



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Political Science

POLI 2210 Unity and Diversity

Summer 2021: May 10-June 1

RECOGNITION OF MI'KMAQ TERRITORY

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

The [Elders in Residence program](#) provides students with access to First Nations Elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre, 1321 Edward Street, or email Elders@dal.ca.

Contact Information:

Instructor: Darryl C. Eisan, MA

Office Hours: No set hours; if you need to contact me, do not hesitate to email or phone during week days

E-mail: deisan@dal.ca

Telephone: 902.430.7363

Class Time: Remote – Asynchronous

Class Location: Remote – Asynchronous

Pre-Requisites for Course:

1000-level course in Political Science or Kings FYP recommended.

Course Communication:

Given that POLI 2210 will be delivered as asynchronous, Brightspace will serve as the primary communication channel / platform.

Make sure to check Brightspace on regular basis for:

- Course Syllabus
- Weekly Materials (Overview, Learning Outcomes, Required Readings, PowerPoint Slides, Video Notes, Key Terms)
- Discussion Boards
- Announcements
- Writing Assignments

When sending me e-mails, I request that you put the course name and section in the subject line, i.e. POLI 2210 Unity and Diversity. I will make every effort to respond to e-mails within 24-hours on weekdays. If your issue is of an urgent nature, don't hesitate to call me.

Remember that university prepares you for the working world, so please strive to be professional in your communications with me. Please refer to me as 'Darryl'.

Ensure that your Banner e-mail address is up to date.

Course Description:

As described in the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, 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.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- to understand why Canada adopted a federal model of governance;
- to explore the evolution of federalism in Canada and assess whether it has remained the same;
- to explain how Canadian federalism works from the inside in the form of executive federalism;
- to communicate confidently and effectively with your classmates so as to impart knowledge and understanding of the course material; and
- to increase student confidence and skills for conducting research and writing papers.

Instructional Approach:

POLI 2210 will comprise regular and meaningful interaction between the students and the Professor. As such, students are to prepare by completing the assigned readings and actively participating in the on-line discussions. The on-line sessions may incorporate some additional learning technologies that will contribute to student learning and understanding as well as providing source material for on-line discussion and debate.

POLI 2210 will be delivered as **Asynchronous**, which means course content is on Brightspace and you are self-paced through course lessons (e.g., lectures, written content that you can review, discussion boards, etc.).

Students are encouraged to approach the Professor with any questions and / or concerns at any time.

Learning Materials:

1. Alex Marland and Jared Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed. (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2020). Can be purchased from the Dalhousie University Bookstore.
2. Additional required readings may be placed on Brightspace.

Evaluation:

Course Requirement	Due Date	% of Final Grade
INTRODUCTORY		
Self-Introduction	May 14	3%
ON-LINE PARTICIPATION		
Week 1	May 10-May 14	7%
Week 2	May 17-May 21	7%
Week 3	May 25-May 28	7%
QUIZZES		
Quiz #1 - on Week 1 - May 10-14 Marland and Wesley Chapters 1, 2 & 3	May 17	5%
Quiz #2 - on Week 2 - May 17-21 Marland and Wesley Chapters 4, 5 & 8	May 25	5%
Quiz #3 - on Week 3 - May 25-28 Marland and Wesley Chapters 9, 10 & 12	May 31	5%
INDIVIDUAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS		
Individual Writing Assignment #1	May 14	10%
Individual Writing Assignment #2	May 21	11%
Individual Writing Assignment #3	May 28	15%
EXAMS		
End of Term Exam	June 1	25%
TOTAL		100%

INTRODUCTORY

Self-Introduction - May 14 - 3%

Introduce yourself to me and to your fellow classmates.

This discussion post is to be presented in paragraph form, be at least one-page in length, include a recent photo, i.e., a head-shot, and ideally address the following:

1. Name, number of years in University and number of years since high school graduation.
2. Where are you from?
3. What contribution do you want to make to your community, society, family, etc.?
4. Why are these contributions important to you?
5. What types of volunteer and sport activities are you involved in?
6. *Aside from attaining a good grade*, what are your expectations for POLI 2210?
7. Any particular issues / topics you would like to see addressed?
8. What could the Professor do to enhance your learning?
9. What media stories have you been following recently? (minimum of 3 examples)
10. Confirm that you have read the Course Syllabus and accept it as the Learning Contract for POLI 2210.

ON-LINE PARTICIPATION

Weekly Discussions – 3 weeks x 7% each = 21%

You are required to participate in **all** online discussions. Each online discussion will comprise an initial posting on the discussion topic and at least three response postings / comments - either in response to a classmate's posting or as an augmentation of your initial posting.

Focused online discussions allow students to express their understanding of information addressed in each of the Weekly Discussions, to discuss that information with classmates and their instructor, and to integrate the results of those discussions into their own learning.

Initial posting (200-250 words)

Choose one question from the list of questions provided for each Weekly Discussion. Post a written response to the chosen question highlighting the connection between your answer to the discussion posting question and the course materials and class discussion on the topic. Your posting is to be logically written with good grammar and sentence structure.

Response Postings (100-150 words each)

Read the postings of your classmates and respond to at least three postings either in response to a classmate's posting or as an augmentation of your initial posting. Present additional / alternate perspectives or, if you agree or disagree with them, explain why.

You should be an active participant in the discussions. A quality comment should build on another student's posting, your own or add an additional point of view that references the text, course readings or some other reference material.

Your grade for this part is to be assessed on the extent to which your answer draws on the materials in the course and the relevance of your comments. Students should review the comments of all classmates and are encouraged to continue discussion in the module forum as you would in a lecture in a classroom.

Evaluation Criteria

Discussion Postings (includes Initial and Response Postings) will be graded per the following criteria:

1. **Demonstrates an understanding of a course concept.** This applies to your initial and response posts, and includes the following elements:
 - a. Are your posts relevant to the assigned topic and question?
 - b. Do your posts demonstrate accurate understanding of course material (Marland and Wesley text (2e) and Brightspace)?
 - c. Does the subject field convey the essence of your post (in less than 10 words)?

Important Note for Quality Posts: While your posts will often draw on experience and informed opinions, the most successful posts will support personal opinions with reference to course material.

2. **Advances the discussion by adding new knowledge.** This applies to your response posts, in which you should try to broaden the perspective presented in another post by building on their ideas or pushing those ideas in a new direction. Some possible ways to do this are:
 - a. Apply references to course material/theoretical concepts.
 - b. Provide a counter-example based on personal / practical experiences that refute or weaken the position taken by the initial author (e.g., I hear you say this..., but my experience suggests this...).
 - c. Apply a related concept from the course that the initial post did not reference.
 - d. Apply a related example from current events or some other resource.
3. **Have uploaded your Initial Post and Response Posts by the stated dates.** Waiting until the last minute to make a required post can decrease the quality of the conversation about the topic. Posting earlier allows other students and me the opportunity to respond to a post and engage in debates that help everyone in the class get the most out of the conversation.

QUIZZES

May 17, May 25 and May 31 – 3 X 5% each = 15%

There will be three Quizzes comprising Multiple Choice and True and False type questions.

Each Quiz is worth 5% of your total grade.

Each Quiz will be made available beginning at 12 PM Atlantic Daylight Time (ADT) the date it is scheduled, and close at 11:59 PM (ADT) the same day.

You will have **80-minutes** to complete each Quiz from start to finish.

The Quizzes are “open book”, but you **may only refer to course material**, including your own notes from the course, the Marland and Wesley text, or any material on Brightspace for assistance.

You are to work independently and not consult with any other classmate, student or person regarding the Quizzes. Any evidence of collaboration with another classmate, student or person, will result in a grade of zero.

You are **not** to consult any external resources. This includes internet searches, materials from other classes, shared Google documents, books, or notes you have taken in other classes.

INDIVIDUAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

May 14, May 21 and May 28 - 10% + 11% + 15% = 36%

POLI 2210 has an emphasis on writing and for these written assignments, students are expected to prepare properly structured papers that critically evaluate the assigned questions.

It is expected that students follow generally accepted norms of evidenced-based opinion writing and students are encouraged to be critical and provocative. This of course is contingent on your points being argued clearly, logically, and persuasively.

Since communication is an important skill, a high standard of writing will apply for these assignments, including the format, footnotes, and references.

Please see page 9 for specific grading criteria.

Individual Writing Assignment #1 - Newspaper Article Analysis - May 14 - 10%

Your task is to research current events in the media that are directly related to “Unity and Diversity in Canada” and to develop a Newspaper Article Analysis.

Specifically, you are to:

1. Pick one of the following media sources:
 - <http://www.cbc.ca/>
 - <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/>
 - <http://thechronicleherald.ca/>
 - <https://www.ctvnews.ca/>
 - <https://globalnews.ca/>
 - <https://nationalpost.com/>
2. Log on to your chosen web site and search for titles that incorporate the major topics of POLI 2210, e.g. The Constitution, Federalism, Regionalism, Political Culture, The Executive Branch, The Bureaucracy, Political Parties, Elections and Voting and Interest Groups and Social Movements, and record how many “Results” you get.
3. Pick **FOUR** of the 2020 or 2021 results of your search and create a Newspaper Article Analysis that relates to “Unity and Diversity in Canada.”
4. **Each article** is to be:
 - a. Briefly summarized; and
 - b. Accompanied by at least a three-quarter page (single spaced typewritten) explanation / analysis of how it relates to the major topics of POLI 2210.

Individual Writing Assignment #2 - May 21 - 11%

For Individual Writing Assignment #2, students are to prepare a properly structured paper that critically evaluates **one** of the following questions:

1. Why are those cleavages based on geography, demography, and ideology so important in Canada?
2. How would you define the region in which you live? What are its defining features? Are you relying on stereotypes? How does your region differ from neighbouring regions?

Word Count: Minimum: 1,000 words; Maximum: 1,200 words.

Students are to provide documented evidence in the form of at least **four** third party citations taken from text books, academic journals, government sources, the news media or other literature to support their work.

The word limit is inclusive of quotations and students should present their ideas thoughtfully and succinctly. The bibliography is not counted as part of the word limit.

Individual Writing Assignment #3 - May 28 - 15%

For Individual Writing Assignment #3, students are to prepare a properly structured paper that critically evaluates **one** of the following questions:

1. Do you think that it is acceptable for a Governor General to share their views about controversial political topics in Canada?
2. Do governments in Canada consult the public sufficiently in the public policy process? Who should lead public engagement activities: politicians or bureaucrats?
3. To address the challenge of voter turnout in Canada, should voting be mandatory in Canada?

Word Count: Minimum: 1,300 words; Maximum: 1,500 words.

Students are to provide documented evidence in the form of at least **six** third party citations taken from text books, academic journals, government sources, the news media or other literature to support their work.

The word limit is inclusive of quotations and students should present their ideas thoughtfully and succinctly. The bibliography is not counted as part of the word limit.

EXAM

End of Term Exam - 9AM - 12PM ADT, June 1 - 25%

The End of Term Exam **will most likely** comprise Multiple Choice, True and False, Short Answer and Essay type questions.

The End of Term Exam will be three hours in duration.

The End of Term Examination is cumulative and it is “open book”. You **may only refer to course material**, including your own notes from the course, the Marland and Wesley text, readings, or any material on Brightspace for assistance.

Grading of Written Work:

Written work will be assessed against the following criteria:

Thesis

- Clearly stated, creative, original and insightful
- Presents a Point of View (POV) based on a critical analysis of factual evidence and relevant theory

Background, Course Content, Research, Supporting Data and Analysis

- Contains relevant background information
- Draws upon course readings, lecture material, external sources and other research
- Uses relevant data, analyses and conclusions
- Includes a critical analysis of the sources used

Conclusions

- Are clear, creative, and insightful
- Contain a clear, cogent reiteration of and support for the central points of the thesis

Writing Style and Essay Structure

- Essay is very well organized
- Central ideas are presented very clearly, cogently, and effectively
- There is critical analysis and integration of ideas throughout the paper

Grammar and Mechanics

- Written in MS-Word
- All sources are cited accurately using APA style
- Inclusive of a separate title page
- Minimal spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors
- Type-written
- Single-spaced
- 12-pt Arial font
- One-inch wide margins on all four sides

Due Dates and Late Assignments:

All Individual Writing Assignments are to be submitted in MS-Word (**not as a pdf or in pages, etc.**) and to **Brightspace by 11:59 PM ADT the day they are due.** The required format for electronic submissions should include the student's first name, last name and assignment name. For example, john_smith_essay#1 is the acceptable format.

If you are concerned that your Individual Writing Assignment was not successfully uploaded to Brightspace, e-mail your work directly to me before the deadline. It is the student's responsibility to double check their file uploads.

Students are responsible for knowing the due dates for Quizzes, Assignments and the End of Term Exam. Deadline extensions or make-up assignments will **not** be given.

Individual Writing Assignments submitted late will be subject to a 10% penalty per day. After three (3) calendar days, the written assignment will not be accepted and a mark of zero will be applied. **This policy does not apply to On-line Participation, the Quizzes or the End of Term Exam.**

Ground Rules:

As with face-to-face conversations, appropriate online communication etiquette is expected.

Some examples are:

- Emails: put the topic in the Subject and your name at the end.
- Don't write messages in all capital letters; this can be perceived and interpreted as shouting.
- Grammar and spelling are important. Online courses demand the same standard of academic communication as face-to-face delivery.
- Avoid unkind, public criticism of others on the Discussion Boards.
- Use sarcasm cautiously. In the absence of non-verbal clues such as facial expressions and voice inflections, your message may be misinterpreted.
- Never use profanity in any area of the course.
- Be careful what you put in writing. Though you may send an email to a single person, it is very easy to forward your messages to others.

In addition, the following are considered **unethical behaviours** in this course:

- Telling or lobbying me for a certain grade;
- Asking for extra assignments or different weightings for the purpose of raising your grade;
- Making fraudulent excuses to postpone exams or assignments; and
- Having someone impersonate you, do your work for you, or sign your name on work you did not do.

Weekly Schedule:

This section presents a weekly schedule identifying course topics, assigned readings, assignments, mid-term exams, tests, any other in-class assessments, and their due dates.

Week 1 – May 10-14

- **Topic: Course Orientation**
 - Preparation
 - Review the Course Syllabus and the expectations for POLI 2210
 - Task
 - Complete the Self-Introduction - before May 14 - located under Orientation on Brightspace

- **Topic: Overview of Canadian Politics**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 1, pp. 1-28

- **Topic: The Constitution**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 2, pp. 30-65

- **Topic: Federalism**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 3, pp. 66-94
 - Task
 - Upload your Initial Posting (200-250 words) to the Discussion Board by **May 11** and your Response Postings (at least three Response Postings; 100-150 words each) by **May 13**
 - Notes
 - Self-Introduction due by 11:59 PM ADT, Friday, May 14
 - Individual Writing Assignment #1 due by 11:59 PM ADT, Friday, May 14

Week 2 – May 17-21

- **Topic: Regionalism and Political Cultures**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 4, pp. 95-129

- **Topic: The Executive**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 5, pp. 130-164

- **Topic: Public Policy and Bureaucracy**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 8, pp. 248-288
 - Task
 - Upload your Initial Posting (200-250 words) to the Discussion Board by **May 18** and your Response Postings (at least three Response Postings; 100-150 words each) by **May 20**
 - Notes
 - Quiz #1 – May 17 – on Week 1 – Marland and Wesley chapters 1, 2 and 3
 - Individual Writing Assignment #2 due by 11:59 PM ADT, Friday, May 21

Week 3 – May 25-28 (Note: Monday, May 24 is Victoria Day – University Closed – no classes)

- **Topic: Political Parties**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 9, pp. 290-328

- **Topic: Elections and Voting**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 10, pp. 329-368

- **Topic: Interest Groups and Social Movements**
 - Preparation
 - Marland and Wesley, *Inside Canadian Politics*, 2nd ed., chapter 12, pp. 407-436
 - Task
 - Upload your Initial Posting (200-250 words) to the Discussion Board by **May 26** and your Response Postings (at least three Response Postings; 100-150 words each) by **May 28**

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- Notes
 - Quiz #2 – May 25 – on Week 2 – Marland and Wesley chapters 4, 5 and 8
 - Individual Writing Assignment #3 due by 11:59 PM ADT, Friday, May 28

Week 4 – May 31-June 1

- **Topic: Catch-up and Review**

- Preparation
 - Prepare your own specific review questions
- Task
 - Think about these questions:
 - What have I learned?
 - How can I use this learning to understand Unity and Diversity in Canada going forward?
 - How can I best prepare for the End of Term Exam?
- Notes
 - Quiz #3 – May 31 – on Week 3 – Marland and Wesley chapters 9, 10 and 12
 - End of Term Exam – 9AM - 12PM ADT, Tuesday, June 1

[Dalhousie is scent free](#) - Thank you for helping us all breathe easier!

Appendix

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate ([University Regulations](#), [Academic Regulations](#))

Grade Scale and Definitions

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.00	85-89		
A-	3.70	80-84		
B+	3.30	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	3.00	73-76		
B-	2.70	70-72		
C+	2.30	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	2.00	60-64		
C-	1.70	55-59		
D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of "C" or "C+" is required).
F	0.00	0-49.9	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

INC	0.00	Incomplete
W	Neutral and no credit obtained	Withdrew after deadline
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained	Compassionate reasons, illness
P	Neutral	Pass
TR	Neutral	Transfer credit on admission
Pending (PND)	Neutral	Grade not reported

University Grading Practices

The [Grading Practices Policy](#) outlines the university's commitment and professors' responsibilities on how grading will be achieved. The policy applies to all credit-bearing courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at the university.

Academic Integrity:

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Dalhousie offers many ways to learn about academic writing and presentations so that all members of the University community may acknowledge the intellectual property of others. Knowing how to find, evaluate, select, synthesize and cite information for use in assignments is called being “information literate”. Information literacy is taught by Dalhousie University Librarians in classes and through Dalhousie Libraries’ online [Citing & Writing](#) tutorials.

Do not plagiarize any materials for this course. For further guidance on what constitutes plagiarism, how to avoid it, and proper methods for attributing sources, please consult the University Secretariat’s [Academic Integrity](#) page.

Please note that Dalhousie subscribes to a plagiarism detection software that checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a very serious academic offence that may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie, there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on [Intellectual Honesty](#) contained in the Calendar.

Furthermore the University’s Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student assignments be submitted in both written and computer readable format, e.g.: a text file or as an email attachment, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by the plagiarism detection software. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Use of third-party originality checking software does not preclude instructor use of alternate means to identify lapses in originality and attribution. The result of such assessment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary action taken by the Senate.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Student Accessibility Centre (Halifax Campus) and the Student Success Centre (Agricultural Campus) are Dalhousie’s centres of expertise on student access, inclusion, and accommodation support. We work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to create an inclusive educational environment for students.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact the [Student Accessibility Centre](#) (dal.ca/access) and/or make arrangements to discuss with the instructor.

Please note that your classroom may contain accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, undisturbed, so that students who require their use will be able to fully participate.

[STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT](#)

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

[DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION – Culture of Respect](#)

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).

Learning and Support Resources:

- [Undergraduate Advising Office](#)
- [Writing Centre](#)
- [Studying for Success Program](#)
- [Indigenous Students](#)
- [Black Students](#)
- [International Students](#)
- [LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative](#)
- [Student Health & Wellness](#)
- [Human Rights and Equity Services](#)
- [Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services](#)
- [Dalhousie Ombudsperson](#)
- [Fair Dealing Guidelines](#)
- [Dalhousie University Libraries](#)
- [Copyright Office](#)
- [E-Learning website](#)