

**FEDERALISM**  
**POLSCI 3GG3**  
**Fall 2021, Term 1**

**Instructor:** Dr. Hailey Murphy  
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**Lecture:** [Mondays 14:30 – 15:20 &  
Wednesdays 14:30 – 16:20]  
**Room:** [Online Via Zoom]

**Office:** [Via Zoom]  
**Office Hours:** [By Appointment]

**Contents**

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives .....	3
Required Materials and Texts .....	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview .....	3
Course Evaluation – Details .....	4
Participation (10%), weekly .....	4
Questions Presentation/Leadership (10%), signup completed week 1 .....	4
Quizzes (25%), weekly on Wednesday .....	4
Annotated Bibliography (25%), due October 27, 2021.....	4
Research Essay (30%) due December 8, 2021.....	4
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings .....	5
Week 1 (September 8).....	5
Week 2 (September 13 and 15).....	5
Week 3 (September 20 and 22).....	5
Week 4 (September 27 and 29).....	5
Week 5 (October 4 and 6) .....	6
Week 6 (Oct 11-17, 2021) Mid-Term recess, NO CLASS.....	6
Week 7 (October 18 and 20) .....	6
Week 8 (October 25 and 27) .....	6
Week 9 (November 1 and 3).....	7
Week 10 (November 8 and 10).....	7
Week 11 (November 15 and 17).....	7
Week 12 (November 22 and 24).....	8

Week 13 (November 29 and December 1) .....	8
Week 14 (December 6 and 8).....	8
Course Policies .....	9
Submission of Assignments.....	9
Grades.....	9
Late Assignments .....	9
Absences, Missed Work, Illness .....	9
Courses With An On-Line Element.....	9
Online Proctoring.....	10
Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection .....	10
Copyright and Recording .....	10
Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO) .....	10
Academic Integrity Statement.....	11
Conduct Expectations.....	11
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	11
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy .....	12
Course Modification .....	12
Extreme Circumstances.....	12

## **Course Description**

From the calendar: An analysis of the constitutional framework, evolution, and structure of the federal system in Canada and/or other Western countries. The principles of federalism at least rhetorically inform the political systems under which two in five humans live. Formal federations such as Canada are institutionally structured in part to protect or give expression to such principles. This course pays particular attention to how these principles have been translated into Canadian political institutions, and the implications for political practices such as redistribution, intergovernmental relations, public policy making, and the accommodation of national diversity.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the impact of federalism on the lives of citizens
- Distinguish differing governmental structures and their implementation (Unitary, Federal)
- Critically evaluate how federalism works as well as its benefits and drawbacks
- Understand the role of intergovernmental relations and asymmetry, especially in a multination context

## **Required Materials and Texts**

- Contested Federalism: Certainty and Ambiguity in the Canadian Federation, Second Edition - Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier (available in campus bookstore)
- Secondary readings will be available for free online as indicated in the weekly schedule

## **Class Format**

- This course will be held online using Zoom.
- Monday: asynchronous lecture – attendance will be taken
- Wednesday will consist of student presentations and discussion; there will also be an in-class quiz at the beginning of class on Wednesday. All questions will be drawn from Monday's lecture; it is the responsibility of the students to log in on time for the quiz.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. [Participation 10% - weekly]
2. [Questions Presentation 10% - signup for presentations done in week 1]
3. [Quizzes 25% - weekly on Wednesday]

4. [Annotated Bibliography and Essay Outline 25% - due Oct 27, 2021]
5. [Research Essay 30% - due Dec 8, 2021]

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Participation (10%), weekly**

This course consists of 2 lectures each week. The first lecture will be primarily conducted in traditional lecture style using Zoom. The second lecture of the week will be discussion based. Students are expected to have read the assigned readings and discuss with their peers. You will be graded based on the quality of your contribution to the class discussion. Attendance will also be taken for each class. Attendance without participation will result in a lower grade.

### **Questions Presentation/Leadership (10%), signup completed week 1**

Each Wednesday students will present 1 question to the class in order to stimulate class discussion. Signup for presentation dates will take place on week 1, each student will present once. Requirements: each question will be presented to the class with accompanying explanation/background (approx. 5 mins) in order to lead discussion and ensure clarity. In addition students will submit their questions to Avenue to Learn the day before their presentation date by 11:59PM. Format: Question stated clearly followed by a 1-2 paragraph explanation which provides background and significance. Students may consider addressing their own possible answer to the question in their submission.

### **Quizzes (25%), weekly on Wednesday**

In lieu of an exam, this course will have weekly in-class quizzes. The quizzes will be held using Zoom and be multiple choice. Each quiz will be held on Wednesday at the beginning of class and will only cover material from Monday's lecture.

### **Annotated Bibliography (25%), due October 27, 2021**

This assignment requires you to use the McMaster library's online search engines to conduct academic research. You are required to locate and consult at least three (4) *academic* journal articles. This assignment is also designed to help you develop your research skills and ensure you are aware of the required format for bibliographic entries.

### **Research Essay (30%) due December 8, 2021**

Students are expected to complete a major research paper. The essay should be 7-10 pages in length, entail a strongly defended thesis, and represent an original contribution to the study of federalism. The research essay must include a proper introduction, thesis, evidence in support of your argument, conclusion and complete citations (using the Chicago citation style), and a bibliography. The essay is intended to demonstrate your analytical capabilities as well as your research skills and should thus include a minimum of 4 scholarly sources beyond course readings. This assignment is a continuation of the annotated bibliography and proposal.

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

### **Week 1 (September 8)**

**Wednesday September 8 – Introduction to course and themes; course expectations; review of syllabus**

Readings: none

### **Week 2 (September 13 and 15)**

**Sept 13 – Introduction to Federalism**

Readings: *Required*: "[The House: Can Canadian federalism cope with 21st century threats?](#)"

*Required*: "[How Germany's federation co-ordinated a pandemic response](#)"

*Recommended*: Bednar, J. 2011. "The Political Science of Federalism," Annual Review of Law and Society 7: 269- 288.

**Sept 15 – Introduction to Federalism discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier – Introduction and Chapter 1

Notes: [last day for enrollment drop/add]

### **Week 3 (September 20 and 22)**

**Sept 20 – Foundations**

Readings: *Required*: Cairns, Alan C. 1979. "The Other Crisis of Canadian Federalism." Canadian Public Administration 22 (2): 175-195.

**Sept 22 – Foundations Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier – Chapter 2

### **Week 4 (September 27 and 29)**

**Sept 27 – Constitutions**

Readings: *Required*:

[https://lop.parl.ca/about/parliament/senatoreugeneforsej/book/chapter\\_2-e.html](https://lop.parl.ca/about/parliament/senatoreugeneforsej/book/chapter_2-e.html)

*Recommended*: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-4.html#h-17> (sections 91-93)

**Sept 29 – Constitutions Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier –Chapter 3

## **Week 5 (October 4 and 6)**

### **Oct 4 – Executive Federalism**

Readings: *Required*: “Coping with COVID requires a return to co-operative federalism” <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/may-2021/coping-with-covid-requires-a-return-to-co-operative-federalism/>

*Recommended*: “The stubborn state of federalism in Canada” <https://www.macleans.ca/politics/the-stubborn-state-of-federalism-in-canada/>

### **Oct 6 – Executive Federalism Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier - Chapter 5

## **Week 6 (Oct 11-17, 2021) Mid-Term recess, NO CLASS**

## **Week 7 (October 18 and 20)**

### **Oct 18 – Judiciary**

Readings: *Required*: Kelly, James B. 2001. "Reconciling Rights and Federalism during Review of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms: The Supreme Court of Canada and the Centralization Thesis, 1982 to 1999." *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue Canadienne De Science Politique* 34 (2): 321-355.

*Recommended*: “What the Supreme Court ruling on national carbon pricing means for the fight against climate change” <https://theconversation.com/what-the-supreme-court-ruling-on-national-carbon-pricing-means-for-the-fight-against-climate-change-157675>

### **Oct 20 – Judiciary Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier - Chapter 4

## **Week 8 (October 25 and 27)**

### **Oct 25 – Supreme Court Case Overview**

Readings: TBD based on class interests re: topics

Notes: [No presentations this week]

### **Oct 27 – Supreme Court Case Overview**

Readings: TBD based on class interest re: topics

Notes: [No Presentation; No Quiz; Annotated Bibliography due]

## **Week 9 (November 1 and 3)**

### **Nov 1 – Local Government**

Readings: *Required*: “Let’s empower municipalities, too often the little siblings of federalism” <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/june-2021/lots-empower-municipalities-too-often-the-little-siblings-of-federalism/>

*Recommended*: Hennigar, Matthew A. 2004. “Expanding the ‘Dialogue’ Debate: Federal Government Responses to Lower Court Charter Decisions.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue Canadienne De Science Politique* 37 (1): 3-21.

### **Nov 3 – Local Government Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier - Chapter 10

## **Week 10 (November 8 and 10)**

### **Nov 8 – Asymmetry**

Readings: *Required*: “Should bilingualism change in Canada? The debate over Gov. Gen. Mary Simon” <https://theconversation.com/should-bilingualism-change-in-canada-the-debate-over-gov-gen-mary-simon-164836>

*Recommended*: Cameron, D. 2009. “The Paradox of Federalism: Some Practical Reflections,” *Regional and Federal Studies* 19(2): 309-319.

### **Nov 10 – Asymmetry Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Tarlton, C. 1965. “Symmetry and Asymmetry as Elements of Federalism: A Theoretical Speculation,” *Journal of Politics* 27(4): 861-874.

*Recommended*: McGarry, J. 2007. “Asymmetry in Federations, Federacies, and Unitary States,” *Ethnopolitics* 6(1): 105-116.

## **Week 11 (November 15 and 17)**

### **Nov 15 – Indigenous Relations**

Readings: *Required*: <https://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/why-canadian-federalism-is-bigger-than-ottawa-and-the-provinces/>

*Required*: “Reality of residential schools was always there for us to see: Cindy Blackstock” <https://www.canadianlawyermag.com/practice-areas/indigenous/reality-of-residential-schools-was-always-there-for-us-to-see-cindy-blackstock/358528>

### **Nov 17 – Indigenous Relations**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier - Chapter 11

Notes: [November 19, 2021 - Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default]

## **Week 12 (November 22 and 24)**

### **Nov 22 – Quebec**

Readings: *Required*: <https://www.sqrc.gouv.qc.ca/relations-canadiennes/institutions-constitution/statut-qc/reconnaissance-nation-en.asp>

*Recommended*: <https://thewalrus.ca/the-separatist-curve-ball/>

### **Nov 24 – Quebec Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier - Chapter 12

## **Week 13 (November 29 and December 1)**

### **Nov 29 – Federalism and the Environment**

Readings: *Required*: "[Making federalism work for energy efficiency](#)"

*Recommended*: "Canada has 20 per cent of the world's freshwater reserves — this is how to protect it" <https://theconversation.com/canada-has-20-per-cent-of-the-worlds-freshwater-reserves-this-is-how-to-protect-it-159677>

### **Dec 1 – Federalism and the Environment Discussion**

Readings: *Required*: Douglas Brown, Herman Bakvis and Gerald Baier - Chapter 9

## **Week 14 (December 6 and 8)**

### **December 6 – Federalism and the Environment**

Readings: *Required*: "Indigenous Peoples are critical to the success of nature-based solutions to climate change"  
<https://www.facetsjournal.com/doi/full/10.1139/facets-2019-0058>

*Recommended*: "What the new UN report warning of climate impacts means for Canadians" <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/ipcc-report-canada-1.6134879>

Notes: [Presentations take place on Monday this week]

### **December 8 – Course Wrap up – open discussion**

Notes: [Research Essay Due]



## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

Papers are to be submitted to the appropriate submissions folder on the course's Avenue to Learn page by 11:59 pm 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**

[Insert policy on late assignments]

### **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.