



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2012**

**PO 2220 (A3/TC)/POLI 320 (YAU): INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN POLITICAL  
INSTITUTIONS, FEDERALISM AND THE CONSTITUTION**

**3 (3-0-0) 45 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dawn Moffat McMaster **PHONE:** 780-539-2763  
**OFFICE:** E401-7 **E-MAIL:** dmcmaster@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** M, W; 10 – 11:30 am, or by appointment

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

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

- Rand Dyck. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson, 2010.
- Internet & database readings as listed in the syllabus appendix.
- Readings assigned by instructor in class.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the workings of the four branches of government at the national level, as well as Canadian federalism and the Constitution. The course also explores efforts to change institutional arrangements to make them more democratic and more responsive to Western Canadians, people in Quebec and aboriginal peoples.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3 credits (3-0-0)/45 hours

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lecture

**OBJECTIVES:** At the end of this course you should be able to assess how the Canadian political system works (and fails to work), and debate how it might be improved. You should also be able to discuss some of Canada's most significant political issues, such as the power of our executive branch, party discipline, Senate reform, and judicial activism.

This course and PO2210 (The Canadian Political Environment) provide a full year introduction to the study of Canadian Politics. The two courses together provide preparation for further studies in Canadian politics at the postsecondary level and serve as a prerequisite. The two courses provide preparation for further studies in Canadian politics at the post-secondary level.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** This course has university transferability to Athabasca University, Canadian University College, Grant MacEwan University, King's University College, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge. For complete information, consult the Alberta Transfer Guide ([www.transferalberta.ca](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**

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

<b>GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE</b>			
<b>GRADING CONVERSION CHART</b>			
<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>A<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>90 – 100</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>85 – 89</b>	
<b>A<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>80 – 84</b>	<b>FIRST CLASS STANDING</b>
<b>B<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>77 – 79</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>73 – 76</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>B<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>70 – 72</b>	
<b>C<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>67 – 69</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>63 – 66</b>	
<b>C<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>60 – 62</b>	
<b>D<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>55 – 59</b>	<b>MINIMAL PASS</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>50 – 54</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0 – 49</b>	<b>FAIL</b>
<b>WF</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline</b>

**EVALUATIONS:**

Debate.....	15%
Article Review.....	5%
Bibliography.....	5%
Paper Outline.....	10%
Persuasive Paper.....	40%
Final Exam.....	25%

**Debate:** You will be presenting on one of 6 debate topics, taking either the positive or negative side of the argument. You will be responsible for presenting your position, defending it through relevant arguments, and guiding class discussion on the topic. I will supply you with a handout in class which will give greater details on this assignment.

**Persuasive Paper:** The **Article Review, Annotated Bibliography, and Outline** are assignments which will assist you in completing your final paper. You will receive a handout in class detailing the expectations for each of these assignments.

Your final paper will be a 10 - 12 page persuasive essay on a topic within the broad category of Canadian politics. I will also supply you with a handout in class which will outline in greater detail what I expect from this paper. The paper will be **due on Fri., Mar. 30** in class.

**Exams:** The final exam will consist of short and long answer questions, as well as some multiple choice or matching questions. The exam will be cumulative.

## **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:**

- Assignments will be submitted on paper in class, and electronically by 5 p.m. on the due date. Paper copies are easier for me to read, and allow me to provide you with notes on specific elements of your assignment. Electronic copies provide me with the option of submission to an online plagiarism detection service in the case that plagiarism is suspected. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE COPY WHICH IS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY MATCHES THE PAPER COPY RECEIVED IN CLASS.
- 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 has 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 arrive to class on time and prepared.
- Laptops and cellphones are permitted in class, with a few caveats.
  - Cellphones should be on silent or vibrate mode, and I expect you wait to check calls or messages until after class. If an emergency requires otherwise, I expect you to advise me at the beginning of class.
  - Laptops are to be used for class work ONLY. Students carrying out other activities will be asked to leave their laptops at home.
- Working on assignments for other courses is not permitted. Students doing so will be asked to leave the 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 ([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:**

Plagiarism and/or cheating can result in serious consequences (i.e. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: A Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty) and/or suspension or expulsion from the College). If I suspect plagiarism on assignments, I reserve the right to submit these to an online plagiarism detection service, as specified in Section 1.4 of the GPRC Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating ([www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/)).

It is your responsibility to ensure that you fully understand what constitutes plagiarism and/or cheating. If you have any question as to what these acts involve, please refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/).

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

## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

<b>Schedule of Lectures &amp; Readings</b> (subject to alteration, upon consent of instructor and students)	
Jan. 5 – 6 (Week 1)	<p>I. <b>Introduction:</b> The Canadian Political System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 2, “Institutional Foundations,” p. 27-38.</li> <li>• Darrell Bricker and Keren Gottfried. “The Tectonics of Canadian Politics.” <i>Policy Options</i>, Oct. 2011, p. 22 - 26.</li> <li>• Jeffrey Roy. “Politicians and the Public” Bridging the Great Divide.” <i>Policy Options</i>, Oct. 2011, p. 53 – 57.</li> </ul> <p><i>**Note that <u>Policy Options</u> articles from 1997 and after are available at <a href="http://www.irpp.org/po/">www.irpp.org/po/</a>. Click on &lt;Back Issues&gt; and follow the links to the publication date.</i></p>
Jan. 9 – 13 (Week 2)	<p>II. <b>Institutions</b></p> <p>A. The Executive Branch</p> <p>1. Formal /Symbolic – the Queen or the Governor General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 2, “The Road to Canadian Sovereignty,” p. 38-46, and Ch. 21, “The Crown,” p. 545-552.</li> <li>• Maple Leaf Web, “The Monarchy in Canada,” 1 June 2007 at <a href="http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/monarchy-canada">http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/monarchy-canada</a></li> <li>• Edward McWhinney, “Fixed Election Dates and the Governor General’s Power to Grant Dissolution,” <i>Canadian Parliamentary Review</i>, Spring 2008, p. 15-16. (online)</li> </ul> <p><i>**Articles from the <u>Canadian Parliamentary Review</u> can be accessed from its home web page at <a href="http://www.revparl.ca/english/index.asp">http://www.revparl.ca/english/index.asp</a> . Click on &lt;Archives&gt; and follow the links to the publication date.</i></p> <p>2. The Prime Minister &amp; Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 21, “Prime Minister and Cabinet,” p. 552 – 582 and “Sponsorship, Gomery, Responsibility &amp; Accountability Revisited” p. 608-609.</li> <li>• Elizabeth May, “The Degradation of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy.” From <i>Losing Confidence: Power, Politics and the Crisis in Canadian Democracy</i>. 2009. Available online at <a href="http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/arts/books/a-parliament-of-potted-palms/article984655/">http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/arts/books/a-parliament-of-potted-palms/article984655/</a></li> </ul>
Jan. 16 – 20 (Week 3)	<p>2. The Prime Minister &amp; Cabinet (continued)</p> <p><b><i>Debate Resolution #1: Canada should not remain a constitutional monarchy. (Jan. 20)</i></b></p> <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Valpy, "Don't Mess With Success," <i>Policy Options</i>, May 1999, p. 25-8.</li> <li>• David E. Smith, "Republican Tendencies," <i>Policy Options</i>, May 1999, p. 8-11.</li> <li>• Reg Whitaker, "The Monarchy: Gone With the Wind?" <i>Policy Options</i>, May 1999, p. 12-15.</li> </ul>

<p>Jan. 23 – 27 (Week 4)</p>	<p><b><i>Debate Resolution #2: The powers held by Canadian Prime Minister and Cabinet are too extensive, and should be curtailed. (Jan. 23)</i></b></p> <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hugh Mellon &amp; Paul Barker. "Is the Prime Minister Too Powerful?" in <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i>, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Scarborough: Nelson, 2009. P. 160 – 192</li> <li>• Peter Dobrell. "Reforming Parliamentary Practice: The Views of MPs." <i>Policy Matters</i>. Vol. 1, No. 9, Dec. 2000. <a href="http://www.irpp.org/pm/archive/pmvol1no9.pdf">http://www.irpp.org/pm/archive/pmvol1no9.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p>3. The Bureaucracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 22, "The Bureaucracy."</li> <li>• "Harperized: Rebranding the federal government," from <i>The Current</i>, CBC Radio. . 30 Nov. 2011. Podcast available at <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2011/11/30/harperized-rebranding-the-federal-government/">http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2011/11/30/harperized-rebranding-the-federal-government/</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Fri., Jan. 20 – Article Review Due**</b></p>
<p>Jan. 30 – Feb. 3 (Week 5)</p>	<p>B. The Legislative Branch</p> <p>1. House of Commons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 23, "Parliament," p. 617 – 644.</li> <li>• C.E.S. Franks, "Free Votes in the House of Commons," <i>Policy Options</i>, Nov. 1997, p. 35-9.</li> <li>• <i>Canada and the World Backgrounder</i>, "Toeing the line," September 1997. (online database – Can. Periodicals Index Quarterly).</li> </ul> <p>2. The Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Chapter 23 "Parliament," p. 644 – 658, and Ch. 3, "Regional Economic Demands" and "Regional Conflicts," p. 62 – 67</li> <li>• Gary Mar, Marie Bountrogianni, Benoit Pelletier, "Round Table on Senate Reform," <i>Canadian Parliamentary Review</i>, Winter 2006-07, p. 9-16.</li> </ul>
<p>Feb. 6 – 10 (Week 6)</p>	<p><b><i>Debate Resolution #3: The Canadian Senate should be abolished, not reformed. (Feb. 6)</i></b></p> <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple Leaf Web, "Senate Reform in Canada." <a href="http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/senate-reform-canada">http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/senate-reform-canada</a></li> <li>• Daniel Hayes. "A New Senate for Canada: A Two-Step Process for Moving Forward on Senate Reform." Canada West Foundation Paper. Sept. 2008. <a href="http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/a-new-senate-for-canada-2008.pdf">http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/a-new-senate-for-canada-2008.pdf</a></li> <li>• Canada West Foundation, "Senate Reform," <i>Dialogues</i>, Summer 2006, 36 pages. (Has numerous very short articles.) <a href="http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/Dialogues-Summer-2006.pdf">http://cwf.ca/pdf-docs/publications/Dialogues-Summer-2006.pdf</a></li> <li>• Ian Urquhart, "On Senate Reform," <i>Constitutional Forum</i>, Vol. 3 No. 3 1992. <a href="http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/ccs/publications/journals/constitutionalforum.php">http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/ccs/publications/journals/constitutionalforum.php</a></li> </ul>

	<p>3. The Budget Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck, Chapter 21, "Department of Finance" and "Treasury Board Secretariat," p. 574 – 75.; Chapter 22 "The Estimates System," p. 592 – 594.</li> <li>• Jim Stanford, "The Dark Side of Debt Reduction," <i>Policy Options</i>, April 2004, p. 22-25.</li> <li>• Gary Levy, "A Parliamentary Budget Officer for Canada," <i>Canadian Parliamentary Review</i>, Summer 2008, p. 39-44.</li> </ul>
Feb. 13 – 17 (Week 7)	<p>C. The Judicial Branch</p> <p>1. The Court system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 24, "The Judiciary."</li> <li>• William Johnson, "Ensuring Supreme Confidence in Judicial Appointments," <i>Policy Options</i>, May 2004, p. 41-45.</li> <li>• Ted Morton, "Reforming the Judicial Appointment Process for the Supreme Court of Canada," 1 April 2004. Available at <a href="http://www.canadianjusticereviewboard.ca/Justice%20Committee%20TM.htm">http://www.canadianjusticereviewboard.ca/Justice%20Committee%20TM.htm</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Debate Resolution #4: Parliament should review Supreme Court appointments. (Feb. 17)</b></p> <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple Leaf Web. "Supreme Court of Canada Appointment Process." <a href="http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/supreme-court-canada-appointment-process">http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/supreme-court-canada-appointment-process</a></li> <li>• Peter W. Hogg &amp; H. Patrick Glenn. "Should Parliament Review Supreme Court Appointments?" in <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i>, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Scarborough: Nelson, 2009. P. 193 – 216.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Fri., Feb. 17 – Bibliography Due**</b></p>
Feb. 20 – 24	<p><b>NO CLASS</b></p> <p><b>Feb. 20: Family Day</b></p> <p><b>Feb. 21 – 24: Winter Break</b></p>
Feb. 27 – Mar. 2 (Week 8)	<p>2. The Charter of Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 19 "The Charter of Rights &amp; Freedoms"</li> <li>• Mark Charlton, Paul Barker &amp; Phillip Bryden. "Is the Canadian Charter of Rights &amp; Freedoms antidemocratic?" in <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i>, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Scarborough: Nelson, 2009. p. 90 – 103. [handout].</li> </ul> <p>III. Influencing and Forming Government</p> <p>A. Interest Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 16, "Advocacy Groups &amp; lobbying."</li> <li>• Robin Sears. "The Old Accountability Shuffle." <i>Policy Options</i>, June 2006, p. 19-27.</li> </ul>
Mar. 5 – 9 (Week 9)	<p>B. Political Parties (party structure, decision making, fundraising)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 14, "Political Parties &amp; the party system."</li> <li>• Robin Sears. "The Decline and Irrelevance of Canada's Political Parties." <i>Policy</i></li> </ul>

	<p><u>Options</u>, May 2005, p. 9-16.</p> <p><b>Debate Resolution #5: Party discipline is beneficial to the democratic process in Canada. (Mar. 9)</b></p> <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R. Kenneth Carty. "The Shifting Place of Political Parties in Canadian Political Life." <u>Choices</u>, Vol. 12, No. 4, June 2006. P. 3 – 13. <a href="http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol12no4.pdf">http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol12no4.pdf</a></li> <li>• William Cross and Lisa Young. "Are Canadian Political Parties Empty Vessels?" <u>Choices</u>, Vol. 12, No. 4, June 2006. P. 14 – 28. Same link as above.</li> <li>• David Kilgour, J. Kirsner, K. McConnell, "Discipline vs. Democracy: Party Discipline in Canadian Politics," in <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i>, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Scarborough: Nelson, 2002. P. 223-8.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Fri., Mar. 2 – Paper Outline Due**</b></p>
Mar. 12 – 16 (Week 10)	<p>C. Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck, Ch.12, p. 299 – 304, "Public Opinion Polls," Ch. 13, "Elections and the Electoral System," and Ch. 15, "Parties, Voting, and the Election Campaign."</li> </ul> <p><b>Debate Resolution #6: Canada should reform our current, single-member plurality electoral system. (Mar. 16)</b></p> <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Hiemstra, Harold Jansen &amp; Paul Barker . "Is a Mixed-Member Proportional Electoral System in Canada's Interest?" in <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i>, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Scarborough: Nelson, 2009. P. 232 – 262.</li> <li>• Louise Massicotte. "Changing the Canadian Electoral System." <u>Choices</u>, Vol. 7, No. 1, Feb. 2001. P. 2 – 27. <a href="http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol7no1.pdf">http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol7no1.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Mar. 19 – 23 (Week 11)	<p>D. The Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 12, "Political Socialization, The Mass Media &amp; Public Opinion Polls."</li> <li>• Robert Hackett, "Ch. 11: The News Media &amp; Civic Equality: Watch Dogs, Mad Dogs, or Lap Dogs?" <u>Democratic Equality: What Went Wrong</u>. Ed. Ed Broadbent. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001. P. 197-212</li> </ul> <p>**This is an e-Book, available through the GPRC Library website.</p>
Mar. 26 - 30 (Week 12)	<p>IV. Federalism</p> <p>A. Division of powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck, Ch. 18, "The Provinces and the Federal System"</li> <li>• Geoff Norquay. "The Death of Executive Federalism and the Rise of the "Harper Doctrine": Proposals for the Next Health Care Accord. <u>Policy Options</u>, Dec. 2011-Jan.2012, P. 46 – 50.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Fri., Mar. 30 – Paper Due**</b></p>
Apr. 2 – 6	<p>B. Major developments since Confederation: 1982, Meech Lake and the Charlottetown Accord</p>

(Week 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dyck text, Ch. 17, "The Canadian Constitution &amp; Constitutional Change" and review Ch. 4, "Canada's Aboriginal Peoples," and Ch. 5, "French Canada and the Quebec Question."</li> </ul> <p><b>Fri., Apr. 6 – Good Friday (No Class)</b></p>
Apr. 9 – 12 (Week 14)	Exam Review