



School of Applied Science and Management

POLI 101

The Government of Canada

Term: Winter 2025

Number of Credits: 3

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Rebecca Major

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays @ 9:00 AM or by appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: F2F & Online via Zoom

CLASSROOM: **A2317** Online via Moodle **E-MAIL:** rmajor@yukonu.ca

DATES: January 9 to April 10, 2025 (Thursdays 1:00 pm -2:50 pm)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the institutional and constitutional structure of government in Canada and its relation to a variety of issues in civil society. Topics include its fundamental framework, the constitution, the core institutions of government and politics, and such contemporary issues as nationalism, regionalism, multiculturalism, and reconciliation. The course offers students an overview of the important pieces of the contemporary system of government in Canada to serve as a basis for debate and discussion of modern political issues and will make connections between Canadian government institutions and policies and Indigenous peoples and governance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

None

POLI 101 is a hy-flex course. Students must have access to a computer and Internet connection and be able to use word-processing, presentation, email, and web-conferencing software. Students must have the ability to record video.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course requires a textbook that is available online. [Inside Canadian Politics](#) Enhanced Ebook. Alex Marland, Jared J. Wesley

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon University recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon University program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to...

- Demonstrate knowledge of terms, facts, and concepts related to Canada Government and politics.
- Identify the institutions of government in Canada and their historic interrelationships
- Describe contemporary and emerging political relationships between Indigenous peoples and government
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of Canadian Government and politics
- Analyze and respond to issues, challenges, and opportunities within Canadian political, such as nationalism, regionalism and multiculturalism.

COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT

This is a hyflex course via Yukon University's Learning Management System (Moodle). To succeed it is vital to keep up with the reading and weekly assignments.

Students are encouraged to use the resources provided as tools to support their course work. The instructor will aim to keep the course material interactive and varied.

Email and frequent internet access are an important part of this course. The instructor will communicate through email and Moodle and has posted office hours.

ASSESSMENTS:

Online contributions/activities

Students will participate in discussion posts and video responses.

Assignments

Students will be responsible for several short, individual assignments totaling 35% of their final grade. The assignments are related to the material covered during the term. They will demonstrate the students' abilities to apply key course concepts.

Late assignment policy – students who require an extension must contact the instructor by email prior to the assignment due date. Without prior approval, outlines, papers and presentations that are turned in late will have 1% of the final assignment grade deducted per day. Assignments turned in more than 5 days late will not be accepted. Online contributions must be completed by the due date. Without prior approval, late or incomplete online contributions will receive a zero.

Exams

Mid-term Exam: Students will be assessed on their comprehension of key concepts and themes addressed up to the mid-point of the course. The exam will be posted on Moodle and will be open-book but must be completed individually.

Final Exam: Students will be assessed on their comprehension of key concepts and themes addressed in the entire course. The exam will be posted on Moodle and will be open-book but must be completed individually.

EVALUATION:

Online Discussion	15%
Assignments	35%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Alex Marland & Jared Wesley. 2020. *Inside Canadian Politics*. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press; Don Mills. Available in the bookstore and also available as an e-book via Redshelf.

Further readings or recordings may be provided by the instructor. Access to a computer and word processing software are required.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC):

LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Changes will be communicated by your instructor or on Moodle as necessary.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	January 9	Course Overview, expectations and online format <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Preface Key definitions and concepts in Canadian Politics; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter One
2	January 16	The Constitution; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Two
3	January 23	Federalism; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Three
4	January 30	Regionalism, Political Culture & Quebec; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Four
5	February 6	The Executive; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Five
6	February 13	The Legislature; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Six
7	February 27	Justice; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Seven
8	March 6	Bureaucracy; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapters Eight
9	March 13	Political Parties; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Nine
10	March 20	Elections; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Ten
11	March 27	Interest Group/Social Movements; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Twelve
12	April 3	Diversity & Representation; <i>Marland and Wesley</i> – Chapter Thirteen
13	April 10	Exam Week

1. *Online Discussion and Participation (15%)*

This course will consist of a combination of lectures and online discussions. Each week, students will participate in online discussion to discuss course readings and lecture material.

2. *Research Topic/Academic source list assignment (5%)*

This is the first of several scaffolding assignments to help you learn how to properly research and write an academic analytical political science research paper. Students will choose one research topic from the "Deeper Inside Canadian Politics" sections found at the end of each chapter (2-14) inside of the Marland and Wesley text. Students will then construct a list of five academic sources for their research topic and will list these following a directed and proper bibliographic citation method. Each source should also be justified for inclusion on the list by explaining how it contributes to the paper topic. More on this assignment will be communicated in breakout group and via Blackboard.

3. *Mid-term Exam (25%)*

A mid-term exam assignment will be made available on **Monday, February 5 and will be due on Friday, February 9**. I will discuss the mid-term in depth in the classes leading up to Feb. 5.

4. *Research thesis statement assignment (5%)*

This is the second scaffolded assignment toward the construction of your final research papers. Students will produce two different thesis statements related to their chosen topic. Each thesis statement should take a different position on the same topic, each proffering a different argument.

5. *Research paper introduction assignment (10%)*

This is the third and final scaffolded assignment toward the construction of your final research papers. Students will write a full introduction to their research papers including a clearly worded thesis statement and a plan of the paper to follow, clearly articulating how the paper will make the argument/case.

6. *Short Analytical Research Paper (15%)*

Students will write a 5–7-page analytical research paper as a culmination of the earlier scaffolded assignments. Each paper must make a clear argument and provide sufficient supporting evidence, following the rules of academic political science essay writing. Each paper must include at least **six pieces** of **academic research**. Your paper must be submitted/uploaded electronically to Moodle on or before **March 25**.

7. *Final Exam (25%)*