

YORK UNIVERSITY – (DRAFT SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AP/PPAS 2110 W M 3.0 Canadian Government (Lecture – Wednesday 10:30-12:30)

Professor: Ian Roberge, Ph.D.

Course Website: eClass

Office location: 042 McLaughlin

Office hours: Monday 3:15-4:15

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Course credit exclusions: AP/POLS 2910 6.00, GL/POLS 2600 6.00, AP/POLS 2100 3.0. Previously offered as: AP/PPAS 2110 6.00.

Lecture – SLH A	Wednesday 10:30-12:30 pm	Ian Roberge
Tutorial 1 – DB 0011	Wednesday 9:30-10:30 am	Adam Schachhuber
Tutorial 2 – DB 0013	Wednesday 9:30-10:30 am	Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith
Tutorial 3 – ACE 008	Wednesday 1:30-2:30 pm	Adam Schachhuber
Tutorial 4 – SC 212	Wednesday 1:30-2:30 pm	Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.

Course Description

This course provides a systematic introduction to Canadian government and politics emphasizing political institutions. What are the functions of government? What are the main characteristics of the Canadian government? What are the functions and roles of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government? How does the Canadian government compare to governments in other countries? This course addresses other topics such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Aboriginal governance, federalism, as well as elections, and the party system. By the end of the term, students will be able to reflect upon and engage in conversations about the Canadian government and our politics that go beyond the headlines to the core of how collectively we have chosen to govern ourselves.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term, students will be able to:

- 1) Explain how the Canadian government works and address the functions and roles of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government;
- 2) Describe major institutions such as the Constitution, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and federalism;
- 3) Read and think critically in the field of Canadian government;
- 4) Conduct in-depth research about government, and present findings in an engaging way;
- 5) Debate and appreciate differences in perspectives relating to the workings of government and politics and reflect on the state of Canadian democracy.

Format

This is an in-person course. Presence for the lecture and the tutorial are mandatory. Students are encouraged to participate actively to maximize their learning. This course also has an eClass site that contains PowerPoint presentations of lectures, links to select supplementary readings, course announcements, etc. Students are advised to log in to take advantage of easily accessible resources.

Students are strongly encouraged to keep up on current affairs by reading and listening to a diversity of media outlets. Students will benefit most from this course if they keep up with the news and are abreast of developments across Canadian society.

Tutorials: The objective of the tutorial is to provide students with greater support in their learning so that they attain the course learning outcomes. During the tutorial, the TA is responsible for reviewing key concepts and explaining course material through another lens. The TA guides students in their course assignments. The TA encourages respectful and open dialogue that relates to course material. Tutorials also allow students to ask any questions they may have about the course. The TA is also the student's first point of contact for the course whether that be a question about an assignment, unforeseen challenges, or any other reasons. The TA is there to support student success, which most often takes place via the tutorial.

This is an in-person course; students are expected to attend classes and tutorials in person. There will be no accommodation and the course cannot be completed remotely.

If you fall ill for a prolonged period, please contact your TA who will assist you and make sure you have the opportunity to meet course learning requirements and complete the course. Please note that if I or one of the TAs fall ill for a prolonged period, adjustments to the class or tutorials and mode of delivery may be required to continue with teaching and learning. In such a situation, students will be given the necessary information to adjust.

If we are required due to changing York University and public health guidelines to revert temporarily or permanently to an online course, students will, here as well, be provided with updated information to continue and if need be complete the course remotely.

Required Textbook (available for purchase at the York Bookstore):

Malcolmson, Patrick, Richard Morley Myers, Gerald Baier, and Thomas Michael Joseph Bateman. 2021. *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada*, Seventh edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Assignments

Students are asked to complete three assignments throughout the term. Students must select and complete one assignment per category. The third assignment is an assessment to take place during the examination period at the end of the year. Students must fill out the assignment selection form that is on eClass and submit it before January 18; they will not be allowed to change their selection past this date.

Critical Thinking (20%) Due February 13

*Please select **one of the two** assignments below.*

Option A – Book Review: Students must select and review a book of relevance to the study of the Canadian government. Students are provided with a list of books from which to choose. The objective is to determine how the book contributes to the advancement of knowledge within the subject matter. The book review must not exceed 1250 words. Students will be assessed based on their understanding of the book, and of the material; their analytical skills; the presentation and organization of their ideas; and, writing skills and format.

Option B – Short Essay: Drawn from the Canada School of Public Service national essay competition for graduate students, students are asked to write a short 1250 words essay addressing one of the following research questions:

- What are your ideas on helping to ensure that the public service is ready to meet the needs of the future?
- What are the major social, economic, technological and/or environmental challenges facing Canada in the next decade, and which strategies should Canada pursue to address them?
- Which emerging topics will have a significant impact on the federal public service and service excellence for Canadians?
- What would it take to move your idea from policy approval to implementation?

As stated for the competition, 'each paper should be a forward-looking think piece that explores innovative ideas and approaches to help position Canada and Canadians for the coming decade through solutions delivered by the Public Service of Canada.'

Students must conduct research as appropriate. Papers must follow academic guidelines, especially for citing sources and the bibliography. Students will be assessed based on the logic of their argument and their

analytical skills, the creativity of their response; the presentation and organization of their ideas; and, writing skills and format.

Reference: 'National Student Paper Competition.' Canada School of Public Service. February 22, 2022.
<https://www.cspc-efpc.gc.ca/nspc/index-eng.aspx>

Research (40%) Due March 20

*Please select **one of the two** assignments below.*

Option A – Research Poster (Digital): Students must complete a research project in the study of the Canadian government and present their findings by creating a digital poster. The topic must be pre-approved by the TA. Students must have a research question and a thesis; they must review the literature and develop their argument and sustain it throughout using solid evidence that allows them to come to well-reasoned conclusions. Students must submit an accompanying bibliography to the poster listing sources consulted and used as part of this project. Students will be assessed on the comprehensiveness and quality of the research; the logic of their argument and their analytical skills; the format and visual appeal of the poster, its creativity and originality; and, the overall contribution to the field.

Option B – Podcast – Group Project

In teams of two, students must prepare and record a 12–15-minute podcast on a topic of interest in the study of the Canadian government. The topic must be pre-approved by the TA. Students must submit the podcast transcript along with the recording. Students must also submit an accompanying bibliography that lists the sources consulted and used as part of this project. Students will be assessed on the breadth and depth of their research; their understanding of the material; their analytical skills; the presentation and organization of the material including creativity and originality in content and presentation; and, use of the format. Both students will be given the same grade, and it is up to students to determine how best to work together to ensure a fair distribution of the workload.

Knowledge of the field (30%) Examination Period – Date TBC

*Please select **one of the two** assignments below.*

Option A – Take-Home Examination

Students will have one week to answer two of three essay-type questions. The answer to each question must not exceed 1250 words, and the total length must not exceed 2500 words. Students are not required to conduct outside research for this examination and are to use course material. The essays, however, must follow academic guidelines, especially for citing sources and the bibliography. Students will be primarily assessed based on their demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the material covered in the course.

Option B – Oral Examination

Students selecting this option will be given three questions to review, and on which to prepare a 10-minute presentation. Upon the day and time of the examination, the TA will ask the student one of the three questions

and the student will be given an extra 15 minutes to finalize their presentation. The student will present for ten minutes, and there will be a follow-up Q&A for five minutes. The total time of the examination, including final preparation, will not exceed thirty minutes. Students will be primarily assessed based on their demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the material covered in the course.

Engagement with the Course - Participation (10%)

The participation grade applies to all students. Presence is mandatory and students are expected to actively engage with the course. Students will be assessed on presence; active listening and engagement; and, participation in the tutorial including in-class assignments, exercises, and discussions.

Grading, Assignment Submissions, and Late Policy

Grading: Assignments will be graded as per their weight in the final grade; the sums of all grades add up to the student's final mark. The final letter grade will be determined as illustrated:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Per Cent Range</i>	<i>Description</i>
A+	90-100	Exceptional
A	80-89	Excellent
B+	75-79	Very Good
B	70-74	Good
C+	65-69	Competent
C	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	55-59	Passing
D	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	40-49	Marginally Failing
F	0-39	Failing

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. Information on the **Pass/Fail Grading Option**.

Please note that students who wish to designate a course as Pass/Fail must do so within the first two weeks of the term in which the course begins.

Last Date to Withdraw from the Course: The last day to withdraw from this course without receiving a final grade is March 17, 2023.

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work well, and on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received by 23:59 on the due date specified for the assignment. Written assignments should be submitted using eClass.

In pursuing their work, students are encouraged to contact their TA for all necessary support, to ask questions and seek guidance, and to do so as early as possible. TAs will be happy to work with you and make sure that you submit an assignment that reflects the best of your abilities.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be assessed with a 5% penalty per day. No assignment will be accepted beyond one week of the due date.

Life happens. If there are circumstances that make it difficult for you to complete an assignment on time, please let the TA or me know as early as possible. Accommodation and flexibility are much easier when requests are made early, as opposed to close or after the deadline. Requests made after the due date will generally not be accepted. Communication truly is the easiest way to address a developing issue. Save your draft assignments and rough notes in case intellectual property or computer/internet problems arise.

Important Course Information

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Academic Honesty and Integrity

York students are required to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and are subject to the **Senate Policy on Academic Honesty**. The Policy affirms the responsibility of faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to abide by such standards. Cheating and plagiarism are extremely serious academic offences that will result in **severe sanctions**.

There is also an academic integrity website with comprehensive information about academic honesty and how to find resources at York to help improve students' research and writing skills and cope with University life. Students are expected to review the materials on the **Academic Integrity website**.

Accessibility

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the University recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. The University encourages students with disabilities to register with **Student Accessibility Services** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors through their Letter of Accommodation (LOA).

Please let your TA and instructor know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation. Sufficient notice is needed so that reasonable steps for accommodation can be discussed. Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making reasonable and appropriate **accommodations to adherents for observances of special significance**. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course examinations, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact your instructor within the first three (3) weeks of class. If the date falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a **Religious Accommodation for Examination Form** at least three (3) weeks before the start of the exam period.

Student Conduct in the Learning Environment

York University is committed to fostering teaching and learning environments that are free of disruptive and/or harassing behaviour, are physically safe, and are conducive to effective teaching and learning. Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy, civility, and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Individuals who fail to adhere to such standards and who violate University or public law may be subject to disciplinary action by the University. For more information, see the policies on **Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in Academic Situations**, the **Student Code of Conduct and Responsibilities**, and the **Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities**.

Health and Safety

All York students and instructors share responsibility for the safety and well-being of the community while on York's campuses. Please continue to check [YUBetter Together](#) for the latest information on health and safety.

Weekly Lecture Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction / Studying the Canadian Government

Lecture only / No tutorial

Week 2 – The Canadian Regime / The Constitution

The Canadian Regime – Chapters 1 & 2

Week 3 – Responsible Government / The Crown and its Servants

The Canadian Regime – Chapters 3 & 4

Week 4 – Parliament

The Canadian Regime – Chapter 5

Week 5 – Elections and Political Parties

The Canadian Regime – Chapters 6 & 7

Week 6 – The Judiciary

The Canadian Regime – Chapter 10

Week 7 – The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The Canadian Regime – Chapter 9

Week 8 – Federalism and Provincial Governments

The Canadian Regime – Chapter 8

Recommended: Simmons Julie A. 2017. 'Ontario and Contemporary Intergovernmental Relations: Still a Responsible Partner in Confederation.' *The Politics of Ontario*, edited by Cheryl N. Collier and Jonathan Malloy. North York, Ontario: University of Toronto Press.

Week 9 – Local Government

Henstra, Daniel. 2017. 'Local Government and Politics in Ontario.' *The Politics of Ontario*, edited by Cheryl N. Collier and Jonathan Malloy. North York, Ontario: University of Toronto Press.

Week 10 – Gender and the Canadian Government

Tremblay, Manon, Joanna Everitt. 2020. 'Introduction: Approaching Canadian Politics Through a Gender Lens.' *The Palgrave Handbook of Gender, Sexuality, and Canadian Politics*, edited by Manon Tremblay and Joanna Everitt. Cham: Springer International Publishing AG.

Recommended: Collier, Cheryl N. 2017. 'A Path Well-Traveled or Hope on the Horizon? Women, Gender, and Politics in Ontario.' *The Politics of Ontario*, edited by Cheryl N. Collier and Jonathan Malloy. North York, Ontario: University of Toronto Press.

Week 11 – Indigenous Self-Governance

Ikolakis, William, Pierre, Sophie. 2019. 'The Evolution of Indigenous Self-Governance in Canada.' *Reclaiming Indigenous Governance: Reflections and Insights from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States*, edited by William Nikolakis, Stephen Cornell, and Harry Nelson. University of Arizona Press, 55-70.

Week 12 – The Futures of the Canadian Government

Recommended: Policy Horizons Canada: <https://horizons.gc.ca/en/home/>

Student Support and Resources

To help students succeed academically, York University offers a wide range of resources and services. Everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance is available to fulfil our LA&PS students' needs. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

Academic Advising is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.

Student Accessibility Services are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.

Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.

Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Program provides student study sessions for students to collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in certain courses.

Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele (SNACK) supports students in courses involving math, stats, and Excel.

The Writing Centre provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio, and an Accessibility Specialist.

ESL Open Learning Centre (OLC) supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English.

Learning Skills Services provides tips for time management, effective study and learning habits, keeping up with coursework, and other learning-related supports.

Learning Commons provides links to support for time management, writing, study skills, preparing for exams, and other learning-related resources.

Roadmap to Student Success provides students with timely and targeted resources to help them achieve academic, personal and professional success.

The **Office of Student Community Relations (OSCR)** is responsible for administering the **Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities** and provides critical incident support.

goSAFE is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pick-up hub, parking lots, bus stops, or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness, and campus resources visit **Student Support & Resources**.

Course Specific Resources

There is considerable information available on the Web on the Canadian government and public administration. Some of the websites below may be of assistance in your research and of interest in exploring issues related to public administration.

Canada School of Public Service: information about the latest news and trends in executive learning, including information about executive education and development programs and services and documents

The Innovation Journal: an independent, peer-reviewed, journal devoted to sharing ideas and discussing public sector administration innovation

Institute of Public Administration of Canada: national non-profit organization, concerned with the theory and practice of public management, with 17 regional groups across Canada

Office of the Auditor General of Canada: publications, including searchable full text of the Reports of the Auditor General

Parliament: access to the House of Commons, Senate and the Library of Parliament, including debates, committee proceedings, and status of legislation

Privacy Commissioner of Canada: includes annual reports

Privy Council Office: includes annual reports to the Prime Minister

Public Service Commission of Canada: responsible for promoting and safeguarding a merit-based, representative and non-partisan public service that serves all Canadians.

There are also many websites related to both public administration and public policy that might be useful for this course.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Canada West Foundation

Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD)

CD Howe Institute

Conference Board of Canada

Fraser Institute

International Labour Organization

Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP)

Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)

Vanier Institute