

# CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP: INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS

## POLSCI 2D03-E Spring 2019

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**Lecture:** Tues/Thurs 6:30-9:30 pm  
**Room:** KTH B104

**Office:** KTH 503  
**Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs 6 p.m., after  
lecture as needed

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## **Course Description**

Political Science 2D03-E is an introductory course to Canadian Politics and is intended to give students a strong foundation on understanding the practice of democratic politics in Canada and a deeper understanding of Canadian institutions that serve or fail to serve the best interests of those living in Canada. The course will explain the effects that institutions have on Canadians, as well as the effects that Canadians have on their institutions.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify the key institutional structures of Canadian government
- Explain the role that each institution is expected to play in ensuring that Canada remains democratic
- Assess both the strengths and weaknesses of a wide range of Canadian institutions

## **Required Materials and Texts**

Patrick Malcolmson, Richard Myers, Gerald Baier, and Thomas M.J. Bateman *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada*, Sixth Edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press).

\*\* Either the 5th edition (2012), or 6th edition (2016) are acceptable\*\*

## **Class Format**

In-class lecture, 3 hours per lecture, 2 lectures per week

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

- Online Reflections (Friday May 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7): 25% (5 x 5%)
- Mid-term examination (Thursday May 23, 2019): 25%
- Election Forecast Assignment (Thursday June 13, 2019): 25%

- Final examination (Thursday June 20, 2019): 25%

### **Course Evaluation – Details**

#### **Online Reflections (25% → 5 x 5% each), various components due online each of May 10/17/24/31 and June 7/13**

Students will be required to select one column (not article) from a major Canadian daily newspaper (online editions are fine). For each column, you will be expected to provide a reflection of between 250 to 400 words, identifying the degree to which you agree/disagree and some explanation as to why. Students will then be required to provide feedback/commentary/discussion on at least 3 other students' reflections. The reflection will be due on one week, with the responses due the next week. Please utilize the following schedule:

<b><i>Reflection Number</i></b>	<b><i>Your Reflection</i></b>	<b><i>Peer Feedback</i></b>
1	May 10	May 17
2	May 17	May 24
3	May 24	May 31
4	May 31	June 7
5	June 7	June 13

#### **Midterm Test (25%), written in class on Thursday May 23**

Examination of material, including lectures and readings, from May 7 to May 21

#### **Election Forecast Assignment (25%), due Thursday June 13**

For this assignment students will be required to write an argumentative essay. *Students must develop a thesis statement* (a statement of the main point of the essay – something with which not everyone will agree), and develop a series of arguments to convince the reader that their position is the best answer to the question at hand. Your thesis statement should clearly illustrate what your paper will be arguing and how you will go about making that argument.

A federal election will be held on October 21, 2019. Students are expected to write an essay outlining what they see as the major issues that will define the 2019 federal election, and how various parties will frame/respond to these issues. Students should consider a minimum of three major issues.

Your essay should be based primarily on analysis of the changes from contemporary sources (newspapers, magazines etc.), as well as your own thoughts. You are able to draw on peer-reviewed sources for broader analysis of parties, elections, issue framing, etc. *A minimum of 6 relevant sources* must be used. Essays must be 8 pages, typed and double spaced (in a 12 point font) and are due in class on *Thursday June 13*.

### **Final Test (25%), written in class on Thursday June 20**

Examination of material, including lectures and readings, from May 28 to June 18. While the exam is not cumulative in that you will not directly be asked questions from the midterm examination, you will need to have a sound understanding of the material, as you may be expected to draw from it and make linkages to it.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1**

**Tuesday May 7 – Course Introduction**

**Thursday May 9 – Establishing Canada's Regime**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 1

Notes: Online Reflection #1 due tomorrow (May 10)

### **Week 2**

**Tuesday May 14 – The Constitution**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 2

**Thursday May 16 – Responsible Government**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 3

Notes: Online Reflection #2/ Peer feedback #1 due tomorrow (May 17)

### **Week 3**

**Tuesday May 21 – Federalism**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 4

Notes: Midterm Test on Thursday

**Thursday May 23 – Midterm Examination**

Readings:

Notes: Online Reflection #3/ Peer feedback #2 due tomorrow (May 24)

### **Week 4**

**Tuesday May 28 – The Crown**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 6

**Thursday May 30 – Elections**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 9

Notes: Online Reflection #4/ Peer feedback #3 due tomorrow (May 31)

**Week 5**

**Tuesday June 4 – Parliament**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 8

**Thursday June 6 – The Judiciary**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 7

Notes: Online Reflection #5/ Peer feedback #4 due tomorrow (June 7)

**Week 6**

**Tuesday June 11– The Charter**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter

Notes: Election Forecast Assignment Due on Thursday

**Thursday June 13 – Political Parties**

Readings: Malcolmson and Myers, Chapter 6

Notes: *Election Forecast Assignment Due Today*, Peer feedback #5 due tomorrow (June 14)

**Week 7**

**Tuesday June 18– Course Conclusions and Exam Review**

Readings: Review Malcolmson and Myers, Review Lecture Notes

Notes: Final Term Test on Thursday

**Thursday June 20 – Final Term Test**

**Course Policies**

**Submission of Assignments**

Only printed copies of essay assignments will be accepted. Electronic copies will not be accepted. Essays must be submitted in lecture on June 13<sup>th</sup> or students may place their paper in the Drop Box located just outside of the Political Science Main Office (KTH-527). Papers must be received by 4pm in order to be stamped with that day's date. Any papers submitted after 4pm will be stamped with the next working day's date. Do not submit your assignment by sliding it under my office door.

## **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

## **Late Assignments**

A penalty of 5% per day will be applied to late essays. Extensions of due dates are granted only in circumstances that are beyond the student's control, such as health problems that are supported by a medical certificate, or personal emergencies.

Requests for extensions of the assignment deadline must be made in writing and supported by documentation. Students are advised to take their supporting documentation directly to their faculty office for consideration and approval and to contact the course instructor as soon as possible.

## **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

Consistent with McMaster's MSAF policy

## **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **Turnitin.com**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted

work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). For more information please refer to see the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.