

[Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies](#)

Department of Politics--York University

AP/POLS 2100 3.0 M

Winter 2025

**Introduction to Canadian Politics  
Course Syllabus**

**Course Director:** Glenn Goshulak  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:30 to 12:00 in South Ross 669 or by appointment on Zoom (email me)  
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**Course Description**

This course outlines the basic theoretical and empirical background to understanding the institutions of the Canadian state in a North American context. A central theme of the course will be the democratic challenges faced by Canadians and the Canadian state in the twenty-first century.

Throughout the course, the quality of democratic institutions in the Canadian state will be assessed. The relative roles of the executive and the legislature, the organization of political parties and elections, and the nature and development of federalism will all be assessed in terms of the quality of democratic representation and participation. The impact of the North American context, particularly the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), in influencing the quality of democracy will be considered as part of this overall evaluation of political institutions and processes. The course considers these themes and the challenges that have arisen to the weakening of decision makers' authorities by non-state actors and what new ideas regarding power and political representation have emerged.

**Required Text**

Dyck, Rand. 2020. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Thomson Learning (available through the eclass site).

**Course Requirements**

Tutorial Participation	20%
Debate	15% (due February 4)
Critical Review	25% (due March 25)
Final Exam	40% (held during exam period)
Total:	100%

**Lecture, Tutorial and Participation**

**Lectures** will be held in person on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 12:30 in CLH F. PowerPoints for the lectures will be posted on the eclass site. Please note that they are not comprehensive, and that lectures and PowerPoints do not simply follow the course readings.

**Tutorials** will meet in person each week; attendance is mandatory. **Tutorials are essential for helping you do well in the course.** In tutorials you will discuss readings, lectures, assignments, and exams. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance AND active participation in the tutorial. If you cannot attend a tutorial, let your TA know asap. Don't expect them to fill you in on what you missed.

## Course Policies

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

- [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

### **Please also review the following course policies:**

#### Academic Integrity

As a student at York University, you have a responsibility to both understand and uphold the integrity of the academic experience. The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies supports the International Center for Academic Integrity's [definition of academic integrity](#). That is, you will be committed to acting in all academic matters, even in the face of adversity, with honesty, trust, fairness, courage, respect and responsibility. Here is how you can demonstrate academic integrity in the completion of this course:

- **Respect the ideas of others:** Your course work should represent your own knowledge and ideas. [You should not falsely claim credit for ideas that are not your own, by presenting another's work as yours](#). If you are quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing another person's work in order to support your own ideas, identify the work and the author through proper citation practices. For more information about how to cite properly, use the [Student Papers and Academic Research Kit](#) (SPARK). You can improve your writing, research, and personal learning abilities through the [Learning Commons](#), or by visiting the [Writing Centre](#) or [ESL Open Learning Centre](#).
- **Respect your peers:** [Know when you are allowed to collaborate](#). Ask your instructor about what group work entails when it comes to the [sharing of work](#). In test situations and assignments, don't steal or give answers to your peers, whether in-person or online (e.g., in group chats and/or on [third-party content-sharing websites](#), such as Chegg, Course Hero, etc.). Both cheating and aiding in a breach of academic honesty are violations of York University's academic honesty policy.
- **Respect your course instructor(s):** Understand what your instructors are asking of you in class, as well as on assignments, tests and/or exams. If you are unsure, ask your professor or teaching assistant. They are committed to making you feel supported and want to assess you fairly and with integrity. Please do not submit the same piece of work for more than one course without your instructor's permission. That can be considered an act of cheating.
- **Respect yourself:** When you act with integrity, you know that your work is yours and yours alone. You do not allow others to take tests for you. [You do not buy or otherwise obtain term papers or assignments](#). You do the work. As a result, you know that you *earned* the grades that you receive, so you can be proud of your York degree. By acting with integrity in your course work, you are also practising a valuable professional skill that is important in all workplaces.
- **Take responsibility:** If you have acted in an academically dishonest way, you can demonstrate courage and take responsibility for your mistake. You can admit your mistake to your course instructor as soon as possible.

Students who engage in academic dishonesty can be subject to disciplinary action under the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#). Your lack of familiarity with the Senate Policy does not constitute a defense against its application. Some academic offences can also constitute offences under the [Criminal Code of Canada](#), which means that you may also be subject to criminal charges.

#### Using Generative Artificial Intelligence in this Course

Students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Submitting any work created through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#). If you do not know whether an online resource or tool can be used in this course, please contact your instructor for guidance. For more information, please review [AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students](#).

#### Turnitin

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will normally be required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course's eClass site) for a review of textual similarities and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website. York students may opt out of using Turnitin. If you wish to opt out, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible.

#### 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 instructor know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course. 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 the 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 Support and Resources

To help you 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 fulfill 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 Counselling, Health & Wellbeing](#) offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.
- [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 supports 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.
- [Office of Student Community Relations \(OSCR\)](#) is responsible for administering the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) and provides critical incident support.
- [go SAFE](#) 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](#).

### Late penalty

There will be a late penalty of **5%** per day on all late papers (including weekends). Your TA will let you know how to submit late assignments.

### How to access course text ebook

1. Go to: <https://tophat.com/catalog/>
2. Search for our textbook: **Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches 9e**
3. Under "Interactive eText (Read + Study)":
  - If you have not purchased a code from the bookstore - Click **"Student - Buy Now"** and select "Student" before logging in or registering for an account.
  - If you have purchased a code from the bookstore - Click **"Students with Access Keys Click Here"** and select "Student" before logging in or registering for an account.

4. Follow the prompts to create your student account and redeem your access key from the bookstore or purchase the eText directly

5. Input your instructor's name and the school's course code

5. Navigate to your eText using the information found

here: <https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Purchasing-eTexts-My-Library>

**\*\*Important: DO NOT try to register or log into Top Hat BEFORE clicking "Student - Buy Now" or "Students with Access Keys Click Here" - you will be asked for a join code and this course does not have a join code\*\***

### **Weekly topics and Readings**

**The lecture PowerPoints will be available on the course Eclass site.**

Week 1-January 7: **Introduction**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 1: Approaching the Study of Politics

Week 2-January 14: **Canadian Political Culture**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 10: The Canadian Political Culture

Week 3-January 21: **Constitutional Developments and Negotiations**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 2: Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State

Dyck, Chapter 16: The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change

Week 4-January 28: **Canada's External Constitution**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 9: Canada's External Environment: The United States and the World

Week 5-February 4: **Federalism and Regionalism**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 3: Regionalism

Dyck, Chapter 17: The Federal System

Week 6-February 11: **The Executive and Parliament**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 19: The Executive

Dyck, Chapter 21: Parliament

**February 18: Reading Week**

No lectures or tutorials are held (Rejoice!)

Week 7-February 25: **The Judiciary and the Bureaucracy**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 22: The Judiciary  
Dyck, Chapter 20: The Bureaucracy

Week 8-March 4: **Elections and Political Parties in Canada**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 12: Elections and the Electoral System  
Dyck, Chapter 13: Political Parties and the Party System

Week 9- March 11: **Political Influence**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 15: Advocacy Groups, Social Movements and Lobbying

March 14: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade

Week 10-March 18: **Gender and Politics in Canada**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 7: Gender

Week 11-March 25: **Immigration and Multiculturalism**

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 6: Immigration and Diversity

Week 12-April 4: **Conclusions**

No readings

The final exam will take place during the Winter exam period (April 8-25). DO NOT make any travel plans during this period.