

Carleton University  
Department of Political Science

Summer 2016

**PSCI 2003A**  
**Canadian Political Institutions**  
**Tuesdays/Thursdays 8:35-11:25**  
**Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

**Jonathan Malloy**

**Office:** Loeb B640 (Political Science main office)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 1-3 PM; before or after class, or by appointment

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This course explores the major constitutional, political, judicial and bureaucratic institutions of Canada. It rests on the theme of **“living institutions”** – that institutions are more than just fixed rules and structures. They evolve over time, and shape our political choices and outcomes. So to understand Canadian politics and political change, it is essential to understand how political institutions work and particularly how they form and shape us as much as we shape them. It is particularly interesting to consider debates about the gendered and racialized aspects of Canadian political institutions.

The course is not an extensive formal study of rules and procedures. It does not necessarily defend nor argue for the reform of any particular institution, and strives to avoid any particular partisan or ideological view. It attempts to highlight various “critical approaches” to Canadian politics, as explained in the opening chapter of the textbook. However, the above perspective of living institutions is generally known as the “historical institutionalist” approach (see p. 10) and this will be the primary theoretical framework of the course.

**Text:**

Christopher Cochrane, Kelly Blidook and Rand Dyck, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches (8th edition)* (Toronto: Nelson, 2016) **Available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca St. (havenbooks.ca)**

**Grading:**

Attendance	10%
Short Assignment	5%
Opinion Paper	15%
Term Paper Outline	5%
Term Paper	30%
Final Exam	35%

*Attendance:* To encourage engagement and participation, attendance will be taken at each class. This summer course does not have formal discussion groups. However, informal discussion groups will be formed in the first week and will meet regularly during class time. Students unable to attend a class should inform the instructor beforehand. Exemptions will be granted at the instructor’s discretion.

*Short Assignment:* Students will be assigned a short reading on a timely political topic and must complete a short analysis of it. The exact topic and reading will be determined at the start of the course.

*Opinion Paper:* Students will write a short essay of 500-750 words, in the style of a media op-ed article. Details are given below.

*Term Paper:* Students will research and write an 8-10 page paper on one of three possible topics. Details are given below.

*Final Exam:* The final exam will be during the regular exam period at the end of term and will feature essay-style questions. Samples of past exams will be made available on cuLearn.

Late Policy

Papers should be submitted in class, at the beginning. Do not throw away your hard work by incurring expensive and rapid late penalties. Again, do not throw away your work by incurring expensive late penalties. Third time: do not squander your efforts by racking up late penalties.

**Topics and Schedule:**

Slides for the lectures will be posted on cuLearn the night before each class for your convenience. The slides are to structure and enhance the lectures. They will not serve as adequate class notes.

**The textbook is your friend.** Review it before and after class to ensure you are familiar with the concepts under discussion, and to further understand concepts covered in the lectures.

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter from “Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches”</b>
<b>July 5</b>	Introduction	
<b>July 7</b>	Historical Foundations	Chapter 2 – “Institutional Foundations”
<b>July 12</b>	The Constitution and Constitutional Reform	Chapter 17 – “The Constitution and Constitutional Change”
<b>July 14</b>	Indigenous Peoples <b>Short Assignment Due</b>	Chapter 4, “Aboriginal Peoples”
<b>July 19</b>	Federalism	Chapter 18 “The Federal System”
<b>July 21</b>	The Judiciary and the Charter of Rights	Chapter 19 “The Charter of Rights and Freedoms”;

		Chapter 24 "The Judiciary"
<b>July 26</b>	Catch-Up Class; Essay-Writing <b>Opinion Paper Due</b>	
<b>July 28</b>	Elections and the Electoral System	Chapter 13 "Elections and the Electoral System"
<b>Aug 2</b>	Political Parties	Chapter 14 "Political Parties and the Party System"
<b>Aug 4</b>	Parliament <b>Term Paper Outline Due</b>	Chapter 23 "Parliament"
<b>Aug 9</b>	Executive	Chapter 21 "The Executive: Crown, PM and Cabinet"
<b>Aug 11</b>	Public Policy and Administration	Chapter 22 "The Bureaucracy"
<b>Aug 16</b>	Final Class and Review <b>Term Paper Due</b>	

**Opinion Paper:**

Write a short essay of about 500-750 words clearly answering one of the following questions:

*Should the Canadian monarchy be abolished?*

*Would Canada be better off with a fully written constitution rather than the current "partly-written" one?*

Arguments should be based on points covered in class and in the textbook. Further research is encouraged but not required. Papers should be written in a newspaper/online "op-ed" style that emphasizes well-organized, succinct arguments. Traditional academic citations are not required though it is still essential to acknowledge the source of all ideas, facts, and direct or indirect quotations in your text.

Papers will be graded on the following criteria: a clear thesis statement and set of arguments; a strong grasp of the general issue and sophistication of the discussion; and the general organization and coherence of the paper. Spelling and grammar are also important. Papers must be within the word limits.

**Assignments are due at the beginning of class (8:35) on Thursday July 14. Assignments will be graded out of 5 marks; any received after the start of class will lose one mark at the discretion of the instructor. Assignments received after 4 PM that day will lose two marks and one further mark each subsequent day.** In exceptional circumstances, late essays may be submitted to the political science drop-box outside Loeb B640.

### **Term Paper**

Research and write a paper of approximately 2000-2500 words (typically 8-10 pages) answering one of the following topics:

1. Should Canada change its electoral system, and if so, to what? In your discussion, include an analysis of the current electoral reform process initiated by the Trudeau Government and at least some discussion of different electoral reform options.
2. How important is it to increase the proportion of women in the House of Commons and, if so, how can this be done? In your discussion, be sure to discuss past trends in women's parliamentary representation, including the 20% "plateau" from 1997-2008.
3. Does the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* give too much power to the courts over Parliament? In your discussion, refer to specific aspects of the *Charter* and key cases and controversies.

The paper must rely on academic and other authoritative sources. The lectures and textbook should be your initial starting point but are insufficient by itself. Some suggested readings and sources will be provided in class or on cuLearn, but it is ultimately up to you to find and discern good sources.

The paper must show a strong grasp of the topic and a clear understanding of key arguments from different sides and perspectives. Assignments will be graded on the following criteria: a clear thesis statement, a strong grasp of the issue, appropriate sources and engaging use of these sources, and the general organization and coherence of the arguments. Spelling and grammar are also important.

Political science does not have a uniform citation style. Citations will be discussed in class, but any of these styles are acceptable: [APA Style](#) [Chicago Style](#) [MLA Style](#)

**Papers are due at the beginning of class (8:35) on August 16. Papers submitted in class after 9 AM on the due date may lose one percentage point at the discretion of the instructor. The political science drop box outside Loeb B640 is for exceptional circumstances only, not an everyday drop-off. Papers received from the drop box on the due date before 4 PM will lose one-third of a letter grade (i.e., from B+ to B). Papers received after 4 PM on the due date will lose a further one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., from B+ to B), including weekends, unless valid reasons are presented.**

## Academic Accommodations

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The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with

the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.