



COURSE OUTLINE

POLI 101
The Government of Canada

3 CREDITS

PREPARED BY: Sara McPhee-Knowles, Instructor

DATE: June 11, 2020

APPROVED BY: Name, Title

DATE: Click or tap to enter a date

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POLI 101 – The Government of Canada

INSTRUCTOR: Sara McPhee-Knowles **OFFICE HOURS:** Tues, 1 PM-2 PM
OFFICE LOCATION: Zoom **CLASSROOM:** Online
E-MAIL: smcpheeknowles@yukonu.ca **TIME:** Asynchronous
TELEPHONE: 867-456-8639 **DATES:** Sept 2-Dec 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the institutional and constitutional structure of government in Canada and its relationship to a variety of issues in civil society. Topics include its fundamental framework, the constitution, the core institutions of governance and politics, citizen participation, and such contemporary issues as nationalism, regionalism, multiculturalism and reconciliation. The course offers students an overview of the important pieces of the contemporary system of government in Canada to serve as a basis for debate and discussion of modern political issues, and will make connections between Canadian government institutions and policies and Indigenous peoples and governance.

PREREQUISITES

None.

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

POLI 101 is a fully online course; therefore, students must have their own computer and Internet connection and be able to navigate current word-processing, presentation, email, and web-conferencing software. Students must have the ability to record video.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

This course is new and its transferability is still being evaluated. Receiving institutions always determine course transferability. Further information and assistance with transfers may be available from the School of Liberal Arts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of terms, facts, and concepts relating to Canadian government and politics;
- Identify and describe the institutions of government in Canada and their historic

interrelationships;

- Describe contemporary and emerging political relationships between Indigenous peoples and government;
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of Canadian government and politics;
- Analyze and respond to issues, challenges, and opportunities within Canadian politics, such as nationalism, regionalism, and multiculturalism.

COURSE FORMAT

Fully online (asynchronous with scheduled deliverables) via Yukon University's Learning Management System (Moodle). There are no regular class meetings, but the instructor may schedule online Q&A/check in sessions for students. Although all students will complete the same module of work at the same time, they may log-in and complete the work at any time during the week.

Students are encouraged to use the resources provided in class as tools to support their course work. The instructor will aim to keep the course material interactive and varied.

Email and frequent internet access are an important part of this course. The instructor will communicate through email and Moodle. Using online tools and resources is a required part of this course.

ASSESSMENTS:

Online contributions:

Students will participate in discussion posts, mini quizzes, and video responses, and offer feedback on other students' presentations.

Assignments:

Students will be responsible for several short, individual assignments totalling 35% of their final grade. The assignments are related to the material covered in class. They will demonstrate the students' abilities to apply key course concepts.

Late Assignment Policy: Without prior approval, outlines papers and presentations that are turned in late will have 2.5% of the final grade deducted per 24 hr period, to a maximum of 15%. Papers turned in more than 5 days late will not be accepted. Students who require an extension must contact the instructor by email prior to the assignment due date. Online

contributions must be completed by the due date. Without prior approval, late or incomplete online contributions will receive a zero.

Tests:

Mid-term Exam: Students will be assessed on their comprehension of key concepts and themes addressed up to the mid-point of the course. The exam will be posted on Moodle and will be open book, but must be completed individually.

Final Exam: Students will be assessed on their comprehension of key concepts and themes addressed in the entire course. The exam will be posted on Moodle and will be open book, but must be completed individually.

EVALUATION:

Assignments	35%
Midterm Exam	20%
Online contributions	15%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

Cochrane, Christopher, Kelly Blidook and Rand Dyck. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*. 9th. ed. (The 8th edition may be used.)

Further readings will be provided by the instructor. Access to a computer, the Internet and word processing software are required.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from

which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the University.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon University recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon University program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): lac@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Introduction: course overview and syllabus; approaching the study of politics and institutional foundations and the evolution of the state
2	Constitutional development and the federal system
3	The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and intergovernmental relations: federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous

	governments
4	The policy making process and the executive
5	Parliament and the bureaucracy
6	Canada's legal system
7	Canadian political culture
8	Political parties
9	Elections and the electoral system
10	Linking people to government: citizenship engagement and participation
11	Interest and advocacy groups: social justice, Indigenous rights, and lobbying
12	The social environment: multiculturalism, reconciliation, and decolonization
13	Exam Week

