

**PSCI 3607A**

**Canadian Defence Policy: Past, Present, and Future**

Wednesday, 6:05-8:55 (Please confirm schedule and location on Carleton Central)

**Instructor:** Alex McDougall

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** 613-520-2600 x 3052 (no voicemail)

**Email:** alexmcdougall@cunet.carleton.ca

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**Course Description**

This course surveys the history, evolution, and contemporary challenges of Canadian defence policy. It introduces students to the frameworks, institutions, and strategic drivers of Canadian defence, with attention to geography, budgeting, civil-military relations, and political culture. The course also examines public opinion, personnel and recruitment, and emerging challenges such as climate change, NORAD modernization, and procurement.

By the end of this course, students will understand how Canadian defence policy is shaped by strategic imperatives, domestic politics, and international commitments. They will gain analytical skills to assess Canada's past approaches, current priorities, and possible future directions, while developing the ability to communicate policy analysis in both written and oral formats.

This course is delivered **online, synchronously via Zoom** on Wednesdays from **6:05–8:55 pm**. Students are expected to attend, participate actively, and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

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**Reading Material**

The required readings are available free of charge through **Brightspace** and the **Carleton Library's electronic resources**. Assigned chapters are drawn primarily from:

- Thomas Juneau, Philippe Lagassé, and Srdjan Vucetic (eds.), *Canadian Defence Policy: Theory and Practice*, Volumes I & II.

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**Evaluation**

Item	Description	Due Date	% of Grade
Participation	Active engagement during synchronous Zoom lectures	Ongoing	10%

Item	Description	Due Date	% of Grade
Short Essay	A 2000-word essay comparing two Canadian defence policy white papers (e.g., <i>White Paper on Defence</i> (1964); <i>Defence in the 1970s</i> (1971); <i>1994 White Paper on Defence</i> ; <i>Canada First Defence Strategy</i> (2008); <i>Strong, Secure, Engaged</i> (2017); <i>Our North, Strong and Free</i> (2024)).	Oct. 8	20%
Research Essay	4000-word essay on a Canadian defence policy issue, citing at least 5 academic sources. Written approval of the topic (by email) is required.	Nov. 12	30%
Final Exam	Online, scheduled during the official exam period. E-proctored via CoMaS.	Dec. 9–20	40%

**Lateness Policy:** Late assignments are penalized 3% per day.

**AI Policy:** The use of artificial intelligence/ChatGPT for work in this course is not permitted. Students are expected to complete all readings themselves and to write in their own words. Work that fails to demonstrate engagement with course material or proper citation will not receive credit.

### **E-Proctoring Policy:**

Tests and examinations in this course will use a mandatory remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. More information: [Carleton E-Proctoring](#).

- Students are responsible for ensuring that CoMaS is installed and working properly before the exam. Failure to do so may be grounds for an Academic Integrity violation.
- Minimum computing requirements:
  - **Hardware:** Desktop or laptop (tablets, Chromebooks, smartphones, and Windows-based tablets are not supported)
  - **OS:** Windows 10 or higher, Mac OS 10.14 or higher
  - **Browser:** Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Edge
  - **Internet:** High-speed internet connection recommended
  - **Webcam:** HD resolution recommended

## **Evaluation in Detail**

### **Participation (10%)**

Students are expected to attend all synchronous Zoom sessions, contribute to discussions, and engage with peers in a respectful and constructive manner. Participation will be graded on the quality and consistency of contributions, not frequency alone. Simply attending without participating will not earn a strong grade.

### **Comparative Essay: Defence White Papers (20%)**

Students will write a 2000-word essay comparing two Canadian defence policy white papers. The goal is to

analyze how Canadian defence priorities have evolved across different political, economic, and strategic contexts.

In preparing the essay, students should:

- Summarize the key objectives and priorities of each policy.
- Identify the domestic and international context in which each was written (e.g., Cold War, post-Cold War, NATO debates, Arctic sovereignty, procurement challenges).
- Compare how the documents address recurring themes such as force structure, budgeting, personnel, alliances, and Canada's role in North America and the world.
- Evaluate continuity and change between the two papers, and what these shifts suggest about Canadian defence policy-making.

Essays must present a clear thesis, be well-organized, and use appropriate evidence from the policy documents and scholarly literature. All sources must be cited in an accepted academic style (Chicago is recommended). Approx. 2000 words (excluding references).

### **Research Essay (30%)**

Students will write a 4000-word research essay on a Canadian defence policy issue of their choice, subject to instructor approval. Essays must use at least five academic sources, with additional policy reports, government documents, and primary sources encouraged. A strong paper will present a clear thesis, engage critically with the literature, and demonstrate rigorous analysis. Essays must use a recognized citation style (Chicago, APA, or MLA).

### **Final Exam (40%)**

The final exam will be held online during the official exam period (Dec. 9–20). It will consist of essay-style questions requiring knowledge of course readings, lectures, and discussions. Students must demonstrate both factual understanding of Canadian defence policy and the ability to apply theoretical and analytical frameworks.

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## **Schedule**

### **Sept. 3 – Introduction to Canadian Defence Policy**

- Juneau, Lagassé & Vucetic, Vol. I, Introduction (pp. 1–7)

### **Sept. 10 – Fundamentals and Geography**

- Charron & Fergusson, “Canada and Defence Against Help” (pp. 99–115, Vol I)
- Nossal, “The Imperatives of Canada’s Strategic Geography” (pp. 11–28, Vol. I)
- Massie & Vucetic, “Canadian Strategic Cultures” (pp. 29–44, Vol. I)

### **Sept. 17 – Institutions**

- Lagassé, “Holding Canadian Governments to Account for National Defence” (pp. 45–61, Vol I)
- Boucher, “Public Opinion and Canadian Defence Policy” (pp. 159–178, Vol I)

- Bland, Douglas L. “Controlling the Defence Policy Process in Canada: White Papers on Defence and Bureaucratic Politics in the Department of National Defence.” *Defense Analysis* 5.1 (1989): 3–17.

#### **Sept. 24 – Defence Policy Frameworks**

- Government of Canada. *Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada’s Defence*. Ottawa: Department of National Defence, 2024.
- Chapnick & Stone, “From Policy and Strategy to Outcomes” (pp. 81–97, Vol II)
- Juneau & Rigby, “The Making of Defence Policy in Canada” (pp. 151–170, Vol II)

#### **Oct. 1 – Defence Budgeting and Strategy**

- Perry, “The Defence Budget” (Vol. II, pp. 113–132)
- Lagassé, “Defence Policy and Procurement Costs” (Vol. II, pp. 133–150)

#### **Oct. 8 – Society and Defence**

- Saideman, “Civil-Military Relations in Comparative Perspective” (pp. 119–134, Vol I)
- Stone & Solomon, “The Political Economy of Defence” (pp. 135–158, Vol I)
- Potter, “Why the Media and the Military Can’t Get Along” (pp. 201–216, Vol I)
- MacDonald, “Defence Policy Perspectives: Special Interests and Lobbying” (pp. 233–251, Vol I)

#### **Oct. 15 – NORAD and NATO**

- Charron & Fergusson, “NORAD Modernization: Past, Present, and Future” (pp. 75–95, Vol I)
- Jockel, Joseph T., and Joel J. Sokolsky. *Canada in NATO, 1949–2019*. Vol. 5. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2021. Pp. 1–63.

#### **Oct. 22 – Fall Break (No Class)**

#### **Oct. 29 – Afghanistan**

- Jockel, Joseph T., and Joel J. Sokolsky. *Canada in NATO, 1949–2019*. Vol. 5. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2021. Pp. 188–211.
- Saideman, Stephen M. *Adapting in the Dust: Lessons Learned from Canada’s War in Afghanistan*. University of Toronto Press, 2016. Pp. 85–129.

#### **Nov. 5 – Arctic and Climate Change**

- Lajeunesse & Lackenbauer, “Defence Policy in the Canadian Arctic: From Jean Chrétien to Justin Trudeau” (Vol. I, pp. 365–382)
- Greaves, “Climate Insecurity and Canadian Defence” (Vol. II, pp. 51–73)

#### **Nov. 12 – Technology**

- Carvin, “Canadian Defence and New Technologies” (Vol. I, pp. 383–397)

- Sloan, Elinor Camille. *The Revolution in Military Affairs: Implications for Canada and NATO*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002. Pp. 3–23, 183–212.

#### **Nov. 19 – Culture and Social Issues in the Canadian Military**

- Juneau & Lagassé, Vol. II, Introduction (pp. 1–7)
- MacKenzie, “Sexual Misconduct and the Crisis of Defence Culture” (pp. 9–28, Vol II)
- Lane, “Women in the Canadian Armed Forces” (Vol. I, pp. 351–364)
- Goldenberg & Otis, “CAF Reconstitution: The Critical Role of Retention” (Vol. II, pp. 29–50)

#### **Nov. 26 – Canada–U.S. Relations and Missile Defence**

- Barry, Don. “Canada and Missile Defence: Saying No to Mr. Bush.” *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies* 12.3 (2010).
- Fergusson, James. “The Canadian Ballistic Missile Dilemma.” CGAI, 2025.

#### **Dec. 3 – Wrap-Up**

## **Political Science Course Outline Appendix**

### **REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

#### **Student Mental Health**

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

#### **Emergency Resources (on and off campus):**

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

#### **Carleton Resources:**

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

<https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC):

<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS):

<https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

#### **Off Campus Resources:**

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or  
TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389,  
<https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:

<https://walkincounselling.com>

**Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances:** Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University. Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more

information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

**Pregnancy:** 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca) or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

**Religious obligation:** 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 [click here](#).

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with**

**Disabilities:** 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, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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*).

**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 its 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

**Accommodation for 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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

### 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). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

### OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each terms Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

**For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).**

### GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

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

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

### 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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640
Loeb	
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Library	
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
Nideyinàn	
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory

