



**M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

- Outline various themes in the development of Canadian political culture and traditions.
- Describe various institutions and processes such as political parties, interest groups, political socialization and elections in the Canadian political system.
- Describe the impact of such institutions and processes on the Canadian political system.
- Apply his/her understanding of course objectives in a formal research essay relevant to course content and objectives.
- Be well prepared for further study in more advanced work in Canadian politics.

**N: Course Content:**

Major Themes:

1. Development of the Canadian Nation and State

A historical approach provides a perspective through which students may view Canada's political development. The course examines pre-confederation issues, territorial expansion, population growth, immigration, problems of nation building, identity and the development of the Canadian state.

2. Political Culture and Political Socialization

The concepts of political culture and political socialization will be defined, and provide a means of examining Canadians and their political system. Significant political cleavages will be examined as well as the concept of multiculturalism, and the emergence of aboriginal groups, "First Nations". The roles of class, gender, and the role of the media, and government information services will be examined.

3. Political Behaviour

Students will examine Canadian political behaviour through the study of the development of the political system, the role of political parties, and the electoral system and election processes. The role of interest groups, political lobbyists, "think tanks" will be reviewed in the context of the development of public policy.

**O: Methods of Instruction**

This course will be based on the use of formal lectures, structured group work by students, seminars and in class discussion of assigned research topics related to course objectives.

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students**

A text and readings will be chosen based on individual instructor's preferences in consultation and with the approval of the department.

SAMPLE TEXT:

Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics, Critical Approaches, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Nelson Thompson Learning, Scarborough), 2000.

**Q:** Means of Assessment

The course evaluation will be based on the course objectives and in accordance with Douglas College policy and the policies of the Political Science Department. A minimum of 50% of the student’s grades will be assigned to the mid-term and end of term examinations. A minimum of 30% of the student’s grades will be assigned to a formal research essay. A maximum of 20% of student’s grade will be based upon a series of components, for example: quizzes, short essay, attendance, participation, class presentations. The specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

One example of an evaluation scheme:

Mid-term test	20%
Book Review	20%
Research Essay	30%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
 Total:	 100%

**R:** Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

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Course Designer(s): Terry Farrell

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Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

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Dean / Director

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Registrar