Douglas College

EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A:	Division:	**INSTRUCTIONAL**	Effective Date:		**SEPTEMBER 2004**
B:	Department / Program Area:	**POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**	Revision	**X**	New Course
			If Revision, Section(s) Revised:		**C, F, J**
			Date of Previous Revision:		**MAY 2002**
			Date of Current Revision:		**APRIL 2004**

C:	**D:**	**E:**
POLI 1102	**INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT**	**3**
Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits

F: Calendar Description: This course will concentrate on the structure and functions of the principal institutions of the Canadian Government. Students will have the opportunity to examine Canada's constitutional history and contemporary constitutional challenges, the Office of the Prime Minister and its powers, the Cabinet, the Bureaucracy, Parliament and the Courts. The course will provide the student with a firm understanding of the structure of the Canadian Government Students are encouraged to take both POLI 1102 (Introduction to Canadian Government) and POLI 2202 (Canadian Politics) to enhance their transfer to university if majoring in Political Science.

Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings

Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:

Lecture and Seminar

Number of Contact Hours: (per week /semester for each descriptor)

Lecture: **2 hrs. per week / semester**
Seminar: **2 hrs. per week / semester**

Number of Weeks per Semester: **15**

H: Course Prerequisites:

NONE

I: Course Corequisites:

NONE

J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite

POLI 2202

K: Maximum Class Size:

35

L: PLEASE INDICATE:

	Non-Credit
	College Credit Non-Transfer
X	College Credit Transfer:

SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bccat.bc.ca)

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Outline various approaches to the study of Canadian politics, for example, the pluralist approach, public choice, class and others.

2. Describe major institutions in the Canadian political system, for example, the Constitution, the Executive, Parliament, Judiciary, Bureaucracy.

3. Explain the functions of the major institutions of the Canadian political system

4. Apply his/her understanding of course objectives in a formal research essay relevant to course content and objectives.

5. Be well prepared for further study in more advanced work in Canadian government and Canadian politics courses.

N: Course Content

Major Themes:

1. The Canadian Constitution
   Using the text and a reader, students will study the constitutional process in Canada from 1867 to the present. This part of the course will cover the origin and evolution of the Canadian Constitution, the formal Executive, Monarchy and Governor General, the structure and role of the Courts, federal/provincial powers, patriation of Canada's Constitution (1982), the Meech Lake Accord and the Charlottetown Accord (1992).

2. Federalism
   Concepts of federalism will be examined and evaluated. Canadian federalism, its origin and evolution will be analyzed. The history of the basic concepts of fiscal federalism will be studied in the Canadian context. Finally, the major challenges to federalism will be studied in terms of dualism (French/English), Quebec nationalism and the regional dynamics that influence the nature of the Canadian government.

3. The Prime Minister, Ministry, and Cabinet
   The role and powers of the political executive will be examined, with particular emphasis on the central role of the Prime Minister. Cabinet formulation, operations, structure, and the roles of Cabinet Ministers will be discussed. Policy formulation at the executive level will be examined, with reference to major coordinating agencies such as the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office.

4. Legislative Politics
   The structure and role of the Parliament of Canada will be examined with particular reference to the processes in Parliament, the committee system, and the role of the individual M.P. The role and function of the government and the opposition will be examined.

5. The Civil Service
   The basic structure and role of the civil service will be examined. Particular emphasis will be placed on the functions of the civil service both in terms of the implementation and the development of public policy.

O: Methods of Instruction

The course will be based on one two-hour lecture and one two-hour seminar per week. Some class sessions may involve student presentations or formal student debate on the chapter readings.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

A text and readings will be chosen based on individual instructor's preferences in consultation and with the approval of the department.

SAMPLE TEXT:

Dyck, Rand. (2000). Canadian Politics, Critical Approaches. 3rd ed. Nelson Thompson Learning, Scarborough.

Q: Means of Assessment

The course evaluation will be based on the course objectives and in accordance with Douglas College policy and the policies of the Political Science Department. A minimum of 50% of the student's grade will be assigned to the mid-term and end of term examinations. A minimum of 30% of the student's grade will be assigned to a formal research essay. A maximum of 20% of the student's grade will be based on a series of components, for example, quizzes, short essay, attendance, participation, class presentations. The specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

One example of an evaluation scheme:

Mid-term test	20%
Book review	20%
Research essay	30%
Final exam	30%
Total	100%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

Course Designer(s): M. Hancock and S. Tyakoff

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean / Director

Registrar

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