



**UNITY AND DIVERSITY**  
**POLS 2210 (Sec. 1)**  
**Winter 2024**

*We acknowledge that we are on the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation*

Course Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 1:05-2:25PM

Location: LSC-Psychology P4260

Instructor: Dr. Natalie A. Ghosn, Esq. (she/her)

Email: nghosn@dal.ca

Office: TBA

Office Hours: By Appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course serves as an introduction to the core institutions and processes of Canadian government including the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. It examines the social, economic and participatory dynamics that drive Canadian politics. By asking who is and is not represented in Canadian politics, this course examines how well these institutions and processes function to promote democratic governance.

Some of the topics covered in this course include the Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Federalism; Regionalism and Political Culture; The Executive; The Legislature; Language Rights in Canada; A Case Study of the 1995 Quebec Referendum; The Justice System; The Structure of Canadian Courts and Judicial Review in Canada; and Indigenous Land and Treaty Rights.

## **STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

Students are always encouraged to share their opinions and challenge accepted ways of thinking. By the same token, students should expect to have their own beliefs and values challenged, both by their instructor and by their classmates. The free exchange of ideas can be an uncomfortable, confusing, and even an upsetting experience, but it is vital to the learning process. As such, the learning process is only possible in an environment where all feel respected and dignified. A classroom is a community, one where every individual is an equal member. For this reason, uncivil, disrespectful, discriminatory, harassing, or disruptive communication and/or conduct are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

As your professor, I will make every effort to accommodate any special needs or circumstances of my students. Dalhousie University provides accommodations to students with disabilities through Accessible Learning. Various services are available to help students achieve their academic and career goals. Accessible Learning can be emailed at [access@dal.ca](mailto:access@dal.ca) and their website is [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html). If you need accommodation please contact your professor and Accessible Learning as soon as possible. A form to apply for accommodations can be found here [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/accessibility/accommodations-requesting-accommodation.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility/accommodations-requesting-accommodation.html).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is highly valued, students may not plagiarize the course readings or other sources under any circumstances. Learn to make proper citations for all direct references or quotations from any source used. Text notes may be placed either at the end of the essay or at the bottom of the page and must adhere to an established documentation style format. Students who plagiarize material in essays or are found to be cheating on the tests or exams in this course will receive a zero mark on the assignment and a repeated offence will result in a zero in the course grade. The instructor will write a letter to the Dean of Arts and to the Registrar documenting all incidents of cheating or plagiarism.

## **COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR**

Communicating with the Professor is best by email for shorter questions and by office hour appointment for longer questions.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

The Writing Centre provides free academic writing support for students. You can make an appointment with the Writing Centre here

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills/our-services.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills/our-services.html). The Writing Centre's email is [writingc@dal.ca](mailto:writingc@dal.ca).

More information is available at [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

For a list of important dates please refer to the following link:

[https://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html?gad\\_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQIA7OqrBhD9ARIsAK3UXh3hpeH8sTMNsW6XxEi3cCMB9DKRkTLy6-m2oGqQa9M5fwtGsuG5WUaAk9HEALw\\_wcB](https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQIA7OqrBhD9ARIsAK3UXh3hpeH8sTMNsW6XxEi3cCMB9DKRkTLy6-m2oGqQa9M5fwtGsuG5WUaAk9HEALw_wcB)

### **COURSE MATERIALS/READINGS**

\* Course textbooks are available at the Dalhousie University Campus Bookstore

Course Textbook: *Inside Canadian Politics* (Second Edition)

- Authors: Alex Marland and Jared J. Wesley
- Publisher: Oxford
- ISBN: 9780199032624

Other Course Materials: Other required course readings are available in PDF format on Brightspace listed in the content section under the corresponding date of the reading. On occasion, a *url* link to a reading is provided for on this syllabus.

\*Please follow your syllabus for the schedule of readings.

### **ASSESSMENT**

**\*No credit is given for this course unless all the written and oral assignments for it have been completed.**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS**

Critical Participation - 10% - Ongoing

Research Paper Proposal - 10% - Due January 25, 2024 (Submit electronically on Brightspace)

Group Presentations - 20% - In-Class February 13, February 15, February 27 and February 29, 2024

Research Paper - 30% - Due March 14, 2024 (Submit electronically on Brightspace)

Final Exam - 30% - Date To Be Announced

### **MORE INFORMATION ON COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS**

\*All assignments are due by 11:59PM on the due date.

Critical Participation - 10% - Ongoing

Critical participation is worth 10% of your final grade. Students are expected to come to class daily, read the assignments before class and be prepared to discuss them in class. They are also expected to join in class discussion and remain engaged during class time. Your participation grade will be composed of both attendance and substantive participation during class time.

Research Paper Proposal - 10% - Due January 25, 2024 (Submit electronically on Brightspace)

The research paper proposal is worth 10% of your final grade. For this assignment, students will develop a research question of their own choosing that must be approved by the instructor prior to the student's research paper. The research paper will be on the same topic as the proposal; however, your professor may help you refine your topic to meet the needs and material of this course. The topic must relate to Canadian Politics. The scope of potential topics is broad. Proposals should be approximately 500 words in length and should include the proposed topic, the proposed thesis statement, a short description of the topic explaining its importance and a list of sources. Attention to proper grammar is a must. Detailed assignment requirement will be given in class.

Group Presentations - 20% - In-Class February 13, February 15, February 27 and February 29, 2024. The in-class group presentations are worth 20% of your final grade. Students will present in groups of 4. Presentations will take place in class on February 13, February 15, February 27 and February 29, 2024. Students will sign up for a particular presentation date during class. The presentation challenges students to confront a dilemma in Canadian politics. Groups will be assigned a social problem to address for their presentation. Solutions developed by students must include remedies be those political or otherwise. Each group member must upload the group PowerPoint in the assignment Dropbox on Brightspace. Detailed instructions on presentation requirements will be given in class.

Research Paper - 30% - Due March 14, 2024 (Submit electronically on Brightspace)

The research paper is worth 30% of your final grade. The research paper will be 1500-2000 words in length. Standard formatting requirements will be required (double-spaced, Times New Roman font, standard margins, page numbers, cover page, etc.). The paper must include

proper citations and a works cited page. In-text citations are preferred; however, any standard citation style will be accepted. Detailed requirements will be given in class.

### Final Exam - 30% - Date To Be Announced

The final exam is worth 30% of your final grade. The final exam will be composed of short answer essay style questions and is worth 30% of your final grade. All material covered in the course including course readings, course discussion, class lectures, documentaries or videos watched, guest lectures and classmate presentations are subject to be tested on the final exam.

Further information on the final exam will be provided during class.

### Course Policies

1) Late Assignments: All assignments must be submitted on the due date at the stated time, unless accompanied by a doctor's note or other form of documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day, including on weekends up to 5 days. Papers and assignments submitted more than 5 days after the deadline will not be accepted. Exceptions to the 5 day late acceptance policy may be granted at Professor's discretion based on documentation submitted by student.

2) Handing in Assignments: Assignments should be handed in electronically via the assignment dropbox on Brightspace. Please do not submit your assignments via email.

3) E-mail: I encourage you to reach out to me via email for any help you require with course materials and assignments. I will respond to your email within 2 working days. **Students are required to use their Dalhousie e-mail account for course-related correspondence.**

4) Course Website: Brightspace will be used to post the course outline and reading materials. Class notes will not be posted on Brightspace.

5) Correct Use of Language: Correct use of language is one of the criteria included in the evaluation of all written assignments.

### Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percentage Points	Rating
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent

A	4.00	85-89	
A-	3.70	80-84	
B+	3.30	77-79	Good
B	3.00	73-76	
B-	2.70	70-72	
C+	2.30	67-69	Satisfactory
C	2.00	63-66	
C-	1.70	60-62	
D	1.00	50-59	Marginal
F	0.00	0-49	Failure or Withdrawal After Deadline

## **Course Outline and Readings**

\*This course outline is subject to change. Some class topics may take longer to complete than the day they are listed on the syllabus while others may take less course time. The syllabus is to be followed in chronological order.

### **January 9, 2024 – Introduction to the Course**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN POLITICS: GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

### **January 11, 2024 – What is Politics?**

Read: Overview of Canadian Politics (Chapter 1, p. 1-25) (Course Textbook).

### **January 16, 2024 – The Constitution**

Read: The Constitution (Chapter 2, p. 30-60) (Course Textbook).

### **January 18, 2024 – The Constitution Continued**

### **January 23, 2024 – Federalism**

Read: Federalism (Chapter 3, p. 66-89) (Course Textbook).

### **January 25, 2024 – Federalism Continued**

**January 30, 2024 – Regionalism and Political Cultures**

Read: Regionalism and Political Cultures (Chapter 4, p. 95-124) (Course Textbook).

**February 1, 2024 – Regionalism and Political Cultures Continued**

**February 6, 2024 - The Executive**

Read: The Executive (Chapter 5, p. 130-159) (Course Textbook).

**February 8, 2024 – The Executive Continued**

**February 13, 2024 – The Legislature**

Read: The Legislature (Chapter 6, p. 165-205) (Course Textbook).

**February 15, 2024 – The Legislature Continued**

**February 19-23 – No Classes, Winter Break**

**February 27, 2024 – Group Presentation and Roundtable**

**February 29, 2024 – Group Presentation and Roundtable**

**March 5, 2023 – Group Presentation and Roundtable**

**March 7, 2024 – Group Presentation and Roundtable**

**LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN CANADA**

**March 12, 2024 – Language Rights in Canada**

Read: History of Language Rights in Canada, available at:

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csjsj/franc/enviro/1.html#:~:text=The%20Canadian%20Charter%20of%20Rights,Parliament%20and%20government%20of%20Canada>

**March 14, 2024 – Case Study, the 1995 Quebec Referendum**

Read: *Reference re Secession of Quebec*, [1998] 2 S.C.R. 217 (Course Website).

**LAW AND POLITICS IN CANADA**

**March 19, 2024 – The Justice System**

Read: The Justice System (Chapter 7, p. 213-242) (Course Textbook)

**March 21, 2024 – The Justice System Continued**

### **March 26, 2024 – Federalism and the Structure of Canadian Courts**

Read: Choudhry, Sujit. *Does the World need more Canada? The Politics of the Canadian Model in Constitutional Politics and Political Theory*. International Journal of Constitutional Law, Volume 5, Issue 4, October 2007, Pages 606-638 (Course Website).

### **March 28, 2024 - Guest Speaker - Cindy Daoud**

Description: Ms. Daoud is a consultant for the United Arab Emirates Government Authority. She holds a Master of Laws in International Crime and Justice and currently works for the Ministry of Interior Child Protection Centre in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Her work supports law enforcement by advising on best practices in combating crimes against children. Ms. Daoud will share her expertise regarding international opportunities and will discuss the many careers available for students specializing in law and legal studies that do not fall under conventional legal practice.

### **April 2, 2024 – Judicial Review in Canada**

Read: Smith, Jennifer, *The Origins of Judicial Review in Canada*. Canadian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Mar., 1983), pp. 115-134 (20 pages) (Course Website).

### **April 4, 2024 – Indigenous Land and Treaty Rights in Canada**

Read: What is Section 35 of the Constitution Act? Available at <https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/constitution-act-1982-section-35/#:~:text=Constitution%20Act%20states%3A-.35.,and%20M%C3%A9tis%20peoples%20of%20Canada.>