

**York University**  
**School of Public Policy and Administration**  
**AP/PPAS 2110 3.0 Section M**  
**Canadian Government**  
**Winter 2025**

**Course Director; Dr. Sirvan Karimi**

**Class Hours: Wednesday(s): 10:30 AM-12:30 PM**

**Class location: SLH F**

**Office Hours and Location: 134 McLaughlin College,**

**Phone: EXT**

**Email: [dalaho@yorku.ca](mailto:dalaho@yorku.ca)**

### ***Land Acknowledgment***

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 to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region ([LA&PS Land Acknowledgement](#)).

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the key institutions and processes in the Canadian political system. This objective is largely pursued with a discussion of the origins and subsequent evolution of the Canadian constitution, including federalism, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, different branches of government, and key non-state political phenomena, such as political parties, elections, interest groups, and social movements. The relative roles and nature of these institutional structures will be evaluated in terms of the quality of democratic representation and participation. Finally, the course will assess the Canadian democratic experience.

### **Learning Objectives:**

Students are expected to acquire a foundational understanding of the institutional structures of Canadian political system as well as the interplay of economic, political and social forces that structure the terrain of politics in Canada. The primary objective of the course is to equip students with critical and analytical tools that are essential to evaluate Canadian political institutions and practices in Canada particularly, governmental policies and nature of Canadian democracy.

**Format:**

The course will consist of lectures and tutorials. Two hours lecture and an hour tutorial  
**Lecture handouts and course announcements will be posted on the eClass.**

**Required Textbook.**

**1- Patrick Malcolmson et al. (2021). The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada. 7th Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.**

**Suggested Book:**

John C. Courtney and David E. Smith (Eds). The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2010 (electronically **available**).  
<https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/28243>

**\*\*\* During study, additional readings may be assigned or recommended.**

**Course Communication:**

Students are encouraged to bring their questions and concerns to the attention of the course director during scheduled office hours which will be held on Friday (s) between 1-2 PM in 133 McLaughlin College. Students can also communicate with the course director via email. For students to communicate with one another, Students are encouraged to post questions in discussion forums on eClass)

**Course Evaluation**

Assessment	Due Date	Weight %	Course Learning Outcome
Mid-Term	Feb 16	30	A foundational understanding of course materials
Research Paper	March 22	30	Adhering to guidelines governing a conventional research paper

Final Exam	In April	30 is not cumulative	A Foundational comprehension of the course materials
Participation		10	Both attendance and participation in the discussion
		<b>100%</b>	

GRADE	GRADE POINT	PERCENT RANGE	DESCRIPTION
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	40-49	Marginally Failing
F	0	0-39	Failing

**\*\*\* Keep a hard copy of all the work you submit.**

## **Lecture and Reading Schedule.**

### **Part I: Introduction to State Formation**

#### **Week 1: Institutional Foundations of the Canadian State**

##### **Required Readings:**

##### **Ch1**

Canadian History:

<http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/eras/confederation/Confederation.html>

#### **Week 2: The Social Context: Regionalism, Indigenous Peoples, Quebec, Multiculturalism**

##### Required Readings

Christopher Cochrane and Andrea Perrella. (2012). Regionalism and Regional Differences in Canada. Canadian Journal of Political Science / Revue canadienne de science politique, Vol. 45, No. 4 (December 2012 décembre), pp. 829-853

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/23391058.pdf>

Stéphane Dion. The Quebec Challenge to Canadian Unity, Political Science and Politics, Mar. 1993, Vol. 26, No. 1 (Mar. 1993), pp. 38- 43

##### **Suggested Readings:**

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/419502.pdf>

The Government of Canada's Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100031843/1539869205136>

##### **Canadian Multiculturalism**

[https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en\\_CA/ResearchPublications/200920E](https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/200920E)

#### **Week 3: Federalism**

##### **Required Readings**

##### **Ch 8**

**Week 4: Constitution**

**Required Readings**

Ch 2

**Week 5: The Charter**

**Required Readings**

Ch 9

**Part II: Machinery of Government: Political Institutions**

**Week 6: The Executive Branch**

**Required Readings**

Ch 3, ch4

**7: The Parliament**

**Required Readings**

Ch5

**Week 8: The Judiciary**

**Required Readings**

Ch 10

**Part III: Political Participation: Democracy in Action**

**Week 9: The Canadian Political Culture**

**Required Readings**

G. Horowitz. Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism in Canada: An Interpretation. The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science / Revue canadienne d'Economie et de Science politique, Vol. 32, No. 2 (May, 1966), pp. 143-171. [www.jstor.org/stable/139794](http://www.jstor.org/stable/139794)

The Political Culture of Canada

[https://northrose.ca/previews/Telford\\_02.pdf](https://northrose.ca/previews/Telford_02.pdf)

**Week 10: Elections**

**Required Readings**

Ch6

**Week 11: Political Parties and Interest Groups**

**Required Readings**

Ch 7

### **Suggested Readings**

Karimi, Sirvan. (2024). Populism and the Quest for Political Power: The Pitfalls to Populist Electoral Success in Canada. *Springer Nature. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications Journal*. Vol. 11, no, 220, PP.1-23.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-024-02683-5>

### **Week 12: The Democratic deficit**

Sudin, Irvin, "Revisiting the Democratic Deficit: The Urgent Case for Political Party Think Tanks" (2008). *Comparative Research in Law & Political Economy. Research Paper No. 32/2008*.

<https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/clpe/203/>

Canadian Justice Review Board. Democratic Deficit Articles

<https://www.canadianjusticereviewboard.ca/articles-caselaw/categories/democracy-deficit>

**The Democratic Deficit**, by Policy Options. December 1, 2002

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/kyoto/the-democratic-deficit/>

### **Week 13: Review**

#### **Accommodation for Disability:**

Students with disabilities who require adaptations or services must discuss their needs with the instructor. Accommodation for disabilities must be arranged in conjunction with the Office for Persons with Disabilities.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is generally considered to be the most serious academic misconduct that a student can commit. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, instances of plagiarism will be serious.

academic consequences. To avoid slipping into the realm of plagiarism, students are advised to familiarize themselves with York University's definition of academic dishonesty.

<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

#### **Reappraisals:**

For petition and reappraisal procedures and information, visit the Senate's website at

<http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2012-2013/policies/petitions/>

