government and Politics

**Course Number and Section:**

POLISCI

2230E 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Daisy Raphael

**Instructor Email(s):** daisy.raaphael@huron.uwo.ca

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:

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:

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:**

There is no textbook for this course. Course readings, films, and podcasts will be posted to OWL Brightspace and accessible electronically. The readings, films, and other materials listed on the syllabus are all required unless otherwise noted. Students are required to purchase (approximately \$25) or borrow one book for the Canadian Politics Book Club assignment.

**Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
participation	ongoing	20
quizzes (team-based)	fall and winter	15
mid-term	December	25
book club discussion	winter	15
reading synthesis	April 8th 2026	25

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

Thursday, August 28, 2025