

Royal Military College of Canada
POE 205: Canadian Civics and Society
Winter 2019 – Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Holly Ann Garnett

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Office: [REDACTED]

Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant (TA): [REDACTED]

Description

This introduction addresses political culture and socialization, federalism and the regions, parties and the electoral system, federal institutions, organization and accountability of the public service and armed forces, equity and diversity, role of the media, and Canada's place in the world.

Academic Regulations

Please familiarize yourself with academic regulations, particularly regarding Academic Integrity (Section 23), at the following link: <https://www.rmcc-cmrc.ca/en/registrars-office/academic-regulations#equ>

Textbooks

The main course textbooks will be:

- Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, Sixth Edition, (Toronto: Nelson, 2011). ISBN 0176509461
- Rand Dyck, Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science, Fourth Edition, (Toronto: Nelson, 2012) ISBN 0176503420

Other texts are available via the links provided (you may need to log in through the library's online resources to access).

Moodle

A moodle site will be used to make announcements and to submit assignments. Please ensure that you check the moodle site at least once a week for updates on the course, schedule of readings and assignments. Please submit your essay via moodle.

Evaluation

- 1) Participation (Weekly Quizzes) (10%)
- 2) Political Awareness Assignment (20%)
- 3) Final Essay (40%)
- 4) Final Exam (30%)

Class format

This course will have a 'flipped classroom' approach. This moves instructional content (ie. lectures) outside of the classroom time, and activities and assignments into the classroom time. Each week, I will provide a video lecture. You will be responsible for watching it the week before and filling out an online quiz on the content. During class, you will complete activities and work on your assignments with the assistance of the instructor and teaching assistant (TA).

Class Schedule*

	Outside of Class (<i>before first class of the week</i>)			Inside of Class		
	Watch Video Lecture + Quiz	Read Textbook Chapters	Do	Activity Block #1 (Monday/Tuesday)	Assignments (Monday/Tuesday)	Activity Block #2 (Thursday/Friday)
1	None	None	None	Introduction to Course & Assignments	None	Academic Integrity Tutorial
2	Parliament	<i>Studying Politics</i> Chapter 1 <i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 23	None	Diagramming Parliament	Political Awareness Assignment Part I	The Durham Report & Act of Union
3	The Prime Minister and the Cabinet	<i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 21	Find and print another article on the same subject as your political awareness assignment and bring it to class this week.	The Cabinet	Political Awareness Assignment Part II	The American President vs. the Canadian Prime Minister
4	Public Administration and Public Policy	<i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 22 & 20	Make any finishing touches on your political awareness assignment & hand in at beginning of class this week.	Canadian Forces Organization and Accountability	Research Questions	The Policy Cycle in Context
5	The Courts and the Charter	<i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapters 19 & 24 <i>Studying Politics</i> Chapter 10	None.	Charter Debates	Finding Good Sources *Bring a laptop if possible, a computer lab will also be reserved	The Notwithstanding Clause
6	Federalism	<i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 3, 5 & 18	Print a copy of one article you found on your topic and bring it to class this week.	Focused reading block #1	Focused reading block #2	To Confederate or not to confederate?
	Reading Week					
7	Indigenous Politics	<i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 4	Search for additional articles (to get up to 5) on your topic and bring the reading templates to class this week.	Guest Speaker TBD	Organizing an Outline (Hand in at end of class for feedback)	Residential Schools
8	Ideologies and Political Parties	<i>Studying Politics</i> Chapter 6, 11 & 12	None.	Individual Activity & Reflection: Political Compass *Bring a laptop, smartphone or tablet if possible	Writing Block #1 *Bring a laptop if possible, a computer lab will also be reserved	Comparing Party Platforms

	Outside of Class <i>(before first class of the week)</i>			Inside of Class		
	Watch Video Lecture + Quiz	Read Textbook Chapters	Do	Activity Block #1 (Monday/Tuesday)	Assignments (Monday/Tuesday)	Activity Block #2 (Thursday/Friday)
9	Elections	<i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 13 & 15 <i>Studying Politics</i> Chapter 11	You should have half of your essay written. If it is not, work on this at home.	Electoral Systems	Writing Block #2 *Bring a laptop if possible, a computer lab will also be reserved	Improving Voter Turnout
10	Diversity and Gender	<i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 6 & 7	Print a copy of your essay and bring it to class.	Guest Speaker TBD	Peer Review & Editing	Gender in Canadian Politics
11	Canada and the World	<i>Studying Politics</i> Chapter 17 <i>Canadian Politics</i> Chapter 10	Submit your essay on the Moodle by midnight on Tuesday, March 26, 2019	Foreign Policy Budget	None	The Responsibility to Protect
12	None	None	Compile your notes from the class thus far, and bring them to class for review week.	Review Class	None	None

**Note: There will additionally be guest speakers visiting all sections of the 205 classes, so schedule is subject to change.*

Evaluation

Participation/Weekly Quizzes (10%)

As mentioned earlier, this course will employ a ‘flipped classroom’ approach. Prior to each week of classes, you will be required to watch a video lecture and respond to the online quiz. Quizzes will close before the first class that week. Your best 10 grades will be included in your final mark. There will be no extensions on these quizzes.

Political Awareness Assignment (20%)

This in-class activity will prompt students to read and reflect on op-eds on a contemporary political issue. More details will be made available in class.

The political awareness assignment will be **accepted via hard copy** (please submit in class). **Late assignments** will receive a 10-percentage point penalty (from grade out of 100%) for each day it is late (including weekends and holidays).

Final Essay (40%)

Your essay **one major challenge in Canadian democratic institutions** from the following list (note your answer can be a defense of the status quo as well!):

1. Should party discipline be relaxed in the House of Commons?
2. Should the Canadian Senate be reformed or abolished?
3. Should Parliament review Supreme Court appointments?
4. Should Canada adopt a new electoral system?

We will work on this assignment together in stages during class time. Drafts created during class time will be submitted for feedback.

The final essay will be **accepted electronically via moodle** by the deadline specified (please do not submit via email or hard copy). **Late assignments** will receive a 10 percentage point penalty (from grade out of 100%) for each day it is late (including weekends and holidays).

Final Exam (30%)

The exam will take place in the regular exam period. Date TBA. The exam will have two main sections:

- Short Answer: will require you to answer questions (mostly defining a term and explaining the significance of it) in paragraph form. You will have some choice.
- Essay Questions: will require you to write short essays responding to major questions in this course.

Note: This format is subject to change (commonality policies with other sections) and will be confirmed later in the course.