

PSCI 2003B
Canadian Political Institutions
Wednesdays 8:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.
Online course

Instructor: Dr. Tiziana Carafa
Office Hours: Office hours are held on Zoom
and by appointment on:
Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of political institutions helps us to understand how people are governed and how different actors participate in the governing process. Every country has its own set of political institutions. The Canadian Political Institutions course provides an overview of how Canadians are governed.

Institutions impact our lives in many ways, which among others include making rules that govern society, and determining the boundaries of participation in the governing process.

The objective of this course is to foster an understanding of how different Canadian institutions and actors shape our democracy. To achieve this objective, the course will provide an overview of the context in which Canadian institutions operate (e.g., social); the way in which people are linked to government (e.g., via the elections) and the different branches (e.g., the judiciary) of government.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the key features of Canadian political institutions
- Identify the context in which these institutions operate
- Develop critical skills by which to assess contrasting opinions over the functioning of these institutions
- Improve communication skills in written assignments and oral discussion

COURSE FORMAT

This is an online course delivered through weekly two-hour lectures on Zoom. The online classes will take place every Wednesday from 8:35 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. (All hours in the course outline refer to Ottawa local time). The weblinks to access the classes will be provided on cuLearn. The online class content will be delivered using PowerPoint slides. The online class content will be complemented with a list of selected readings. Completing the reading material and attending the online lectures are therefore important components to succeeding in the course.

The two-hour class lecture will be followed by a one-hour online tutorial led by a teaching assistant (TA). Different students have been assigned to different tutorial groups. Online tutorial attendance will be taken for each of the TA groups. Information on accessing the online tutorial is provided by the TA.

Email communication is to be used for administrative purposes only and using only Carleton email. For any other issue, such as those linked to the learning material, please consult the instructor during the online office hours or during the online weekly lectures.

TEXTBOOKS

The textbooks required for this course are available for purchase in hardcopy at Carleton's bookstore and as an eBook on the publisher's website. Please ensure that you have the proper edition of the books. Any additional material used in the course will be available through hyperlink and Ares.

1. Christopher Cochrane, Kelly Blidook, and Rand Dyck (2020). *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* (9th edition). Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd. (eBook: [Publisher's link](#)).
(In the reading list section of this course outline, the textbook is referred to as Cochrane et al.)
2. Mark Charlton and Paul Barker, eds (2014). *Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues* (7th edition). Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd. (eBook: [Publisher's link](#))
(In the reading list section of this course outline, the textbook is referred to as Charlton & Barker)
This book will be used for your participation (discussion + presentation) in the tutorials.

From time to time, the instructor may assign additional readings in class.

EVALUATION

1.	Tutorial: Attendance and Participation	Every Wednesday after the lecture	15%
2.	Online Quiz #1 on culearn	To be done by January 26	3%
3.	Online Quiz #2 on cuLearn	February 24	25%
4.	Essay Questions	March 24	27%
5.	Final Exam	TBD (during exam period)	30%

1. Tutorial Attendance and Participation - every Wednesday after the class (10:35 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.)

The online tutorials are an integral part of developing an understanding of the course material. Given the smaller size of the tutorials, they provide an excellent venue to interact virtually with both your classmates and your teaching assistant.

The tutorial is worth 15% of your final grade, and the mark will be weighted to reflect your attendance and participation. The participation includes your involvement in discussions as well as a delivery of a 10 to 15-minute presentation (2-3 slides) on one of the topics included in the supplementary/discussion readings as listed in the Class Schedule and Reading List. Your participation in the tutorial provides you with an opportunity to develop and improve your communication skills.

Please consult and confirm with your TA on the selected topic during your tutorial. It is highly recommended that you identify your topic as of the first day of your tutorial. The presentation slides must be submitted to your TA at least one day prior to your presentation date and shared with your classmates on the day of your presentation.

In your conduct during the online tutorial, be respectful of your TA and classmates.

When reading the material, ensure that you understand the:

- terms and concepts used by the authors;
- general topic;
- arguments presented by the author(s);
- organization of the argument.

2. Online Quiz #1 on culearn - available as of January 14 on cuLearn

The quiz will be on the course outline and is worth 3% of your final grade. The quiz will be available on cuLearn as of 9a.m. January 14, 2021, and it will close at 9p.m. on January 26, 2021. Once you access the quiz you will have 15 minutes to complete it.

3. Online Quiz #2 cuLearn Quiz #2– February 24, 2021- available on the cuLearn designated tab

The online quiz evaluates students on the material covered in week: 1,2,3,4,5 (inclusive).

The quiz will consist of 60 multiple choice and is worth 25% of your final grade.

You will have 60 minutes to complete the quiz and the quiz will be done in the first 60 minutes of the online class on February 24, 2021.

No extension will be provided beyond that time. Students who do not take the quiz by the due date will lose the mark for this portion of the course. The quiz is to be taken only by the students registered in the course. Students are not to consult with their classmates or other individuals on the quiz.

4. Essay Questions due on March 24 - to be uploaded on the cuLearn designated tab

This assignment consists of two essay questions related to the topics on the course outline. The essay questions will be posted on cuLearn as of March 3, 2021. This assignment is worth 27% of your final grade.

For each essay question, students will be provided with some journal articles. Students will be asked to identify and discuss the arguments brought forward by the authors and provide a context of the issue(s) at hand.

Each essay question must be answered in an essay format between 1000 to 1200 words. The essay questions should include a cover page with your name, be double space and in Arial format.

The essay questions must be uploaded on cuLearn by 8 a.m. on March 24, 2021 in the designated cuLearn tab. Students who do not submit their essay questions on time will lose their grade as follows:

- First day of delay 6% loss (6 points loss)
- Second day of delay 7% loss (13 points loss)
- Third day of delay 7% (20 points loss)
- Fourth day of delay 7% (27 points loss)

5. Final Exam (30%): will be held during exam period at the end of term

The final exam evaluates students on all the material covered in the course.

The final exam will consist of 90 multiple choice and you will have 90 minutes to complete the exam. The exam is worth 30% of your final grade.

The exam will be held during the exam period. Please consult Carleton University exam schedule for more details.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING LIST
<p>Week 1: January 13 - Introduction to the course (format, content, evaluation, textbook and readings) and to Canadian Political Institutions</p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CuLearn course page and Ares- Marchi S (2020). Eight Ways to Make Canada's Political System Better. <i>Policy Options</i>, March. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy. Available at https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2020/eight-ways-to-make-canadas-political-system-better/
<p>Week 2: January 20 – Evolution of the State and Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cochrane et al., Ch. 2: Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State- Cochrane et al., Ch. 4 : Indigenous Peoples <p>Supplementary/Discussion reading: Charlton & Barker, Ch. 2: Can Native Sovereignty Co-exist with Canadian Sovereignty?</p>
<p>Week 3: January 27 – Immigration and Diversity</p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cochrane et al., Ch. 6: Immigration and Diversity <p>Supplementary/Discussion reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Charlton & Barker, Ch. 13: Should Representation in Parliament Mirror Canada's Social Diversity?
<p>Week 4: February 3 - Gender</p>

Required readings:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 7 : Gender

Supplementary/Discussion reading:

- Charlton & Barker, Ch. 10, Should Women Focus on Small-p Politics?

Week 5: February 10 - Political Culture and Political Socialization

Required readings:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 10 : Political Culture
- Cochrane et al., Ch. 11: Political Socialization, the Mass Media and Public Opinion Polls

Supplementary/Discussion reading:

- Charlton & Barker, Ch 1.: Is the Canadian Political Culture Becoming Americanized?

Week 6: February 17- No class - Reading week

Week 7: February 24 – Online Quiz #2

+ Electoral system

Required readings:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 12: Elections and Electoral System

Week 8: March 3 –Electoral System cont'd + Political Parties

Required readings:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 13: Party Organization. Pages (Pgs.) 300 to 310
- Cochrane et al., Ch. 14: The Election Campaign, Voting, and Political Organizations

Supplementary/Discussion reading:

- Charlton & Barker, Ch 3: Will Conservatism and the Conservative Party Fail?

Week 9: March 10 - The Constitution and Federalism

Required readings:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 16 : The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change
- Cochrane et al., Ch. 17: The Federal System

Supplementary /Discussion reading:

- Charlton & Barker, Ch. 5: Should the Federal Government Play a Leading Role in Health Care?

Week 10: March 17 - The Judiciary Branch + the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Required readings:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 18: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Cochrane et al., Ch. 22 : The Judiciary

Supplementary /Discussion reading:

- Charlton & Barker, Ch. 4: Is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Antidemocratic?

Week 11: March 24 - Legislative Branch: Parliament

Essay questions are due at 8a.m. on cuLearn

Required Reading:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 21 : Parliament

Week 12: March 31 - Executive Branch: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet

Required reading:

- Cochrane et al, Ch 19: The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Cochrane et al, Ch 13: The Prime Minister and the Cabinet and Operation. Pgs. 475 to 488

Supplementary /Discussion reading:

- Charlton & Barker, Ch 7: Is a Majority Government more Effective than a Minority Government?

Week 13: April 7 - The Bureaucracy and Policymaking

Required readings:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 20: The Bureaucracy
- Cochrane et al., Ch. 13: Operation + Central Agencies. Pgs. 488 to 496

Supplementary/Discussion reading:

- Charlton & Barker, Ch 6: Is the Prime Minister Too Powerful?

Week 14: April 14 - The Bureaucracy and Policymaking (cont'd) + Course Wrap up

Required reading:

- Cochrane et al., Ch. 15 : Advocacy Groups, Social Movements and Political Participation.

Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf

Academic Accommodations

Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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.

More information on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Intellectual property

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).