

Royal Military College of Canada (Kingston)
POE205 – Canadian Politics and Society
Sections 2 and 3, Winter 2020

Professor: David Last

Department of Political Science and Economics

Email: last-d@rmc.ca

Web sites: www.davidmlast.org and

Office: G406

Phone: 613 532 3002 (voice, text, WhatsApp, FaceTime)

Section 2	Section 3	Office Hours
Tuesday 1100-1150 Thursday 1240-1430	Monday 0800-0950 Wednesday 1540-1630	Monday 1000-1150 Wednesday 1100-1250 Thursday 0800-0850 any time by appointment

Course description

This introduction addresses political culture and socialization, federalism and the regions, parties and the electoral system, federal institutions, organization and accountability of the public service and armed forces, equity and diversity, role of the media, and Canada's place in the world.

Course objectives

This course introduces students to the fundamental features of democracy in Canada using the analytical tools of political science. After reviewing the sociological features of Canadian democracy, we will survey its main institutions, including the electoral system, Parliament, federalism and the *Charter*. Finally, we will discuss some of the key challenges facing Canadian democracy today, including the inclusion and recognition of minorities and the impact of globalization. At the end of the semester, students should be able to identify and analyze critically the main features and political dynamics of democracy in Canada.

Course requirements and expectations

Cadets are expected to attend class and to use the text and online resources to prepare for classes. The mandatory readings are an integral part of the course for evaluation purposes and will not always be summarized during the lectures.

All assignments must be submitted before the end of the term. If all work has not been submitted, the instructor reserves the right not to grade your final exam. This policy reflects RMC regulations 7.3 and 10.2.

It is your responsibility as students in this class and as Canadian citizens to remain informed of current issues in Canadian politics. An easy way to do so is to read online news through the Globe and Mail, the National Post, the Toronto Star, Le Devoir, iPolitics, or the Ottawa Citizen websites. Current affairs shows, like Power and Politics (CBC News Network), also

provide various viewpoints on unfolding events. The CBC web archives is an excellent place to start for a basic overview of some of the key historical debates in Canadian politics (<http://archives.cbc.ca>). Podcasts such as CANADALAND (<https://www.canadalandshow.com/shows/canadaland/>) and The Secret Life of Canada (<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/secretlifeofcanada>) can also be useful.

In class discussions, I expect you to express informed analysis and opinions and to be respectful of your colleagues.

The course is hybrid on-site/on-line. This means that you are responsible for materials on the course web site at www.davidmlast.org, and on the Moodle.rmc.ca site, and that you can contribute online at any time.

Class organization

Students will be assigned to writing pairs and coordinating roles. Class coordinators have a weekly leadership role in cooperation with the professor. Normally two will be assigned to each week. The class will decide as a group how they want the class coordinators to work.

Absences

Absences must be authorized. If you miss class, you are expected to cover the materials in class using the online resources. If you do not participate in class in any given week, you are expected to do so on Moodle. This will be tracked and is part of your mark.

Academic integrity

Academic misconduct consists of any form of plagiarism, cheating, or violations of academic ethics, essentially seeking to pass someone else's work as your own. Academic misconduct is a serious offence and violates CAF values. Consequences of academic misconduct can range from failing the course to expulsion from RMC. There will be a Moodle test on **Academic Regulation 23 Academic Integrity** early in the course.

Required textbooks

Rand Dyck and Christopher Cochrane, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, (7th ed.), Thomson/Nelson, 2014.

Other readings will be made available on Moodle or the course web site.

Course evaluations

Your final grade will come from the following evaluations. All written assignments will be submitted through Turnitin linked to the course Moodle site. Submissions and instructor comments may be shared for learning benefit.

Identifying political phenomena (A1)	10
Politics and the media (A2)	10
Critical Essays (A3,10+A4,10+A5,20)	40
Participation (in class and on line)	10
Final exam (in hall, closed book)	30

Identifying political phenomena (10%)

This assignment is an exercise in semiotics - the study of signs or symbols. Words and images are signs or symbols representing complex concepts, and they often have different meanings for different audiences. This is an important tool for understanding the world around you in general, and the nature of power and politics in particular.

Capture 10 images of political phenomena. For each image, explain what we are looking at and how it is political, using concepts studied in class. Keep a log of when and where each image originated, and include this in the report.

The report will be graded on the relevance of the images (ideas), the clarity and accuracy of the explanation (expression) and the accuracy of record keeping (support). **Submit on Moodle Turnitin.**

Politics and media, differentiating fact, opinion, and fake (10%)

This assignment consists of an exercise in content analysis aimed at giving you the tools for a critical analysis of news reported in the media. You will choose an online article from a list provided by the instructor and analyse its contents. You are expected to identify which parts of the text are factual (by fact-checking these elements) and which parts are the author's opinions. You will then find a newspaper article that shows a divergent opinion, fact-check it, and explain which of the two articles you find most convincing and why. **Submit this assignment on Moodle Turnitin.**

Critical essay (40%)

You will write a research essay on a key issue of Canadian politics. The aim of a research essay is to answer a question. You must frame a coherent question, do enough research to answer it, and express the answer clearly and effectively.

Your essay mark of 40 will be divided between three evaluations:

- 10% for an essay proposal, including a research question, tentative answer, definitions of key concepts, outline of your sources and methods, and a statement of relevance.
- 10% for an annotated bibliography that includes primary, secondary, and tertiary sources relevant to your research question
- 20% for your final paper, appropriately formatted. Marks are additive, but remediable.

All submissions will be through Turnitin on Moodle.

Final examination (30%) during the official examination period

The final exam will consist of both short definition and essay questions, based on all materials covered. Students will be involved in formulating the exam.

Participation in class and online (10%) throughout the semester

Students will be evaluated based on their participation in class and in online discussions on Moodle, which will be posted sporadically.

Policy on references/citation style

You may use APA, MLA, or Chicago style in your citations – as long as you are being consistent throughout the assignment. If you need help regarding proper citation, this website is useful: <https://www.plagiarism.org/article/citation-styles>

Late submissions

All assignments are remediable within the limits of time. This means that you can submit any assignment early, get comments, and resubmit. You cannot submit anything after the end of classes. The later you submit an assignment, the less time I will have to mark and return it.

Marking Guide

Essay Marking with Letter Grade and Percentage Guide, RMC

Key questions: Have they framed a coherent and answerable question? Have they done enough of the right sort of research to answer it? Have they expressed their answer clearly and without major error? If the answer is yes to all of these, then the essay passes (for undergraduate)				Narrative to student submitting essay: 1. Overall assessment 2. What was good about the paper? 3. What needs work or improvement? 4. How to make it an A paper		
hons	ltr	spread	Conversion scale	Undergraduate essays 1 st , 2 nd year	3 rd , 4 th year and BMAS Thesis	Graduate essays, War Studies
First class	A+	94-100	95	Ideas: some originality	Ideas: originality in concept, and effective application of an accepted method to support it.	Ideas: originality in concept, expression and research design
	A	87-93	90	Expression: clearly expressed, free from errors of style, grammar, etc.	Expression: clearly and elegantly expressed, free from errors	Expression: publishable material with minimum editing.
	A-	80-86	83	Support well-substantiated by data or footnotes, draws on primary sources	Support: fully documented using a wide variety of relevant and recent secondary sources, and some primary sources	Support: fully documented primary sources or an extensive and original compilation of secondary sources, using an appropriate method
Second class	B+	76-79	78	Ideas: some blend of description and analysis, in balance	Ideas: some originality Expression: clearly expressed,	Ideas: originality in concept, and effective application of an accepted method to support it.
	B	73-75	75	Expression: generally good, free of major errors that affect meaning	free from errors of style, grammar, etc.	Expression: clearly and elegantly expressed, free from errors
	B-	70-72	72	Support: mainly secondary sources, limited number or quality of sources	Support well-substantiated by data or footnotes, draws on primary sources	Support: fully documented using a wide variety of relevant and recent secondary sources, and some primary sources
Third class	C+	66-69	68	Ideas: regurgitated, lack clarity	Ideas: some blend of description and analysis, in balance	Ideas: some originality
	C	63-65	65	Expression: errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling	Expression: generally good, free of major errors that affect meaning	Expression: clearly expressed,
	C-	60-62	62	Support: Misses some key recent works in wide circulation (e.g. periodicals)	Support: mainly secondary sources, limited number or quality of sources	free from errors of style, grammar, etc., Support well-substantiated by data or footnotes, draws on primary sources
Pass	D+	56-59	58	Ideas: no ideas; incoherent or jumbled	Ideas: regurgitated, lack clarity	Ideas: some blend of description and analysis, in balance
	D	53-55	55	Expression: cut & paste; major errors of grammar, punctuation, spelling, which affect meaning	Expression: errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling	Expression: generally good, free of major errors that affect meaning
	D-	50-52	52	Support: few relevant footnotes, little evidence of research to support ideas	Support: Misses some key recent works in wide circulation (e.g. periodicals)	Support: mainly secondary sources, limited number or
Failure	E*	40-49	45	Ideas: plagiarism or clear lack of effort	Ideas: no ideas; incoherent or jumbled	Ideas: regurgitated, lack clarity
	F*	Below 40	20	Expression: internal contradictions or major errors	Expression: cut & paste; major errors of grammar, punctuation, spelling, which affect meaning	Expression: errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling
				Support: misquotes, factual errors, unsubstantiated statements	Support: few relevant footnotes, little evidence of research to support ideas	Support: Misses some key recent works in wide circulation (e.g. periodicals)

Detailed marking guides ('wrappers') are available for each assignment online.

Class Schedule

**** Note that some guest speakers will be invited to speak to all the PO-205 sections over the course of the semester, scheduled on Monday evenings. Weekly schedules will be adjusted.**

Week	Date	Topic	Objectives / <i>Assignment recommendations</i> See web site for full list	Mandatory readings (confirm with Moodle)
1	6-10 Jan	Political socialization	Political socialization, political culture, governance, your own socialization and culture <i>Political values survey</i> <i>Academic integrity test</i>	RD, Ch. 11 RD, Ch. 12

2	13-17 Jan	Political enquiry	Foundational concepts for social science and political sciences <i>Essay proposal discussion</i>	RD, Ch. 1 OED, Definitions Last, Critical Thinking
3	20-24 Jan	Social division and cohesion	Understand attractors and dividers, roles of political institutions, class <i>A1 Political phenomena</i>	Selections from RD, Ch. 3,4,5,6,7,8 (assigned to groups)
4	27-31 Jan	Government	Functional map of Canadian government, and generic model of the state <i>A2 Media and politics</i>	RD, Ch. 2
5	3-7 Feb	Legislature and Executive	Understand parliament, legislature, executive, and context of operations	RD, Ch 21 RD, Ch 23
6	10-14 Feb	Judiciary	Rule of law, courts, Charter, military law, LOAC and IHL <i>A3 Essay proposal</i>	RD, Ch. 19 RD, Ch. 24
Reading week – points for political engagement (see me about practitioner research)				
7	24-28 Feb	Federalism	Federalism, constitution, centralizing/decentralizing, secession, dissolution <i>A4 Bibliography</i>	RD, Ch. 17 RD, Ch. 18
8	2-6 Mar	Public Service	Evolving ideas (TPA, NPM, DEG), accountability, ethics	RD, Ch. 22 CAF Organization and Accountability Public Sector Ethics, CAF Ethics
9	9-13 Mar	Public Policy	The policy “market-place” in Ottawa, and means of navigating <i>A5 Essay (recommended)</i>	RD, Ch. 20 DND, <i>Strong, Secure, Engaged</i>
10	16-20 Mar	Pursuit of interests	Political spectrum, ideologies, political parties, brokerage, interest and advocacy groups	RD, Ch. 14 RD, Ch. 16
11	23-27 Mar	Elections	Party system, electoral system, liberal democracy, campaigns, voting, participation	RD, Ch. 15
12	30 Mar-3 Apr	Canada in the world	Foreign and defence policy, globalization, OBOR, trade agreements,	RD, Ch. 10
13	6-9 Apr	Exam review	<i>9 April is the last day written assignments will be accepted</i>	