

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2023

**PO2210 (A2 and VC): Introduction to the Canadian Political Environment – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for
15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Ruth Lambert	PHONE:	Click or tap here to enter text.
OFFICE:	Click or tap here to enter text.	E-MAIL:	tlambert@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Fridays from 12pm-1pm or by appointment. Please send me an email to make an appointment.		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course examines the cultural, social and economic context in which political actors in Canada seek to protect and advance their interests and power. Attention is given to divisions or cleavages as well as unifying elements. Topics will include language, culture, political culture, economic class cleavages, gender, ethnic diversity, political socialization and social movements, interest groups and Canada's external political environment provided by the United States and the rest of the world. This course, along with PO2220, Introduction to Canadian Political Institutions, Federalism and the Constitution, constitutes a full year introduction to Canadian politics. The two courses provide preparation for further studies in Canadian politics at the post secondary level.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: There is no required text to purchase for this course. All readings will be available on myClass.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus and Videoconference (VC – online synchronous). Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 – 12:50 in E305.

This course includes a videoconference section. Students registered in the videoconference section are able to attend lectures and complete all course components without attendance on campus.

Students are required to have a stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements.

Where disruptions or other technological issues occur with institutional or instructor systems on campus or elsewhere, instructors will ensure that appropriate accommodations are made for videoconference students.

Some videoconference courses may require students to incur reasonable costs for proctoring and other services essential to maintaining the academic integrity of the course. Instructors should design their course to minimize the financial burden on students and are required to submit cost estimates to the responsible department chairperson for approval prior to the start of the course.

This course has the requirements listed below for videoconference students. Failure to meet these requirements may affect attendance and participation grades or result in a grade of zero for supervised assessments (for example tests, exams, or in-class writing assignments).

VIDEOCONFERENCE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Technology:	Please have the following in working order for class: a webcam, microphone, and speakers or headphones. Technological glitches happen, but these are tools you will need to participate in class.
Class Participation:	Please log into class as you would attend class in-person. We will discuss videoconferencing etiquette and expectations during the first few classes so that we can agree to class expectations as a group. Any activities that we do in class will be designed for participation from those in-person and on videoconference.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, having attended lectures regularly, completed the assigned readings and assignments, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate verbally and in writing an understanding of the form and functioning of government in Canada.
- Explain the cultural, social, and economic contexts of the Canadian political environment.
- Be able to identify the way in which political structures both unify and exacerbate political cleavages.
- Understand how political science theories can be used to explain the political landscape in Canada.
- Think critically about political issues and support arguments with evidence from academic and non-academic sources.
- Identify, evaluate, and cite information in text and other sources.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assignment	Weight	Due date:
Essay assignment #1	20%	September 22 nd in class
Essay assignment #2	20 %	October 20 th , by 11:59pm
Seminar/presentation	10%	November 21 st and 23 rd in class
Reflection paper	20%	December 8 th , by 11:59pm
Policy development and assessment final assignment	30%	Due date during exam period.

Course and Assignment information:

- Detailed information for each assignment will be available on myClass and covered during lectures prior to the due date.
- The late penalty for written assignments is 3% a day.
- Please contact me as early as you can if you are struggling with an assignment or think you might need an extension. Except in the case of emergency, please contact me at least 24 hours prior to an assignment deadline to discuss an extension.

GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week 1	September 5 & 7	introduction to the course and field
Week 2	September 12 & 14	overview of the political system, key concepts, and institutions
Week 3	September 19 & 21	political development in Canada ** essay assignment #1 due September 22, by 11:59pm**
Week 4	September 26 & 28	political culture and political participation
Week 5	October 3 & 5	nationalisms: identity, political socialization
Week 6	October 10 & 12	the constitution and the Charter
Week 7	October 17 & 19	federalism and regionalism ** essay assignment #2 due Oct. 20, by 11:59pm**
Week 8	October 24 & 26	Indigenous politics
Week 9	October 31 & Nov. 2	political economy
Week 10	November 7 & 9	diversity and multiculturalism
Week 11	November 14 & 16	reading week – no class
Week 12	November 21 & 23	**Seminar/presentations in class**
Week 13	November 28 & 30	political change (November 30 th , last day to withdraw)
Week 14	December 5 & 7	Canada and international relations **reflection paper due December 8, by 11:59pm**
Week 15	December 12	course review and final assignment Q and A

Please note that there may be changes to the course schedule if necessary.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Respectful participation: One of the key components of learning in political science is to engage with ideas that may differ from your own. We have ideas about politics because politics is all around us. We may respond quickly to information that opposes our own ideas, but one purpose of learning in this course is to reflect on ideas and better understand opposing ideas. Respectful dialogue with classmates is required. Expectations around participation will be covered during the first class and re-visited throughout the term as necessary. If you have any concerns about participation, please contact me by email or in-person.

Preparation: Please try to come to class prepared to engage with the material and ask questions or offer analysis on the topics we are discussing. By coming to class having read the readings or having thought about how the readings apply to current events, you will demonstrate how information can be used to support arguments and understand policy positions.

Attendance: Try to attend class regularly. Lecture time is a time to prod at information, ask questions and develop information synthesis skills. We will also use lecture time to work through issues on assignments.

Assignment deadlines: In general, you are expected to submit your assignments on time as per the syllabus. It is your responsibility to manage your time to meet these deadlines. The deadlines ensure work is complete so I can provide feedback to help prepare you for the assignments that follow. However, if you are struggling to meet a deadline, please contact me to discuss an extension, *prior to the deadline*. Please note that extensions are not guaranteed.

Recording or photographing content is not allowed, unless permission has been granted by the instructor.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.