

 Yukon University	Indigenous Governance Degree
	POLI 101 (CRN 20006) – The Government of Canada/Online Asynchronous
	Term: Winter 2026 (January 8, 2026 to April 16, 2026) Number of Credits: 3 Credits
Course Outline	

INSTRUCTOR: Dionne Savill

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment – call 867-334-9967

CLASSROOM: Online via Moodle **E-MAIL:** dionne.savill@yukonu.ca **TELEPHONE:** 867-334-9967

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, including the heavy reliance on multi-level intergovernmental relations, 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

Prerequisite(s): None

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

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

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;

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- 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; and,
- Analyze and respond to issues, challenges, and opportunities within Canadian political, such as nationalism, regionalism and multiculturalism.

COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT

Weekly breakdown of instructional hours

This is a fully online course (asynchronous with scheduled deliverables) via Yukon University's Moodle system. There are no regular class meetings, but the instructor may schedule online check in sessions for students and/or an optional in person review before the final exam.

Although all students will complete the same module of work at the same time, they may log-in and complete the work at any time during the week. To succeed it is vital to keep up with the reading and any weekly assignments or quizzes.

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.

EVALUATION

Online Contributions/activities	30 %
Major Assignment	40 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100%

Online contributions/activities

Students will participate in discussion posts and mini quizzes. Discussion posts are very important in fully online course because they build community and students get to know the thoughts and ideas of other students.

Assignments

Students will be responsible for one major assignment. The assignment is related to the material covered during the term. The assignment 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. Without prior approval, late or incomplete online contributions will receive a zero.

Exam

One 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.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Cochrane, Christopher, Kelly Blidook and Rand Dyck. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*. 9th ed. This book can be purchased on line at [Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches | eText | Top Hat](#).

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.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact [Accessibility Services](#) for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

1. *The Canadian State, Constitution, and Federalism*
 - Constitutional foundations, division of powers, intergovernmental relations
2. *Indigenous Peoples and the Canadian State*
 - Colonialism, treaties, governance, reconciliation, and contemporary policy challenges
3. *Quebec, Language, and National Unity*
 - Quebec nationalism, bilingualism, asymmetrical federalism
4. *Political Economy of Canada*
 - State–market relations, inequality, public policy, globalization
5. *Political Culture, Identity, and Regionalism*
 - National identity, regional cleavages, values, and belonging
6. *Diversity in Canadian Politics*
 - Immigration, multiculturalism, race, gender, and inclusion
7. *Executive Power and Public Administration*
 - Prime minister, Cabinet, bureaucracy, and governance capacity
8. *Parliament, Courts, and the Charter*
 - Legislative process, judicial review, rights, and accountability
9. *Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Social Movements*
 - Representation, advocacy, and organized political action
10. *Elections, Participation, and Democracy*
 - Electoral systems, voting behaviour, turnout, democratic reform
11. *Media, Public Opinion, and Political Communication*
 - Agenda-setting, framing, and influence on political outcomes
12. *Canada in the World*
 - Foreign policy, Canada–US relations, and global pressures
13. *Contemporary Challenges and the Future of Canadian Democracy*
 - Democratic resilience, reconciliation, inequality, institutional reform