

**AP/PPAS 2110-3.0 Canadian Government
Course Outline Winter 2021**

Fully On-Line – Moodle/Zoom

Wednesday, 10:30am-12:30pm(Synchronous delivery)

Course Director: Dr. Peter P. Constantinou

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Office hrs: 9:30am-10:30am on Wednesdays or by appointment

	Date/Time	Professor/TA
Lecture	Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm	Peter Constantinou
Tutorial 01	Wednesday 9:30am-10:30am	Adam Schachhuber
Tutorial 02	Wednesday 9:30am-10:30am	Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith
Tutorial 03	Wednesday 1:30pm-2:30pm	Adam Schachhuber
Tutorial 04	Wednesday 1:30pm-2:30pm	Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith

Course Description:

This course provides a systematic introduction to Canadian government and politics with a particular focus on political institutions. Topics will include the executive, the legislature, the judiciary, federalism, the policy process, electoral behavior, and group politics. Course credit exclusions: AP/PPAS 2110 6.00 (prior to Fall 2013), AP/POLS 2910 6.00, GL/POLS 2600 6.00. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Course credit exclusion: AS/POLS 2910 6.00.

Learning Objectives

This course will help students to:

- Become familiar with the predominant political and governmental institutions and players in Canada.
- Develop an understanding and awareness of the key constitutional principles that underpin government in Canada.
- Become aware of the context for the work of professional public servants in the framework of different levels of Canadian government.
- Become familiar with the policy development process in Canada.
- Develop an understanding of the information necessary so students can become informed participants in the Canadian democratic process.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Develop an understanding of basic social science research (including proper referencing techniques) and communications skills.

Teaching Methodology:

This course is delivered entirely on-line. Although it is delivered on line, it aims to replicate a classroom experience through live video lectures, presentation slide materials, on-line live discussions, and interactive forums.

Classes will comprise various formats; lecture, class discussion, workshops and simulations. Lectures will provide the context for the readings, which should be completed before the date listed. Discussions will build on the readings and lecture material and all students are expected to actively participate. In a number of instances, workshops will be conducted where students will be charged with working together in groups to produce results/answers to questions/challenges presented in class. These workshops will focus on how to conduct/prepare various analyses and government documents

About Moodle and Zoom

Moodle is the learning platform used by York University to allow us to have a personalized learning platform/environment for our course. The free site allows us to access all the materials, such as slide decks, assignments and videos, as well as a secure site for us to upload student work for assessment.

Zoom is a free video conferencing software app that allows us to engage virtually for video, presentations, group work and chat rooms. More detail about these systems will be shared at the beginning of the course. Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Technology requirements and FAQs for Moodle can be found here - <http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html>

Students are strongly encouraged to prepare for class by completing the readings, participate in the discussion and take an active role in the workshops.

Prerequisites: None

Required Texts:

- Malcolmson, P., Myers, R., Baier, G. Bateman, M. 2016. *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada, Sixth Ed.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 978-1442635968. Hereafter: Malcolmson

Weighting of Course:

Course Item	Course Weight	Due Date
Term Test #1	20%	Week 6
Term Test #2	20%	Week 11
Paper proposals and thesis statement	10%	Week 3
Annotated bibliography	10%	Week 7
Participation (in tutorial)	10%	Throughout
Research Essay	30%	Week 12

Term Test #1

Term test #1 is worth 20% of the final grade for the course and is scheduled for week 5 in the first hour of the lecture. The test is closed book and will include all materials (readings, discussions and handouts) to that date. Details on the format of the test will be presented in class well in advance of the test date.

Term Test #2

Term test #2 is worth 20% of the final grade for the course and is scheduled for week 11 at will take up the entire lecture time (1 hour and 50 minutes). The test is closed book, is not cumulative and will only include all materials (readings, discussions and handouts) from after Term Test #1. Details on the format of the exam will be presented in class well in advance of the test date.

Paper Proposal and thesis statement (Due via Moodle at the start of lecture in week 3)

It is important to pick a topic for your final paper. The purpose of this assignment is to have you pick a topic and think about your thesis statement – what you will argue in your paper. You are welcome to pick any topic related to Canadian government. The assignment should include the following:

1. An introduction that tells the reader something about the topic, why it is a problem or relevant today.
2. A clear research question that your final research paper will attempt to answer in an persuasive way.
3. Your thesis. What the paper will argue. I would like to see the following phrase “This paper will argue that …” in your paper.
4. An outline of the principal sections of your paper and the arguments that you will likely present in each section.

Annotated Bibliography (due via Moodle at the start of lecture in week 7)

The purpose of this assignment is to get you started on your major course assignment, your final research paper. This assignment gets you started on your research for your major research paper. This annotated bibliography will include a minimum of 10 sources of information related to your selected topic. These sources can only be academic journal articles, academic books, government documents that include reports, position papers, policy statements, and so on. You cannot use other non-peer reviewed sources. An annotated bibliography is a list of sources (i.e., books, journal articles, etc.) with summaries or annotations, describing or analyzing the contents of each source and how you will use it in your paper. For further information on how to prepare an annotated bibliography visit the York Libraries website at <http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/ResearchAndInstruction/citationmgmt/index>.

The length of the annotated bibliography should be no less than 3-5 pages. Please note that the annotated bibliography portion of the assignment should be typed, single spaced and not double spaced like the statement of your selected research topic. This assignment should be uploaded onto the course Moodle site.

Class Participation

While participation in the full lecture is difficult because of the size of the class, students are expected to participate fully in the tutorials. Students should attend class, demonstrate that they have read the assigned readings, thought about the material and the discussion at hand, and add value to the classroom discussion.

Individual student participation is worth 10% of the final grade. *Students are strongly encouraged to prepare for class by completing the readings, and participate in the tutorial discussion. If you come to class and do not say a word, even if you attend every class, you will get zero for participation. Attendance is necessary in order to participate, but this grade is for making valuable contributions to the discussion, not just showing up. Demonstrate preparedness and add value and you will be rewarded.*

Research Essay (Due via Moodle at the start of lecture in Week 12 - late papers will not be accepted.)

The research essay must be 10-12 pages in length using double-spacing and 12 point font. The research paper must be professional in all aspects. The essay should include the following:

- Title page (title of paper, author’s name and student number, professor’s name, course number and date)
- Introduction
- Thesis statement
- Body of the essay – arguments supported by evidence and research
- Conclusion(s)
- References

You must have page numbers. The research essay must be a holistic work that demonstrates considerable research, writing and thinking. Grades will be deducted for typos and other grammatical errors. You must have the paper read (edited) by others before submitting it. You must cite the sources that you have used, using APA Style. This assignment should be uploaded onto the course Moodle site.

Re-Grading Policy and Procedure:

If, after looking over the written comments of the marker, and the marks you have received, you feel that your work deserves re-consideration, you must observe the following procedures:

- Create a typed note containing the following: (i) Your name, (ii) Your Student Number, (iii) The criteria against which you believe you have been graded incorrectly, and (iv) An explanation of why the marker has overlooked or misunderstood your exam's merits, or as re-acted too severely to your exam answers' shortcomings.
- Hand written submissions will not be considered, it shows a lack of serious intent.
- Re-grading will be based only on what you submit in writing, not what you might tell your Professor in person.
- Staple your typed note to your graded answer booklet and give it to your Professor in class the following week.
- If you are unable to attend the following week's class for any reason, ask a classmate to deliver your re-grading request to the Professor.
- Your Professor will re-grade the entire written material. Re-grading means that your answers will be re-evaluated and a new grade may be assigned. This means that it is possible to lose marks as well as to gain marks through re-grading.
- Please do not submit your materials for re-grading unless you are confident that a grading error has occurred. Re-graded materials should be available to you the following week, although occasionally a response may take two weeks.

Late Assignments/Missed Tests/Deadlines:

The graded assignments are not optional. Late assignments will not be accepted. There will be no opportunity to make-up missed tests.

Please see the important dates listed below: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw19>

Access to Education is a Right:

The instructor will strive to make whatever accommodations are required so that each student has the opportunity to succeed regardless of disability. However, it is your responsibility to make the instructor aware of your need for such accommodation and to provide documentation at the start of the term to support your request. Such documentation might be in the form of a letter or form from the appropriate on-campus agency or your personal care-giver or counselor. Last minute requests will not be allowed.

Plagiarism and other forms of Cheating:

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating devalue the work of every student who works to complete a degree or any other sort of education. As noted in the University policies, York seriously frowns on it and has requested that all instructors vigorously pursue suspected cases. If plagiarism is suspected, the instructor reserves the right to use any tools at his disposal, including contacting other instructors and staff (both at York and other institutions) and text comparison software, to resolve the matter.

Review the following: <https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Detailed Class Schedule:

Week/Date	Topic/Readings
Week 1 January 13	Lecture: Introduction/course expectations – no readings No Tutorials this week
Week 2 January 20	Lecture: Setting the context for the study of Canadian Government Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapter 1 Tutorial: Study, research and essay writing skills
Week 3 January 27	Lecture: The Constitution and Responsible Government Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapters 2 and 3 Paper outline and thesis statement due via Moodle at the start of lecture
Week 4 February 3	Lecture: Federalism and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapters 4 and 5
Week 5 February 10	Term Test 1 (first hour of lecture) Lecture: The Crown Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapter 6
February 17	Reading Week February 20-24 - no class or tutorials
Week 6 February 24	Lecture: The structure and function of government I Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapters 7 and 8
Week 7 March 3	Lecture: The structure and function of government II Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapters 7 and 8 Annotated Bibliography due via Moodle at the start of lecture
Week 8 March 10	Lecture: Parties and interest groups – Chapter 10 Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapters 10
Week 9 March 17	Lecture: Elections and political behaviour Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapter 9
Week 10 March 24	Lecture: Public Policy Making Malcolmson, et al. (2016). Chapter 11
Week 11 March 31	Term Test 2 in class time (two hours)
Week 12 April 7	Guest speaker – Member of Provincial Parliament Review of Term Test 1 Answers Final Paper due via Moodle at the start of the lecture