

University of Guelph
Department of Political Science
POLS*2300 Canadian Government and Politics

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Course Description & Learning Objectives: 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.

The objectives of this course are to:

- Develop an understanding of Canadian political institutions.
- Prepare students for further study in Canadian politics and public policy.
- Develop research skills.
- Practice and improve written skills.

The teaching method includes lectures, readings and class discussion. All may provide overlapping material, but students are responsible for all material covered in any one of these formats. Students are expected to be prepared by thinking about the topic and reading in advance. Students are strongly encouraged to regularly read the newspaper to keep up with current events in Canadian government and politics.

Topics may include:

- The Constitution and Constitutional Change
- The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- The Federal System
- The Executive
- Parliament
- The Public Bureaucracy
- The Judicial System: Law and the Courts
- Canadian Diversity
- Political Parties
- Elections and the Electoral System
- Interest Groups, Social Movements, and Lobbyists

Assignments may include:

- Short tests
- Research assignments
- Final examination

Textbook: Marland, Alex and Jared J. Wesley. 2016. *Inside Canadian Politics*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.