

**CANADIAN DEMOCRACY**  
**POLSCI 2D03**  
**Winter 2023**

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**Lecture:** Monday, 9:20 – 11:20am  
**Room:** ITB 137

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**Office Hours:** Monday, 12:00-2:00pm

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## **Course Description**

An introduction to institutions delimiting the practice of citizenship in Canada and of the political values they embody.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to convey a reliable and sophisticated understanding of the main institutions of Canadian democracy, and particularly of how they work.

## **Required Materials and Texts**

- Patrick Malcolmson, Richard Myers, Gerald Baier, and Tom Bateman. *The Canadian regime: An introduction to parliamentary government in Canada* (7th ed.). University of Toronto Press, 2016.
- James Bickerton and Alain-G. Gagnon, eds. *Canadian Politics* (7th ed.). University of Toronto Press, 2020.

## **Class Format**

The course is delivered through a weekly lecture, coupled with weekly tutorials to discuss course material. The tutorials will start on January 23.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Lecture Attendance – 10%
2. Tutorial Participation – 10%
3. Tutorial Presentations – 15%
4. “For and Against” Essay – 30%
5. Final Exam – 35%

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Lecture Attendance (10%), starting January 23**

Your attendance in class for lectures and tutorials is important both for your learning, and for the learning of your classmates. You may have two unexcused absences without any penalty (you may miss two lectures). After that, you will lose 12.5% of your attendance mark for each absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each lecture.

### **Tutorial Participation (10%), starting January 23**

This quality of your tutorials depends in significant part on the participation of every student. You will not be graded the quantity of your contributions to discussion, as it is expected that every student will actively contribute. However, each student will be

graded at the end of the course according to the quality of contributions over the entire course. I regard high quality contributions to be regular, timely, concise, on topic, and oriented towards promoting collective understanding of the course content.

### **Tutorial Presentations (15%)**

You will form groups of 2 or 3 to give a 5-7-minute creative tutorial presentation that conveys the significance or contribution of a particular individual to the functioning or historical development of the corresponding institution. More instructions will be provided by your TA.

- **Confederation and the Constitution:** George Brown or Sir Oliver Mowat
- **Responsible Government:** John Lambton, 1st Earl of Durham
- **The Executive:** Michaëlle Jean
- **Parliament:** Elizabeth May or Michael Chong
- **Elections:** Maryam Monsef
- **Parties:** Stephen Harper or Lucien Bouchard
- **Federalism:** Wilfrid Laurier
- **Charter:** John Diefenbaker or Pierre Elliott Trudeau
- **Judiciary:** Rosalie Abella

### **“For and Against” Essays (30%), due March 13**

Choose one of the propositions below and write two brief essays, one of which is in favour of the proposition and the other against. These are argumentative essays, which means that you are taking a position and defending it with a series of arguments and supportive examples and evidence. You can think of the essays as in the style of an opinion editorial; however, you must do more than simply assert your opinion. You are encouraged to draw upon the course readings and any other reading you wish to do for this paper. Please use a recognized citation method. Each essay should be 500-600 words (max. 1200 words in total).

You will be marked according to the following criteria: clear, effective and original argumentation; supportive and convincing evidence; effective reference to course materials; grammar, style, and punctuation. Submit to Avenue to Learn.

#### Propositions:

- Canada should be a republic.
- Canada should have an electoral system of proportional representation.
- The Senate should be elected.

- Parliamentary procedure should be altered so that governments lose the confidence of the House only when defeated on the budget, throne speech, or an explicit vote of non-confidence.
- The notwithstanding clause should be deleted from the Charter.

### **Final Exam (35%)**

The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar during the final examination period. The first part of the exam will be multiple choice, primarily focused on content delivered during lecture. The second part will involve short answers that will require you to draw upon knowledge you have gained throughout the course.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 (January 9)**

**January 9 – Introduction**

### **Week 2 (January 16)**

**January 16 – Institutions and Citizenship**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.1
- Bickerton and Gagnon, Ch. 1

### **Week 3 (January 23)**

**January 23 – Treaties and Nations**

Readings:

- Bickerton and Gagnon, Chs. 2, 10, 11

**Notes:** Tutorials start

### **Week 4 (January 30)**

**January 30 – Confederation and the Constitution**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.2
- Peter Russell, *Canada's Odyssey: A Country Based on Incomplete Conquests*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017: 134-172.

### **Week 5 (February 6)**

**February 6 – Responsible Government**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.3
- Janet Ajzenstat, *The Canadian Founding: John Locke and Parliament*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007: 49-66.

**Week 6 (February 13)**

**February 13 – The Executive**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.4
- Bickerton and Gagnon, Chs. 3, 6

**Week 7 (February 20)**

**February 20 – Mid-term recess, No Class**

**Week 8 (February 27)**

**February 27 – Parliament**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.5
- Bickerton and Gagnon, Ch. 4

**Week 9 (March 6)**

**March 6 – Elections**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.6
- Bickerton and Gagnon, Ch. 14

**Week 10 (March 13)**

**March 13 – Parties**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.7
- Bickerton and Gagnon, Ch. 13

**Notes:** “For and Against” Essays Due

**Week 11 (March 20)**

**March 20 – Federalism**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.8
- Bickerton and Gagnon, Ch.8

**Week 12 (March 27)**

**March 27 – Charter**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.9
- Bickerton and Gagnon, Ch.9

**Week 13 (April 3)**

**April 3 – Judiciary**

Readings:

- Malcolmson, et al., Ch.10

**Week 14 (April 10)**

**April 10 – Conclusion**

Readings:

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

All assignments must be submitted in either MS Word or PDF format via Avenue to Learn before the beginning of lecture on the due date.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be accepted without penalty for three days after the due date. From that point forward, late assignments will receive a penalty of 2 percentage points a day. Extensions will be considered if they are requested in person ahead of time.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

### **Courses With An On-Line Element**

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.



## Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

## Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

**All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.