

COURSE OUTLINE



POSC1201

Canadian Politics: Institutions
and Issues

Fall 2020 - Current

Last Updated: 8/28/2020 3:21:40 PM

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POSC1201 Canadian Politics: Institutions and Issues

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the development of Canadian political institutions and political issues in Canada. Learners explore contemporary Canadian politics by examining concepts such as the evolution of federalism, the Constitution, parliament, elections, Indigenous and minority rights, and multiculturalism. Learners will apply political science terms and concepts to the analysis of contemporary Canadian political issues.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| REQUISITES | None |
| EQUIVALENTS | Complete at least 1 of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POLS1010 - Canadian Politics: Institutions and Issues (3) |
| CREDITS | 3 |
| HOURS | 45 |
| ELIGIBLE FOR PLAR | Yes |

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Bow Valley College is committed to ensuring our graduates can demonstrate their abilities in key areas that will make them effective citizens and encourage their development as lifelong learners. In addition to the discipline-specific skills that learners acquire in their programs, the College has identified ten learning outcomes.

College-Wide Outcomes:

1. Communication
2. Thinking Skills
3. Numeracy and Financial Literacy
4. Working with Others
5. Digital Literacy
6. Positive Attitudes and Behaviours
7. Continuous Learning
8. Health and Wellness Awareness
9. Citizenship and Intercultural Competence
10. Environmental Sustainability

| # | COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME(S) | COLLEGE WIDE OUTCOMES SUPPORTED |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Identify reasons why Canada chose federalism over other possible forms of government. | 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 |
| 2 | Apply political science terms and concepts in discussions and written submissions. | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 |
| 3 | Explain the workings of component parts of the Canadian government and their interrelationships | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 |
| 4 | Identify some of the major critiques of Canada's system of government. | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 |
| 5 | Analyze contemporary Canadian political issues. | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 |

COURSE MODULES AND SCHEDULE

**Course schedule subject to change, depending on delivery mode and term of study. For exact dates, please consult the Course Offering Information in Brightspace.*

WEEK/HOURS MODULES

| | |
|---------|--|
| Week 1 | Course introduction |
| Week 2 | Constitutional beginnings |
| Week 3 | Constitution reform attempts |
| Week 4 | The Charter of Rights and Freedoms: The Constitution Act, 1982 |
| Week 5 | Canada's party system |
| Week 6 | Elections and voting |
| Week 7 | Federalism and regionalism |
| Week 8 | Midterm Exam |
| Week 9 | Federalism and regionalism |
| Week 10 | The Executive |
| Week 11 | Parliament |
| Week 12 | The Judiciary |
| Week 13 | Multiculturalism, Diversity, and Indigenous peoples |
| Week 14 | Final Exam Review |
| Week 15 | Final Exam |

ASSESSMENT

| COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME(S) | ASSESSMENT | WEIGHT |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1, 2, 3, 4 | Midterm exam | 15% |
| 2, 3, 4, 5 | Journal | 30% |
| 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | Research paper | 25% |
| 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | Final exam | 30% |

Important: For details on each assignment and exam, please see the Course Offering Information.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

A minimum grade of D is required to pass this course. However, a program may require a higher grade in this course to progress in the program or to meet specific program completion requirements.

Please consult with the program area or contact the program chair for further details. A minimum Grade Point Average of 2.0 is required for graduation.

GRADING SCHEME

| Grade | Percentage | Grade Point | Description |
|-------|--------------|-------------|--|
| A+ | 95-100 | 4.0 | Exceptional: superior knowledge of subject matter |
| A | 90-94 | 4.0 | Excellent: outstanding knowledge of subject matter |
| A- | 85-89 | 3.67 | |
| B+ | 80-84 | 3.33 | |
| B | 75-79 | 3.0 | Very Good: knowledge of subject matter generally mastered |
| B- | 70-74 | 2.67 | |
| C+ | 67-69 | 2.33 | |
| C | 64-66 | 2.0 | Satisfactory/Acceptable: knowledge of subject matter adequately mastered |
| C- | 60-63 | 1.67 | |
| D+ | 57-59 | 1.33 | |
| D | 50-56 | 1.0 | Minimal Pass |
| F | Less than 50 | 0.0 | Fail: an unsatisfactory performance |

REQUIRED LEARNING RESOURCES

Brooks, S. & Ménard, M. (2017). *Canadian democracy: A concise introduction*. (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Additional learning resources may be found in the Course Offering Information or in Brightspace.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be found in the Course Offering Information or in Brightspace.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Learners with a disability (learning, physical, and/or mental health) may qualify for academic and exam accommodations. For more information, or to apply for accommodations, learners should make an appointment with Accessibility Services in the Learner Success Services (LSS) Department. Accessibility Services can also assist learners who may be struggling with learning but do not have a formal diagnosis. To make an appointment visit LSS on the first floor of the south campus or call 403-410-1440. It is the learner's responsibility to contact Accessibility Services and request academic accommodations. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.bowvalleycollege.ca/accessibility>.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Bow Valley College is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Learners are urged to become familiar with and uphold the following policies: Academic Honesty (500-1-7), Learner Code of Conduct, Procedures and Guidelines (500-1-1), Learner Appeals (500-1-12), Attendance (500-1-10), Grading (500-1-6), Academic Continuance and Graduation (500-1-5), and Electronic Communications (300-2-13). Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars, or any other teaching and learning environment by learners is allowed only with consent of the instructor as part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study and is not being used or distributed without prior written consent from the instructor.

Turnitin:

Students may be required to submit their course work to Turnitin, a third-party service provider engaged by BVC. Turnitin identifies plagiarism by checking databases of electronic books and articles, archived webpages, and previously submitted student papers. Students acknowledge that any course work or essays submitted to Turnitin will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where it will be used solely to detect plagiarism. The terms that apply to a student's use of Turnitin are described on Turnitin.com.

Online Exam Proctoring:

Examinations for this course may require proctoring through an online proctoring service. Online proctoring enables online exam taking within a controlled and monitored environment, thereby enhancing academic integrity. Online proctoring may occur through a variety of methods, including but not limited to:

- a. live online proctoring where a remote invigilator authenticates identity and observes completion of an exam using specialized software and recordings;
- b. automated proctoring where the exam session is recorded and AI (artificial intelligence) analyzed;
- c. browser lockdown that limits access to other applications, websites, copying, printing, screen capture and other functions; or
- d. a combination of both live/automated proctoring and browser lockdown.

Course instructors will review recordings, analyses, and data obtained through online proctoring for academic integrity infractions. It is the student's responsibility to meet the technical, software, location, and identity verification requirements necessary to enable online proctoring.

Further details of these policies are available in the Academic Calendar and on the Bow Valley College website, bowvalleycollege.ca.

Learners are encouraged to keep a copy of this course outline for future reference.