

Canadian and Halifax Courses

The following courses all have Halifax, N.S or Canadian themed content. For students interested in learning more about our local community, Canadian literature, history, politics, economy, etc., these courses may be of interest.

Admission to the following courses may depend on successful completion of pre-requisite courses at your home university. For details regarding pre-requisites, as well as to determine whether the following courses will be offered during your selected term of study, please visit the [Academic Timetable](#).

CANA 1102/INTD 1102 - Halifax and the World: Part I

This course offers an introduction to both International Development Studies and Canadian Studies by exploring the connections between important global issues and your daily life as a student in Halifax. As you walk across the Dalhousie campus and go about daily life in Halifax, your actions connect you to people around the globe and to the history of the city and world as well as to the many works of literature, art and music that depict these connections. Here are just a few examples of connections that we will explore in Halifax and the World: Part I (INTD/CANA 1102): Walking across the Dalhousie campus you are traversing what remains unceded Mi'kmaq territory raising hard questions about relations between Settler and First Nations Peoples. ▪ While walking downtown on a Friday night you might tread in the footsteps of the central characters in Hugh MacLennan's novel *Barometer Rising* and other major works of Canadian fiction. ▪ As you walk through the city you'll see monuments and statues that commemorate the city's early colonial leaders – which raise questions about how we chose to remember history of the city and its connections to the world. The course will critically examine the connections between daily life in Halifax and broader issues of colonialism, race and class relations, historical memory, ethics and justice through a combination of lectures, guest speakers, discussion groups, field trips, experiential learning in the city of Halifax. Assignments include written reflections on specific sites in Halifax which students are expected to visit and explore, a public engagement project, and a series of quizzes (there is no final exam).

CANA 1103/INTD 1103 - Halifax and the World: Part II

This course builds on INTD/CANA 1102 (Halifax and the World: Part I) with a continued focus on the connections between important global issues and your daily life as a student in Halifax. The course will focus on connections between life in Halifax and global development issues in other parts of the world. In particular, the course will highlight the 'commodity chains' that connect our daily consumption decisions to other people around the world who are involved in the life cycle of those commodities – from their production through to their disposal. The course will also specifically address the ethical questions and challenges that emerge from these connections and the practical ways in which we might respond to those questions. As in the

first semester, the course will a combination of lectures, guest speakers, discussion groups, field trips, and experiential learning in the city of Halifax. The assignments will include written reflections on specific sites in Halifax which students are expected to visit and explore, a public engagement project, and a series of quizzes (there is no final exam).

CANA 2001 - The Idea of Canada: Social and Political Perspectives

This course employs an interdisciplinary approach to focus on selected themes in Canadian history and society. It explores developments before and after the arrival and European peoples, and focuses on the rise and the impact of settler colonialism. It examines major events in the formation of Canada, and gives students the opportunity to work directly with primary sources. Themes may include, but are not restricted to: Indigenous history and culture; imperial influences and colonialism; political and constitutional reform; bilingualism and multiculturalism; nationalism and ethnic conflict; globalization and protest movements.

CANA 2002 – The Idea of Canada: Cultural and Literary Perspectives

This course employs an interdisciplinary approach to focus on selected themes in Canadian history and society. Beginning with the premise that a nation is fundamentally a “narration,” it asks: What sorts of stories do Canadians tell about themselves? Thus the course is centered on important texts - novels, poems, films, songs, and political documents - that relate formative events in Canadian history and that point to new, sometimes contested, directions for the future. Themes may include, but are not restricted to: First Nation's history and culture; multiculturalism; wilderness; the north; regional identity; and foreign policy.

CANA 2004 - Canadian Literature

From early exploration narratives to contemporary fiction, this course will survey a wide range of key texts in the development of Canadian literature in English. It will consider the literary and historical contexts that inform our readings, and identify and interrogate the various myths, images, icons and institutions that structure our ideas of what it means to be Canadian.

CANA 2005/SOSA 2005 – Intro to African Canadian Studies

There has been a presence of African peoples in Canada for over 400 years; however, the rich histories of African-Canadian people have been often ignored. This course examines African Canadian society and culture from the historical to contemporary period. Topics will include patterns of immigration and settlement, slavery, family, continental African and diasporic connections, identity, arts and culture, education, religion, employment, justice and the law, the media, diasporic debates, Black struggles and resistance, and African Canadian

achievements. The course will be taught from a critical race and gender perspective, and will include readings about the diverse Black communities across Canada.

CANA 2050/INDG 2050/HIST 2205 – Historical Issues in Indigenous Studies

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the history of encounters and relationships between indigenous peoples and European settlers in Canada. Topics may include treatise, colonial policy, residential schools, child welfare, resettlement, and the Indian Act. This course provides the necessary background to understand contemporary Indigenous issues.

CANA 2052/INDG 2052/SOSA 2052 – Contemporary Issues in Indigenous Studies

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to contemporary challenges faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. Topics may include language and culture, land rights, economics, governance and treaty relationships, child welfare and education, health, social services, environmental issues, violence, criminal justice and self-determination, political mobilization and resistance, and decolonization.

CANA 2218/ECON 2218 - Canadian Economy: Policy Issues

Canada's economy today faces many problems: unemployment, productivity, income distribution, environmental protection, trade relations, federal-provincial fiscal relations, maintenance of social programs, etc. What are the most important economic policy issues that Canada now faces? What is the appropriate policy role for government?

CANA 2233/ECON 2235 - Canadian Economic History

An examination of the economic history of Canada from the time of Confederation to WWI. Major topics explored include: the economic reasons for Confederation, the building of the CPR, the Wheat Boom, foreign trade and investment and the roots of regional disparities.

CANA 2235/HIST 2235 - History of Canadian Culture

This course explores the history of Canadian culture since the mid-nineteenth century, including art, architecture, music, literature, sport, and mass media. Themes include creating a "national" culture amid regional differences, and the relationship between popular culture (heavily influenced by the United States) and "high" culture cultivated by the state.

CANA 2272/HIST 2272 - Atlantic Canada since Confederation: Regionalism, Identity, and Development, 1867-2000

A survey of the history of Atlantic Canada (the Maritimes and Newfoundland) from the 1860s to the present. Emphasis is placed on how episodes such as the “age of sail”, industrialization, class and gender conflict, war, the struggle for human rights and a chronic effort to play “catch-up” with the rest of the nation have defined this region’s identity.

CANA 2280/HIST 2280 - African Nova Scotian History

Do African Nova Scotians constitute a distinct people? This course provides an historical survey of the Black population in Nova Scotia, from its origins through to the present. Treating the people of African descent in Nova Scotia as a particular aspect of the broader African diaspora, we will examine the African Nova Scotian experience in both local and global contexts. The central tenet of the course is that the history of the Black population is an integral component of the region's history: neither can be understood in isolation from the other. A recurring theme is the active and conscious historical agency of African Nova Scotians in the struggle to assert their democratic rights and achieve self-determination.

CANA 2410/ENVS 2410/ERTH 2410 - Environmental Issues in Earth Sciences

Geology underlies many of the environmental problems facing humanity today. Topics include environmental aspects of energy and mineral resource, geologic hazards, geologic connections to pollution and waste disposal, and the role that water plays in its various guises. Canadian examples are incorporated where appropriate. Approved with Canadian Studies.

CANA 3000 - Interdisciplinary Approaches to Canadian Themes

This multidisciplinary seminar provides students with the opportunity to consider the structure and content of Canadian society from a variety of academic viewpoints, including the philosophical, historical, political, sociological, geographical, legal and literary. Professors discuss the study of Canada as seen from their different disciplinary perspectives, while the course co-ordinator leads a weekly tutorial.

CANA 3400/INDG 3400 – Contemporary Indigenous Art

This course examines a range of contemporary artistic expression by Indigenous people of Canada and the United States. Works examined will include painting, sculpture, hip hop, textile, and video. Focus will be on how Indigenous artists respond to contemporary issues of identity, politics, and culture.

CANA 3185/SOSA 3185 - Issues in the Study of Indigenous Peoples of North America

This seminar is concerned with the historical background of the Native-European situation in North America and with issues arising from this background. Students will research issues which are significant to themselves and important to Native groups. Topics covered may vary from year to year, but will normally include a combination of historical issues such as culture change and contemporary issues such as land claims, self-determination and government policy, and social conditions of Natives.

HIST 3226 - Law and Justice in Canadian Society, to 1890

Discussion begins with an exploration of concepts of law and justice among Native Peoples prior to and during the occupation of the continent by the French and British. The course pursues crime and the criminal law as they relate to broader changes within the society and economy of New France, British North America, and Canada. We analyze shifting patterns and perceptions of crime and punishment; the social, economic, political, and ideological significance of the criminal law; the influence of Britain, France and the United States on legal developments.

HIST 3227 - Criminal Law, Crime and Punishment in Canadian Society, 1890 to the present

Continuing the approach and themes of HIST 3226.03, this course studies crime, punishment, and the criminal law as they reflect social, economic, political, and ideological developments. As appropriate, these are placed within their international context, and in particular linked to the American system of law and justice. We pay attention to the impact of technological change on crime, detection of crime, enforcement mechanisms, and alternative means and methods of punishment.

POLI 2210 - Unity and Diversity: The Federal Dynamics of Canadian Politics

This course is an introduction to the social, economic, and participatory dynamics that drive Canadian politics. It covers political culture, regionalism, political economy, interest groups, social movements, and elections. Federalism is central to all these topics, as we study the role of Quebec nationalism in the federation's evolution, the relationship between the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and federalism, the place of emerging "orders of government" (including Aboriginal governments), and debates concerning the causes and consequences of centralization and decentralization in the Canadian federation.

POLI 2215 - Canadian Aboriginal Politics: An Institutional Perspective

The course addresses some basic, but key issues in Aboriginal politics in Canada from an

institutional perspective. The goal is to provide students with broad knowledge of the institutional, historical, and current issues surrounding the Aboriginal/Canadian state/Crown relationship and some future trends, as well as gain familiarity with the most important court cases and their impact. By the end of the course, it is expected that students will be able to recognize who the Aboriginal peoples of Canada are, the historical Crown/Aboriginal relationship and its evolution, and a considerable understanding of the current status of Aboriginal politics in Canada.

POLI 2220 - Political Power and Partisan Politics: The Structures of Canadian Parliamentary Government

Canadian government is dominated by prime ministers and premiers. Why this concentration of power at both the federal and provincial levels of government? Are Members of Parliament who are not in the Cabinet really “nobodies” as one recent PM characterized them? Are Cabinets themselves becoming no more than “focus groups”? Do unelected partisan aides and public service advisors have more influence than the vast majority of elected representatives? Are political parties irrelevant as vehicles for citizen engagement? Are interest groups or social movements any more relevant? Do elections matter? Are the media merely the political instruments of the business elites? These are among the issues that are examined in this course in an attempt to understand the most critical factors that shape the structuring of power in contemporary Canadian government.

POLI 3206 - Constitutional Law and Politics in Canada

These are political issues that possess an important constitutional dimension. They include judicial review and the role of the Supreme Court of Canada, constitutional amendment, the representation formula, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, language rights and the Crown.

POLI 3208 - Canadian Provincial Politics

An analysis of the dynamics and structures of provincial governments. Topics may include: Political parties, voting behaviour, legislatures, electoral systems, bureaucracies and the formulation of economic, energy, environmental, and other policies. Attention is also paid to interprovincial and intergovernmental relations.

POLI 3224 Canadian Political Parties

The Canadian party system, viewed as an integral part of the entire political system, presents a number of interesting questions for exploration, such as lower voter turnout, electoral reform,

the role of party leaders, and the manner in which parties contribute to Canadian democracy. The particular themes emphasized will vary from year to year.

POLI 3233 - Canada in the Global Economy

This seminar course, for senior undergraduates, will explore the relationship between politics and economic life in Canada. The course addresses the placement of Canada in continental and global economies at a time of profound transnational integration and accelerated technological change. It surveys major themes and perspectives in Canadian political economy tradition and evaluates past and current practices in Canada's economic governance. It will introduce students to staples, liberal and neo-classical, socialist, and feminist analyses of the nature of Canada's economic development, and the role of the state in economic life. The importance of commercial, industrial and resource sectors will be examined. The transition to the service sector and information economy will be addressed. The impact of Canada's imperial, global and continental relationships will also be considered, including the negotiation and impact of economic and trade agreements. Other themes include the role of women, industrial relations and trade unions, first nations and immigrant communities, and the future evolution of the political economy and economic policy. Students will debate controversial themes on each topic. Student essays will explore a range of contemporary issues including debt, federal-provincial fiscal relations, the economic consequences of Quebec separation, women in the economy, development prospects for first nations, regional inequality and development programs, immigrants and economic revival, and policies on trade, industrial development, investment, intellectual property, human resources, technological change, poverty and inequality, and the impact of economic forces on national unity.

POLI 3405 - Canadian Political Thought

This course addresses philosophical issues that play a major role in contemporary Canadian politics. These include minority rights and multiculturalism; nationalism, federalism, and self-determination; and citizenship and the politics of identity.

POLI 3569 - Canadian Foreign Policy

This advanced seminar course is concerned with the 'structure-agent' problem as it applies to Canadian foreign policy. In other words, what are the structures (both material and normative) that shape and constrain the pursuit of Canadian foreign policy; what room for maneuver and initiative is there; and who are the key actors, or the 'agents' who shape and implement Canada's global role? The course discusses these questions through four sections: theoretical and analytical approaches to the study of Canadian foreign policy; the external context; the domestic; and key themes and issues in Canadian foreign policy.