

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023

#### **PO2210 (A3): 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. Inderjeet Mann

**PHONE:** 6047255707

**OFFICE:** Off-campus

**E-MAIL:** imann@nwpolytech.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** By 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.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None

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#### **REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

- I. Livianna Tossutti, Eric Mintz, Cathy L. Brock, and Doreen Barrie. (2021) *Canada's Politics Today : Democracy, Diversity & Good Government* . 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Toronto: Pearson Education

**How to buy your required textbook (e-book)**

1. (for e-book) <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/canadian-politics-today-democracy-diversity-and-good-government/P200000002609/9780135266236>
- II. Internet & database readings as listed in the syllabus appendix.
- III. Readings assigned by instructor in class.

#### **DELIVERY MODE(S):**

Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-toface or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technical support is available through [helpdesk@nwpolytech.ca](mailto:helpdesk@nwpolytech.ca)

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course is designed to introduce you to the factors which shape the Canadian government & its institutions and political communities. PO2210 is intended to:

- encourage you to think about the Canadian political environment, and specific elements which shape our political identities, including class, region, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and age, including how these intersect with formal institutions and processes of Canadian government;
- introduce you to the basics of Canadian political interactions with the global community;
- provide you with a basic knowledge of key ideas and concepts in political culture and socialization;
- demonstrate the value of thinking systematically and critically about the political world and how it affects your daily life;
- prepare you for further studies in Canadian politics and political science in general at the postsecondary level.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and summarize the concepts and processes of political culture and socialization, and a familiarity with elements specific to the Canadian context;
- demonstrate engagement in formal and informal Canadian politics through discussion of current events;
- differentiate amongst different political systems, structures, and institutions specific to the Canadian context
- assess original and secondary sources of argumentation and evidence, both scholarly and popular, and apply findings to new situations;
- synthesize Canadian political environment, concepts, structures and institutions into written assignments, presentations, and other assessments
- apply these specific skills to further academic study of politics.

## **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:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Value</b>
Participation	Weeks 3 -13	10%
Group Presentation	See course timeline	15%
Mid Term Exam	Feb. 17	15%
Paper Proposal	Mar 1	15%
Term Paper	Mar 31	30%
Final Exam	April 7	15%

**Participation:** You will be required to complete 5 in-class quizzes or take-home assignments at random throughout the semester. Each assignment will be worth 2% the participation grade.

**Paper Proposal:** This assignment will include an annotated bibliography and outline and will assist you in completing your final paper.

**Mid Term & Final Exam:** Students are expected to complete two exams. Each exam will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and 2 short answer questions. Both exams will test your knowledge of course materials. You will have a total of 30 minutes to complete each test. Exams will be open book and will consist of questions which require a demonstration of knowledge of specific concepts and theories presented in the course, as well as synthesis of that knowledge into long form, written responses. Each exam will deal with material covered to date as well as current events. Sample questions will be provided prior to the exam date.

**Term Paper:** Your final paper will be a 10 – 12 page persuasive essay on a topic within the broad category of political themes and issues. It will require demonstration of knowledge of specific concepts and theories presented in the course, as well as synthesis of that knowledge into a coherent paper. The paper is written in place of a final exam and the due date will be determined by GPRC'S exam schedule.

**Group Presentation:** You will be required to team up with a maximum of 4 other students to conduct a presentation on selected topics from the course materials. The presentations would start in Week 5 of the semester. However, students are required to sign up for the presentation by the end of week 3. The selected topics and sign-up sheet are available in a google doc format under the assignments section on canvas. You must submit a copy of your presentation slides and notes, including the role (s) of each group member, to me by 5 pm on the presentation due date (2 days before the presentation date).

**Presentation Guide:**

1. Provide a brief introduction and summary of the selected topic.
2. Relate the topic to key concepts discussed in the reading materials for the week
3. Make an argument for or against the presentation topic
4. Use short videos, not more than 5 mins, to illustrate your ideas, where necessary.
5. Use, at least, 2 open ended questions to lead additional class discussions on the topic.

**Note:** Use information from credible online sources – government websites, publications by international organizations, newsletter sources, and other acceptable online sources. Do NOT include information from Wikipedia.

**Presentation Time:** You will have a total of 15 minutes for the presentation, and up to 7 extra minutes to facilitate class discussion on the topic during the Q & A session. All students are expected to actively participate in these discussions.

*More detailed information on all assignments will be distributed in class.*

**GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)**

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	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		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:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Required Readings</b>
Week 1 (Jan. 2– 6) • Jan. 4 • Jan. 6	Course Introduction & Syllabus Review Basic Concepts Political Science	Course Syllabus CPT: Chapter 1 Canadian Politics Today
Week 2 (Jan. 9– 13) • Jan. 11 • Jan. 13	Canadian Politics: An Introduction Political Culture	CPT : Ch. 1  Ch. 5 Political Culture
Week 3 (Jan. 16– 20) • Jan. 18  • Jan. 20	Political Socialization  Political Participation	CPT: Ch. 5 Political Culture Henderson, Alisa. "Regional Political Cultures in Canada." <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> 37.03, 2004, 595–615. <i>Academic Search Complete</i> , EBSCO, doi:10.1017/s0008423904030707. Ch. 6, pol. participation & civic engagement
Week 4 (Jan 23– 27) • Jan. 25 • Jan. 27	Inventing Canada Paper/proposal writing workshop	CPT: Ch. 2, Canada's Political Development and Challenges
Week 5 (Jan 30- Feb 3) • Feb. 1 • Feb. 3	Continued--- Inventing Canada <b>*Group Presentation (Group 1)*</b>	CPT: Ch. 2.
Week 6 (Feb.6– 10) • Feb. 8 • Feb. 10	<b>*Group Presentation (Group 2)*</b> Canadian Federal Structure & Regional Identities	CPT: Ch. 12, The Federal System
Week 7 (Feb. 13- 17) • Feb 15 • Feb 17	Continued--- <b>*Mid Term Exam - Feb.17*</b>	CPT: Ch. 12
(Feb. 20– 24)	<b>WINTER BREAK – NO CLASS</b>	
Week 8 (Feb 27–Mar 3) • Mar. 1 • Mar. 3	Diversity & Multicultural <b>*Paper Proposal Due – Mar 1*</b>	CPT: Ch. 3, Canada and the Governance of Cultural Diversity & International Migration.
Week 9 (Mar. 6– 10) • Mar. 8 • Mar. 10	Continued--- Collective Rights and the Charter: Gender, Religion, Age, Sexual Orientation & Identity	CPT: Ch. 3 CPT: Ch. 10, The Constitution,
Week 10 (Mar. 13– 17) • Mar. 15 • Mar. 17	Continued---	CPT: Ch. 10
Week 11 (Mar. 20– 24) • Mar. 22 • Mar. 24	First Nations: Rights & Governance	CPT: Ch. 11, Indigenous Rights & Governance
Week 12 (Mar. 27– 31) • Mar. 29 • Mar. 31	Canada in World Affairs <b>*Term Paper Due - March 31*</b>	CPT: Ch. 17, Canada's Global Affairs

Week 13 (Apr. 3– 7) • <i>April 5</i> • <i>April 7</i>	Course Review <b>*Final Exam period is April 14-24*</b>	Course readings specific to Exam #3
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**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Full participation in class will require demonstration that you have completed the assigned readings, as well as an active role in group work and class discussions.

**Punctual submission of assignments:**

- An electronic copy is due by midnight on the due date. It should be submitted via Canvas, and should be formatted as a PDF. If you do not know how to save a document as a PDF, please contact me.
- Please title your paper as follows: LASTNAMEFirstname-Assignment-2210W2021. (Ex. Jane Smith's paper should be saved as SMITH Jane-Term Paper- 2210W2021.)
- Late assignments will be docked 3% (i.e. an A becomes an A-) for each day they are late. If extenuating circumstances necessitate an extension on an assignment, you are required to speak with me **AHEAD OF TIME**, and appropriate paperwork (i.e. a medical note) may be required. Also, please note that you are required to write the final exam on the date scheduled by the College. You should take this into account when making any travel plans.

**Classroom Conduct:**

GPRC is committed to promote an environment free of harassment or discrimination where respect will be given to ethnic, cultural, religious, and lifestyle diversity, and expects individuals will conduct themselves with respect for one another. This means your behavior should exhibit respect for yourselves, each other, the instructor, and the course material. As such:

- Students are expected to log in to Zoom on time and prepared, with cameras on and microphones muted. A camera AND mic is mandatory - visibility is accountability! If you are concerned with privacy in your environment, please feel free to use a virtual background (instructions are available here: [https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/210707503-Virtual-Background#h\\_01ED77TmfjXBJGY9KKJBC916FK](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/210707503-Virtual-Background#h_01ED77TmfjXBJGY9KKJBC916FK)).
- Be prepared to communicate both through your mic and via chat. For example, if you need to step away for a moment, please advise me via chat **BEFORE** turning your camera off. Please note, the chat feature in zoom is to be limited to questions to the instructor or supportive comments to students **ONLY**; it is **NOT** a place to have a general text chat.
- Please use the emojis available in Zoom (Hand up, thumbs up, etc .....). We will review how to use these in our first class.
- I encourage an atmosphere of positive and constructive debate. Expressing criticism or annoyance with a view expressed by another person, either through a comment, audible noise, facial expression or body language, is not acceptable, unless you are prepared to debate your position openly & respectfully in class.
- Regular attendance. If you know you are going to be absent from class, I expect you to contact me prior to class with a reason. Students who miss more than 1/3 of classes (9 or more) may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in GPRC's Examination Policy (available at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/)).

For information on key dates and other important matters, please refer to the GPRC Calendar, available [www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/).

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>.

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