DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS*2300 Canadian Government and Politics (DE01)

Credit Weighting: 0.5 **Pre-/Co-Requisites:** None **Restrictions:** None

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

This course explores the core institutions of Canadian government, including parliamentary government, federalism, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and electoral systems. How these institutions shape and are shaped by political parties and social forces, as well as current issues like Quebec nationalism, identity politics and Aboriginal governance, are covered.

This course is entirely conducted online and consists of textbook readings and other mandatory items, such as course notes, videos, timelines, drag and drop exercises and images to complement the information. There are no in-class lectures or seminars for this course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:
1) Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of major Canadian political institutions including: the constitution, federalism, the legislature and executive, political parties and elections, the bureaucracy and the courts.
2) Understand the origins and historical development of the major Canadian political institutions in relation to changes in Canadian society and culture and the evolving British and American influence on these institutions.
3) Evaluate the impact of groups of key political significance including Aboriginals, women, Francophones, immigrants and ethnic minorities.
4) Critically analyze political, social and economic institutions
5) Critically analyze Canadian political history and the various group and individual actors involved in government.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

May include:
- Online dicussions
- Quizzes
- Written assignments
- Final examination

REQUIRED READING

Marland, Alex and Jared J. Wesley. 2020. Inside Canadian Politics. Toronto: Oxford University Press.