

A: **Division:** Academic  
 B: **Department:** Arts & Humanities

**Date:** February 10, 1995

**New Course:** X

**Revision of Course Information Form:**  
**Dated:**

<b>C: POLI 102</b>	<b>D: INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>E: 3</b>
<b>Subject &amp; Course No.</b>	<b>Descriptive Title</b>	<b>Semester Credit</b>

**F: Calendar Description:** This course will concentrate on the structure and functions of the principle institutions of the Canadian Government. Students will have the opportunity to examine Canada's constitutional history and contemporary constitutional challenges, the office of the Prime Minister and powers, the Cabinet, Senate, the bureaucracy, Parliament and the Courts. The course will provide the student with a firm understanding of the structure of the Canadian Government. Students are encouraged to take both Canadian Government (POLI 102) and Canadian Politics (POLI 202) to enhance their transfer to university if majoring in Political Science.

**Summary of Revisions:**  
 (Enter date & section)  
 Eg. Section C,E,F

**G: Type of Instruction: Hours per Week/per Semester**

Lecture	2	Hrs.
Laboratory		Hrs.
Seminar	2	Hrs.
Clinical Experience		Hrs.
Field Experience		Hrs.
Practicum		Hrs.
Shop		Hrs.
Studio		Hrs.
Student Directed Learning		Hrs.
Other		Hrs.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>HOURS</b>

**H: Course Prerequisites:**

None

**I: Course Corequisites:**

None

**J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:**

POLI 202

**K: Maximum Class Size:**

35

**L: College Credit Transfer** X  
**College Credit Non-transfer**

**M: Transfer Credit:**

**Requested:** X

**Granted:**

**Specify Course Equivalents or Unassigned Credit as Appropriate:**

**UBC:**

**SFU:**

**UVic:**

*Shawn Zeff / Malou R. Hamerck*  
 COURSE DESIGNER(S)  
*[Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR/CHAIRPERSON

*[Signature]*  
 DIVISIONAL DEAN  
*P.A. [Signature]*  
 REGISTRAR

## **N: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students (Use Bibliographic Form):**

R. Jackson and D. Jackson. Politics in Canada, Culture Institutions, Behaviour, and Public Policy. 3rd edition. Prentice Hall, 1994

Readings: such as

Russell, Peter. Constitutional Odyssey: Can Canadians be a Sovereign People? 2nd edition.

M. Charlton and Baker, eds. Crosscurrents: Contemporary Issues. 2nd edition.

Supplementary readings from the Canadian Parliamentary Review may also be used.

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Complete Form with Entries Under the Following Headings:

O: Course Objectives; P: Course Content; Q: Method of Instruction;

R: Course Evaluation

### **O. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

#### ***General:***

The main purposes of the course are:

- 1) to introduce students to the structure and functions of the Canadian government;
- 2) to enhance students' awareness and understanding of the machinery of government;
- 3) to enable them to become better political citizens.

#### ***Specific:***

Students will be able to demonstrate:

- 1) an understanding of approaches to the study of politics;
- 2) a working knowledge of the basic institutions and functions of the Canadian government;
- 3) the ability to follow and understand better the complex issues in Canadian government.

## P. COURSE CONTENT

### *Major Themes:*

#### 1) *The Canadian Constitution*

Using the text and a reader, students would study the constitutional process in Canada from 1867 to the present. This part of the course would cover the origin and evolution of the Canadian Constitution, the formal Executive, monarchy and Governor General, the structure and role of the Courts, federal/provincial powers, patriation of Canada's constitution (1982), the failed Meech Lake Accord and the failed Charlottetown Accord (1992).

#### 2) *Federalism*

Concepts of federalism would be examined and evaluated. Canadian federalism, its origin and evolution will be analyzed. The history of fiscal and basic concepts of fiscal federalism will be studied in the Canadian context. Finally, the major challenges to federalism will be studied in terms of dualism (French/English), Quebec nationalism and the regional dynamics that influence the nature of the Canadian government.

#### 3) *The Prime Minister, Ministry and Cabinet*

The Canadian political executive, powers and practice of the Prime Minister will be discussed. The ministry and cabinet will be covered in terms of patronage and conflicts of interest. Policy-making in the central government, as well as the main coordinating agencies, will be placed in context of their roles within government.

#### 4) *Legislative Politics*

The legislature will be defined and legislative politics examined in terms of:

- a. process in Parliament
- b. House of Commons
- c. the committee system
- d. government and opposition
- e. the Senate

#### 5) *The Bureaucracy*

The bureaucracy will be studied in terms of its structure, the public service, policy and budget, and parliamentary controls. Also, the relationship between the bureaucracy and democracy will be explored.

## Q. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

The course will be based on one two-hour lecture and one two-hour seminar per week. Some class sessions may involve student presentations or formal student debate on the chapters.

**R. EVALUATION**

All evaluation elements assigned must be completed by the student.

Short informal essay	15%
Midterm examination	20%
Major essay or book review	30%
Participation (*see below)	15%
Final examination	<u>20%</u>
	100%

\*Participation grades for students will be based on a combination of criteria, which will include at least two of the following:

- Short in-class tests;
- Attendance, participation;
- Short research papers;
- Book review;
- In-class presentation;
- Formal debate;
- Research problems presentation;
- Instructor evaluation of individual student progress and research skills;
- Oral examination;
- Additional assignments.