



DOUGLAS COLLEGE

**EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2012
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

A. Division: Academic Effective Date: September 2012

B. Department / Faculty of Humanities & Social Revision New Course
 Program Area: Sciences / Political Science

If Revision, Section(s) Revised: A, F, M, N, O, P, Q
 Date of Previous Revision: April 2004
 Date of Current Revision: March 2012

C: POLI 1102 **D:** Introduction to Canadian Government **E:** 3

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
F: Calendar Description: This course explores the structure and functions of the main institutions of Canadian government. Students will examine Canada's constitutional history and modern constitutional challenges, Canadian federalism, the prime minister, the Cabinet, the Parliament, the bureaucracy, and the judiciary. The course provides the basis for understanding Canada's parliamentary system and more advanced study of Canadian governments. Students are encouraged to enroll in both POLI 1102 (Introduction to Canadian Government) and POLI 2202 (Introduction to Canadian Politics) to enhance their university transfer if majoring in political science.		
G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lecture and seminar Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor) Lecture: 2 hrs. per week/semester Seminar: 2hrs. per week/semester Number of Weeks per Semester: 15	H: Course Prerequisites: None	
	I: Course Corequisites: None	
	J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite: POLI 2202	
	K: Maximum Class Size: 35	
L: PLEASE INDICATE: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Credit <input type="checkbox"/> College Credit Non-Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College Credit Transfer: SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bctransferguide.ca)		

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

Upon conclusion of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. distinguish between pluralist, public choice, class, state-centred, and globalization approaches to the study of Canadian government;
2. describe major institutions in the Canadian political system, for example, the constitution, the political executive, Parliament, the courts, and the civil service;
3. explain the functions of the main institutions of Canada's political system such as passing, implementing, executing, and adjudicating legislation;
4. apply understanding of course objectives and content in a formal research essay;
5. pursue study in more advanced work in Canadian government and politics courses.

N: Course Content:1. The Canadian Constitution

This section covers the origins and evolution of the Canadian constitution, the formal executive, the monarchy and Governor General, the structure of the judiciary, federal and provincial legislative authority, the 1982 patriation of Canada's constitution and key post-1982 events such as the Meech Lake and Charlottetown accords, the 1995 Quebec succession referendum, and the Clarity Act.

2. Federalism

This section examines and evaluates concepts of Canadian federalism. The major challenges to federalism will be examined in terms of dualism (French/English), Quebec nationalism, and the regional dynamics that influence the legislative authority of both federal and provincial governments.

3. The Prime Minister, Ministry, and Cabinet

The role and powers of the political executive are examined, with particular emphasis on the prime minister. Cabinet formulation and structure as well as the roles of Cabinet ministers are discussed. Policy formulation at the executive level is examined, with reference to major coordinating agencies such as the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office.

4. Legislative Politics

The structure and roles of the Canadian parliament are examined, with particular reference to the governing and opposition parties, parliamentary processes, the committee system, and the roles of elected members of Parliament.

5. The Civil Service

The basic structure and role of the civil service is explored, with particular emphasis placed on the role the civil service plays in terms of the development and implementation of public policy.

O: Methods of Instruction:

Instructor presentation of the course will involve the use of formal lectures, structured group work, in-class discussion, and student presentations or formal debates. Additional readings may be assigned for each course unit and placed on library reserve or via selected websites. Audio-visual and interactive materials may be used.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:

Textbooks and readers will be selected based on instructor expertise and preference, and in consultation with the Department of Political Science. There are a range of textbooks and readers that can fulfill course objectives. Some examples include:

Bickerton, James and Alain-G. Gagnon. eds., *Canadian Politics*. Fifth edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009).

Brooks, Stephen. *Canadian Democracy: An Introduction*. Sixth edition (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Dyck, Rand. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*. Sixth edition (Toronto: Nelson, 2011).

Malcolmson, Patrick and Richard Myers. *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada*. Fourth edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009).

Mintz, Eric, Livianna Tossutti, and Christopher Dunn. *Democracy, Diversity and Good Government: An Introduction to Politics in Canada* (Toronto: Pearson Education, 2011).

Q: Means of Assessment:

The course evaluation will be based on course objectives and in accordance with the policies of Douglas College and the Department of Political Science. A minimum of 40% of the student's course grade will be assigned to examinations, a minimum of 30% will be assigned to the various components of a formal research essay, and a maximum of 30% will be based upon components such as quizzes, short essays, participation, and class presentations. Specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor in course outlines.

One example of an evaluation system:

Mid-term exam	25%
Participation	10%
Presentation	10%
Research essay	30%
Final exam	<u>25%</u>
Total:	100%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

Course Designer: Jeanette Ashe, M.A.
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Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean: Catherine Carlson, Ph.D.

Registrar