

THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Department of Political Science
POL 3210 – The Constitution and Canadian Federalism
Fall 2019

Instructor: Ajay Sharma.

Lecture Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00pm – 2:20pm.

Lecture Location: MacKinnon, 031.

Office: MacKinnon, Room 518.

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00am-12:30pm, Thursday 4:30pm-6:00pm (Or by Appointment).

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the evolution of the Canadian constitution and the nature and scope of federalism and intergovernmental relations in Canada, with particular emphasis placed on the past fifty years. Our attention will be directed to topics such as: constitutionalism; the evolution of Canada's federal system; the theory and practice of Canadian federalism; the role of the Supreme Court of Canada; regionalism; federal-provincial relations; multilevel governance; and key areas of public policy.

This course is guided by several key questions. For example, what are the implications of living in a federal country? How does federalism influence our political process, our policy challenges and solutions? Has the federal structure served us well? Does federalism facilitate or constrain decision-making? Students will be expected to explore these and other key questions that will arise during the semester.

Required Readings

There is one required text for this course and it is available for purchase at the bookstore. The text shall also be available on short-term reserve in the library.

- Bakvis, Herman.,and Grace Skogstad. (2012). *Canadian Federalism*, 3rd Edition. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.