YORK UNIVERSITY
AP/PPAS 2110 3.0 CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
Summer 2025   Session 1 Section A
Online Course

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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 of 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 Organization: Please note this is an **online course.** The entire course, including the submission of assignments, discussion and assessments will take place online through York eclass. The course is organized weekly, with the expectation that students complete **two** classes per week to ensure timelines are met. While this course is delivered online, narrated lectures, videos, discussion forums and Q&A formats will ensure engagement and some level of interaction. Please review this course outline which provides the expectations and requirements of the course as well as a weekly schedule.

Virtual Office Hours: Virtual office hours will be held on Wednesdays at 12 noon through phone or by Zoom.   Meetings must be booked in advance through an email request. Additional times will be offered as needed. Please know that Dr. Sanders is committed to your success in this course; please do not hesitate to contact me: nsanders@yorku.ca.

Technical requirements for taking the course:

While there are no scheduled zoom classes, students may require access to the zoom platform for meetings or office hours. Any direct meetings with your professor will be through Zoom. A stable, higher-speed Internet connection, a computer with webcam and microphone and/or a smart device with these features is needed. Students must use their passport YorkU sign in to access Zoom meetings and the eclass system.

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, etc.) where students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with each other.

Here are some useful links for computing information, resources, and help:

- [Student Guide to eClass](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [eLearning Getting Started (LA&PS eServices)](#)
- [Student Guide to Remote and Online Learning](#)

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run. If you need technical assistance, please consult the [University Information Technology (UIT) Student Services](#) web page or write to [askit@yorku.ca](#).

Course Prerequisites: None

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

Course Learning Objectives: Students will
- Describe the basic principles of the Canadian democratic regime, including the concept of responsible government
- Identify and describe major political and governmental structures, their functions and the connection between the institutions that collectively form our government
- Delineate the constitutional principles, forms and functions that are similar to those of the UK and those similar to the US
- Gain or further develop an understanding of elections and the functions of major political parties including ideology, organization, and fiscal regulations
- Define and describe key terms in the study of Canadian government providing examples or application to case studies
- Demonstrate ability to summarize and synthesize core concepts, think critically, and apply theoretical knowledge to an argument

Required Text: Malcolmson, P., Myers, R., Baier, G., Bateman, Thomas M.J. (2021). The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada, _Seventh Edition_. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Students must ensure their text is the 7th edition. This book has been ordered through the York University Bookstore, with previous prices being $58.00 paperback and $46.95 ebook (may be subject to change). It is a University of Toronto Press publication and is quite widely available. If buying a used copy, please ensure it is the **7th edition.**

Evaluation Overview:

A detailed "Assignments" document will be available in eclass

Assessment Component	Due Date/closing date	Weight (% of final grade)
Issue & Reflection Response 1	May 16 6pm	25%
Issue & Reflection Response 2	May 30 6pm	25%
3 Discussion Forums	May 15, May 22, May 29 Submission closes 6pm	15% (5% each)
Position Paper	June 4-6 6pm	35%

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University Academic Calendar.

York's grading scheme

Letter	Point Value	Percentage	Definition
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	Marginally below 50%	Marginally Failing
F	0	Below 50%	Failing

Assignment Submission: Assignments are to be handed in through Turnitin in eclass. Students are required to save all work and may be asked to resubmit if any difficulties in submission arise.

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Given the compressed timeline of a summer session course remaining on top of assignments is essential. Students may submit Reflection Papers and Discussion Forums at any point up until the due dates/closing dates as noted. Students are encouraged to work ahead on weekly assignments to allow for adequate time for the development of your final Position Paper.

Lateness Penalty: Reflection Papers and final Position Papers received later than the due date will be penalized one half letter grade per day. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, extenuating circumstances, etc., may be entertained by the professor. The Discussion Forums **close at 6pm** on the dates noted (please work ahead on DF's as the closing times are final – no extensions).

Citations: All sources must be properly cited. Citations promote academic accountability, gives credit to the original authors, and helps to avoid plagiarism. For this course students are asked to use MLA Style formatting (which includes page numbers for in-text citations). The following links may be helpful to students:

Resources to help with citations:

- [I need to cite and reference, Learning Commons](#)
- [Drop-in Research Support](#), YorkU Libraries
- [Writing Centre](#)
- [SPARK Student Papers & Academic Research Kit](#)

Course Policies

Students are expected to demonstrate preparedness, attention to detail, engagement with the material and respectful engagement if interacting with each other.

Please review the course policies in this section. All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- Student Rights & Responsibilities

- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental and important value of York University. To maintain a fair and honest learning environment, you are responsible for understanding and upholding academic integrity in all courses and academic activities. You are encouraged to connect with reliable on-campus resources that support your coursework and academic honesty. To better understand the serious consequences of breaching academic honesty policies, familiarize yourself with the *Senate Policy on Academic Conduct*. You can learn more about upholding academic integrity in your courses by exploring Guiding Principles for LA&PS and Academic Integrity for Students.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)
Students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Submitting any work created (in whole or part) through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's *Senate Policy on Academic Conduct*. Using AI apps such as ChatGPT, GPT-3, DALL-E, translation software among others to complete academic work without your instructor's knowledge or permission, is considered to be a breach of academic honesty. For more information, please review AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students.

If you're not sure whether using an AI app for your academic work is acceptable, it is recommended that you:
- Carefully review the guidelines for your assessments
- Check for any messages from your instructor on eClass
- Ask your instructor or TA if they are permitting the use of these tools

Students are asked to keep all research notes and draft versions of your work. You may be asked to present these if it is suspected that an AI app was used to help complete your work. These drafts can be used to show how your work was developed and provide evidence that the work is your own. Additionally, students may be asked to meet individually with the professor to discuss and demonstrate knowledge of the assignment.

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

York University is committed to creating a learning environment which provides equal opportunity to all members of its community. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please discuss your concerns with your instructor as early as possible. For students with disabilities, contact Student Accessibility Services to coordinate academic accommodations and services. Accommodations will be communicated to Course Directors through a Letter of Accommodation (LOA). 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.

Intellectual Property Notice

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's *Code of Student*

Rights and Responsibilities, the *Senate Policy on Academic Conduct*, and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Student Support and Resources

York University offers a wide range of student supports resources and services, including everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance. 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.

- Centre for Indigenous Student Services offers a community space with academic, spiritual, cultural, and physical support, including writing and learning skills programs.

- 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.

- Peer Mentorship helps students transition through their first year by connecting them with upper-year students. The mentors can help find supports and resources. They also lead a community hub on campus.

- **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.

Important Dates

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Explore the York University Academic Calendar to find a list of important dates, such as class start/end dates, drop deadlines, holidays and more.

Please note the following important dates for Summer 2025

- Summer Session 1 opens May 5 (I will open eclass prior to the 1st class)
- Last date to add course is May 12
- Last date to drop course without receiving a grade is June 2
- Course End date June 13

Module Organization:

This course is presented over a 6 week time period, consisting of 11 classes. Students should begin the course at Class 1 and complete each of the subsequent classes in sequence. While you can complete the classes at your own pace, it is important to schedule your time to ensure all readings and activities are completed prior to assignment due dates or closing dates.

Each module consists of the following:

- An assigned reading in your Text
- "Agenda & Organization" outlines the class journey * (These include "tasks")
- A lecture and/or narrated powerpoint (follow up video viewing is often required)
- Perhaps some additional required readings; some optional readings/materials

2025	Summer Session 1 May 5-June 13
Week 1 May 5 Class 1	Introductions, Course Outline, Assignments The Canadian Regime: Overview of principles similar to that of the UK and aspects that are similar to that of the US Malcolmson et al: Chapter 1 *Note: For all classes: Additional Readings and Resources are found in "Agenda&Organization" document and/or on eclass for the Week*
Week 1 Class 2	What is a Canadian? Issues that unite and divide The Constitution Malcolmson et al: Chapter 2; text pp201-203)

	Additional Readings and resources as per unit
Week 2 May 12 Class 3	Responsible Government Key roles and responsibilities (partisan and nonpartisan) The Crown: "Constitutional Monarch" Policy Making Process Malcolmson et al: Chapters 3 and 4 Additional Readings as per unit
Week 2 Class 4	The Canadian Parliamentary System Roles, conventions, business Calls for Reform Malcolmson et al: Chapter 5 Additional Readings **Submission of Discussion Forum 1 (DF 1) May 15 6pm** **Issue & Reflection Paper 1 due May 16 6pm**
Week 3 May 19 Class 5	Elections and Political Parties: Terms, roles, operations Malcolmson et al: Chapter 6 and 7 Additional Readings and Resources
Week 3 Class 6	Federalism: Federal, Provincial, Municipal Governments Self-governing Indigenous Communities Malcolmson et al: Chapter 8 Additional Readings and Resources **Submission of DF 2 by May 22 6pm**
Week 4 May 26 Class 7	Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Malcolmson et al: Chapter 9 Additional Readings and Resources
Week 4 Class 8	Canadian Judiciary Malcolmson et al: Chapter 10 Additional Readings and Resources **Submission of DF3 by May 29 6pm** **Submission of Issue & Reflection Paper 2 due May 30 6pm**
Week 5 June 2 Class 9& 10	**Position Papers: Topic will be posted June 4, 9am and submissions received up to June 6 until 6pm (closes sharply at 6pm so ensure you submit well in advance of 6pm to allow for any difficulties).**
Week 6 June 9 Class 11	Course Closure: Working in the Ontario Public Service Special Topic(s) of Interest may be covered/updated Course Evaluations (online) completed (please contribute!) **Final date for acceptance of all course work (may be subjected to late penalties) is June 13 at 6pm**