

Political Science , [Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies](#) , York University  
Fall/Winter 2012-2013 Course Outline  
AP/POLS2910 6.0 A : Term Y

## **Canadian Democracy in a North American Context**

Class Time: Mondays 10:30-12:30 pm

Class Location: CLH A

Professor: **G. Slowey (F) / B. MacDermid (W)**

Office: Slowey:  
South Ross 665 (Department of Political Science)

Office Hours: Slowey: Mondays 1:00-2:00 pm or by appt.

### **Course Information**

#### **Course Description**

This course outlines the basic theoretical and empirical background to understanding the institutions of the Canadian state in a North American context. A central theme of the course will be the democratic challenges faced by Canadians and the Canadian state at the turn of the twenty-first century.

Throughout the course, the quality of democratic institutions in the Canadian state will be assessed. The relative roles of the executive and the legislature, the organization of political parties and elections, and the nature and development of federalism will all be assessed in terms of the quality of democratic representation and participation. The impact of the North American context, particularly the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), in influencing the quality of democracy will be considered as part of this overall evaluation of political institutions and processes. The course considers these themes in light of the challenges that have arisen to those decision makers' authority by non-state actors and what new ideas regarding power and political representation have emerged.

#### **Required Texts:**

Dyck, Rand. 2011. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Thomson Learning.

Samuelson, Les and Wayne Antony. 2012. Power and Resistance: Critical Thinking About Canadian Social Issues. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Halifax, NS: Fernwood Publishing.

Journal Articles: Each of the journal articles listed can be accessed through York University library e-resources or found via the internet.

## Course Requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> Term only

First Term Tutorial Participation:	10%	
Library Assignment	5%	15 October
First Term Paper	15%	12 November
First Term Exam	20%	December Exam Period
<b>Total:</b>	<b>50%</b>	

## Course Assignments and Evaluation

NOTE: All papers must be handed in to your TA in TUTORIAL. Any papers handed in after tutorial will be considered late. (Please see late penalty policy listed in class policies below).

### Library Assignment

This assignment is designed to increase students' familiarity with the library where they can find appropriate academic sources for their research paper. The assignment will be posted on-line on the moodle website and will be discussed in class 17 September, 2012.

### First Term Paper: Critical Reading Assignment 4-6 pages

Students will select one of the articles from the list below. Students will critically assess this reading, setting out its main argument, any subordinate arguments, theoretical framework and the evidence utilized to sustain them. For more information, see the assignment sheet posted on the moodle site for the course.

Cameron, D. and J. Krikorian. 2008. Recognizing Quebec in the Constitution of Canada: Using the Bilateral Constitutional Amendment Process. *University of Toronto Law Journal* 58 (4):389-420.

Murray, KB, and J Low and A Waite. 2006. The Voluntary Sector and the Realignment of Government: A Street-Level Study. *Canadian Public Administration* 49(3): 375-392.

Pilon, D. 2010. The 2005 and 2009 Referenda on Voting System Change in British Columbia. *Canadian Political Science Review* 4(2/3): 73-89.

Slowey, G. 2001. Globalization and the Dispossessed: Impacts and Implications for First Nations in Canada. *The American Review of Canadian Studies* 31 (1/2): 265-281.

### MidTerm Exam: December 2012

There will be one exam for this half of the course. The exam is designed to test the students' knowledge and understanding of key concepts, institutions, processes, movements and individuals. The exam will consist of two parts. The first part will be a short answer section that asks students to identify, describe

and state the significance of a particular term. The second part will be a longer essay where students must sketch out larger debates in the field. Tests will be based on material covered in the lecture AND the readings.

**\*NOTE\***

Students are advised NOT to make any holiday plans (i.e. do NOT book any plane/train/bus tickets) until the exam schedule is announced because students MUST be available to write the exam on the scheduled exam date.

## Readings

There are 2 readings assigned (a few weeks there is only one). Students are expected to do all the required readings and come to class/tutorial prepared to discuss the readings assigned that week.

Students are also encouraged to keep on top of current events by reading a national newspaper daily. Internet news (ex. yahoo news) is not acceptable. Recommendations include the Globe and Mail or the National Post.

## Tutorials and Participation

A seminar-style format, tutorial attendance and participation are a required expectation of successful performance in the course. Your tutorial leader will assess your participation grade. The tutorials are designed to assist you with class material and prepare you for conducting research and writing exams. You should not skip the tutorials because they are a key part of the course and your overall/final grade. Attendance is required.

- Tut 1 M 9:30-MC211
- Tut 2 M 8:30-ACE 006
- Tut 3 M 2:30-ACW 008
- Tut 4 M 3:30-ACW 209
- Tut 5 M 4:30-VC 119
- Tut 6 M 3:30-MC 216
- Tut 7 M 2:30-ACW 104

## Lecture Schedule

- |       |         |                                                              |
|-------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| WK 1  | 10-Sept | Course Introduction and Overview                             |
| WK 2  | 17-Sept | "I am Canadian": What Does That Even Mean?                   |
| WK 3  | 24-Sept | Political Theory and Culture                                 |
| WK 4  | 1-Oct   | Constitutional Development I: 1867                           |
| WK 5  | 8-Oct   | <i>No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday</i>                        |
| WK 6  | 15-Oct  | Constitutional Development II: 1982                          |
| WK 7  | 22-Oct  | The External Constitution                                    |
| WK 8  | 29-Oct  | Quebec in Canada                                             |
| WK 9  | 5-Nov   | Globalization and Social Citizenship                         |
| WK 10 | 12-Nov  | Public Policy Making in Canada                               |
| WK 11 | 19-Nov  | Aboriginal Politics I: Historical Context                    |
| WK 12 | 26-Nov  | Aboriginal Politics II: Treaties, Land Claims and Governance |
| WK 13 | 3-Dec   | Gender Politics and End of Term Review                       |

## Course Policies

### Academic Integrity

The university takes very seriously infractions of academic integrity, including plagiarism, impersonation and cheating on exams. York's policies on plagiarism can be found at: [http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic\\_integrity](http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity). Students who are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism in a particular instance should consult with their TA or professor. For additional insight on the issue, see Margaret Proctor's "How Not To Plagiarize," available at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.

### Late penalty

There will be a late penalty of **5%** per day on all late papers (including weekends). All late papers must be dropped off in the drop box for the course located opposite the departmental office (South Ross, 6<sup>th</sup> floor). Papers will ***not be accepted via email or fax***. Under no circumstances should papers ever be slid under office doors.

If a student falls ill, they **MUST** contact the instructor AND tutorial leader as soon as possible to avoid incurring late penalties. Papers simply submitted after the due date with a medical certificate attached are **NOT** acceptable. Consideration for late submission must be obtained from the tutorial leader. The final decision regarding appeals and late penalties rests with the professor.

### Special Needs

Students who encounter extenuating circumstances during the term that may interfere with their successful completion of exams or other course assignments should discuss the matter with their tutorial leader or course instructor as soon as possible. Students with physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods, as outlined in Appendix A the Senate Policy on Students with Special Needs. They should advise the director at the earliest opportunity, so that appropriate arrangements may be with the assistance of the Office for Persons with Disabilities, the Counseling Development Centre or the Learning Disabilities Program.

### Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices- i.e. cell phones, laptop computers, cameras, etc. – is not permitted in lecture or tutorials. While convenient, such devices can be distracting and impair the learning environment, not just for the immediate user but also for those around them. While some students take notes on a computer others are engaged in texting, updating Facebook or using other social media. As every student must commit to giving the course and its material their total attention, the use of electronic devices is not allowed.

## Lecture/Readings Schedule - FALL Term

**WK 1      10-Sept    Course Introduction and Overview**

**WK 2      17-Sept    I am Canadian! What does that even mean?**

Dyck 1: Approaching the Study of Politics

**WK 3      24-Sept    Canadian Political Culture and Theory**

Dyck 11: The Canadian Political Culture

Samuelson and Antony 2: The State and Social Issues

**WK 4      1-Oct            Constitutional Development I: 1867**

Dyck 2: Evolution of the State

Dyck 18: The Provinces and the Federal System

<b>WK 5    8- OCT            NO CLASS    Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
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**WK 6      15-Oct            Constitutional Development II: 1982**

Dyck 17: The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change

Samuelson and Antony 4: "Homophobia High"

**WK 7    22-Oct            The External "Constitution": Globalization**

Dyck 10: Canada's External Environment

Samuelson and Antony 12: Energy, Climate Change and the Politics of Sustainability

**WK 8    29-Oct            Quebec and the Constitution**

Dyck 5: French Canada and The Quebec Question

Cameron, D. and J. Krikorian. 2008. Recognizing Quebec in the Constitution of Canada: Using the Bilateral Constitutional Amendment Process. *University of Toronto Law Journal* 58 (4):389-420.

**WK 9 5-Nov Globalization and Social Citizenship**

Dyck 8: Class

Samuelson and Antony 14: Privatization is Not a Cure

**WK 10 12-Nov Public Policy Making**

Dyck 20: The Policymaking Process and Policy Instruments

Samuelson and Antony 15: Private Interests at Public Expense

**WK 11 19-Nov Aboriginal Politics I: Historical Context**

Dyck 4: Canada's Aboriginal Peoples

Slowey, G. 2001. Globalization and the Dispossessed: Impacts and Implications for First Nations in Canada. *The American Review of Canadian Studies* 31 (1/2): 265-281.

**WK 12 26-Nov Aboriginal Politics II: Treaty Process**

Samuelson and Antony 7: "We Were Not The Savages"

**WK 13 3-Dec Gender Politics**

Dyck 7: Gender

Samuelson and Antony 3: Invisibilizing Violence Against Women

**EXAM PERIOD: 5 – 21 December**

Note: Students should not make vacation plans that conflict with the exam period. Tickets should NOT be purchased until the exam schedule is announced.

Any student who is not present at the exam will receive a mark of 0 for this component of the course unless written permission from the instructor is granted PRIOR to the exam date. A vacation/holiday plan is NOT grounds to be excused from the exam.

## **CLASS Expectations and Etiquette**

### Readings and Participation:

- Students are expected to complete all the readings required each week and be prepared to discuss them in tutorial or raise questions in class. Active participation in tutorial is an expected component of this course.

### Casual Conversations:

- Chatting, whispering, passing notes or otherwise disrupting the class are disrespectful and annoying to me and to your classmates. Of course, occasional class-related conversation is fine, but if you feel compelled to chit-chat with your neighbour then I strongly encourage you to quietly leave class and continue your chatting elsewhere, or simply consider not coming to class.

### Class Contributions:

- Sometimes courses in politics generate heated, occasionally personal, discussions in lectures and especially in tutorials. While the teaching team encourages strongly held views to be shared, we will not tolerate personal attacks of any kind, including belittling others' views or mannerisms. You should be respectful of others and mindful of the potential impact of your comments.

### Class Interruptions:

- Students caught interrupting the class – i.e. using computers or texting or having general conversations, etc. - will be asked to leave the classroom.

### Punctuality:

- Please make every effort to arrive for lectures and tutorials on time. Walking into class late disrupts the flow of the lecture/discussion. Do not leave in the middle of lecture as this disturbs me and your fellow students. A break will be given at the halfway point in each class, but if you anticipate that you cannot wait to use the washroom or otherwise must leave during class, sit near the door so you can leave with a minimum of disturbance.

### Community:

- All Political Science majors should subscribe to the Department email list. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the Department website at: [www.arts.yorku.ca/politics](http://www.arts.yorku.ca/politics), click on Undergraduate Studies, and follow the instructions to: JOIN POLS ANNOUNCE

## **2910: Useful Information**

### **A. EMAIL**

#### **What is the professor's email address?**

NO queries pertaining to class material, assignments or exams will be addressed via email. Students are ENCOURAGED to drop by and visit the professor during regularly scheduled office hours or to make an appointment.

### **B. ESSAYS**

#### **Where do I hand in assignments?**

Papers are due IN TUTORIAL unless otherwise specified in the course syllabus or directed by the professor.

Any paper handed in after tutorial will be considered late.

#### **What if I hand the paper in late?**

Unless a student provides medical documentation there will be a late penalty of 5% per day on all late papers (including weekends) UNLESS other arrangements have been made PRIOR to the deadline and authorized by the tutorial leader or professor.

All late papers must be dropped off in the drop box for the course located opposite the departmental office (South Ross, 6<sup>th</sup> floor).

Papers will ***not be accepted*** via email or fax – so do NOT send any papers via email or fax.

#### **What if I need an extension?**

All assignments are clearly provided in the course outline. Therefore, NO extensions will be granted UNLESS there are extenuating and important medical grounds that exist and are substantiated with the provision of a medical certificate. Please see the professor PRIOR to the due date for this kind of consideration. Students are expected to organize their time appropriately to ensure deadlines are met.

#### **What if I am unhappy about the grade I receive on a paper?**

If you feel that the mark you received does not reflect the quality of your work you must arrange to meet with the tutorial leader to discuss your concerns. Students that wish a reread and/or remark must submit a 1 page letter explaining the students concerns and addressing the comments provided on the paper. Please note that grades may be raised OR lowered in a reread.

#### **What if my computer loses my essay or doesn't print?**

It is your responsibility to safeguard yourself against computer or printer failures. The easiest way to do this is to backup your work onto an external disk on a



regular basis. This step will protect against hard disk crashes or general computer failures, and will make it easy to transfer your file to another computer should your printer fail. Computer failures, hard disk crashes, and printer breakdowns will not be accepted as valid excuses for late essays.

## **C: TESTS**

### **What if I miss the test?**

There will be only **one make-up** test scheduled and students are **REQUIRED** to get **PERMISSION from the professor** to write.

### **What if I get sick?**

To write a makeup test, you must contact the instructor within 72 hours or 3 days of the exam AND medical note must be provided.

**YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR DOCTOR FILL OUT THE YORK UNIVERSITY ATTENDING PHYSICIAN STATEMENT WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT:**

*[www.yorku.ca/grads/forms/NEW/attending\\_physician\\_statement.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/grads/forms/NEW/attending_physician_statement.pdf)*

**THIS FORM SHOULD THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE PROFESSOR AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY (i.e. consider having a friend or relative drop it off to the Professor at the Department of Political Science Office on campus).**

Any student who fails to contact the professor or provide a medical note within this period will not be considered eligible to write the make-up exam – so do not wait longer than 3 days before notifying us!

No make-up consideration will be given to students whose travel/holiday plans conflict with tests. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they are free and available to write the test during the scheduled time.