

PSCI 2003A
Canadian Political Institutions
Friday 11:35-13:25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Jonathan Malloy

Office: Loeb B696

Phone: 613-520-2600 x 1189

Email: jonathan_malloy@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Thursday 13:00-15:00

This course explores the major constitutional, political, judicial and bureaucratic institutions of the nation. It is not a course on the rules and practices of these institutions, but rather an exploration of how power and democracy shape, and are shaped by, these institutions.

PSCI 2003 is matched with PSCI 2002, Canadian Political Environment. They may be taken in either sequence.

Text: Required

Dyck, Rand. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* (6th edition) (Toronto: Nelson, 2010)

NOTE: Copies have been ordered at [Haven Books, 43 Seneca St.](http://HavenBooks.com)
(havenbooks.ca)

Grading:

Take-Home Midterm Test	10%
Essay Outline, Due November 5	5%
Research Essay, Due November 26	35%
Final Exam, to be scheduled during the regular exam period	40%
Attendance/Participation	10%

The midterm test will be distributed online on **Friday, October 1** and must be

submitted electronically by **Wednesday, October 6**. It will cover all material from the assigned readings and lectures covered so far in the class.

Essays will be approximately 2000-2500 words and must answer one of several assigned questions. These questions and further information will be distributed in class. A one-page essay outline, giving your topic, thesis, key arguments and preliminary sources, is due **November 5**. The essays are due **November 26**. Late papers will lose one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., from B+ to B), including weekends.

The final exam will be during the regular exam period at the end of term.

Students are expected to attend and participate in their assigned discussion groups, and their performance will form the attendance and participation grade.

Topics and Reading Assignments

September 10 – Introduction

September 17 - Historical Foundations

Chapter 2 “Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State”

September 24 - Federalism and the Constitution

Chapter 17 “The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change”

October 1 – Federalism and Aboriginal Peoples

Chapter 4 – “Aboriginal Peoples”

Chapter 18 “The Provinces and the Federal System”

October 8 – No Class (University Day)

October 15 - The Judiciary and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Chapter 18 “The Charter of Rights and Freedoms”

October 22 – Voting and the Electoral System

Chapter 15 “Parties, Voting and the Election Campaign”

Chapter 13 “Elections and the Electoral System

October 29 Political Parties

Chapter 14 “Political Parties and the Party System”

November 5 – Parliament

Chapter 23 “Parliament”

November 12 - TBA

November 19 – Special Class – “Paths to Power” Conference

November 26 - The Executive – **Essays Due**

Chapter 21 “The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister and Cabinet”

December 3 – Exam Review/ TBA

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an

appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 15 2010 for December examinations and March 11 2011 for April examinations.

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).

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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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
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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.

Course Requirements: Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.