Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to the key institutions and processes in the Canadian political system. This objective is largely pursued with a discussion of the origins and subsequent evolution of the Canadian constitution, including federalism, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, different branches of government and key non-state political phenomena, such as interest groups, political parties, elections, interest groups and social movements. The relative roles and nature of these institutional structures will be evaluated in terms of the quality of democratic representation and participation. The issues of class, gender, race and ethnicity will also be examined. Finally, the course will evaluate the Canadian democratic experience within the context of North American polity. The implications of globalization and the North American continental economic integration for Canadian democracy will be addressed.

Learning Objectives:
Students are expected to acquire a foundational understanding of the institutional structures of Canadian political system as well as the interplay of economic, political and social forces that structure the terrain of politics in Canada. The primary objective of the course is to equip students with critical and analytical tools that are essential to evaluate socio-economic developments and practices in Canada particularly, the political development and nature of Canadian democracy in the context of the wider North American community.

Required Textbook:

Electronic Access: Scholars Portal Books http://www.library.yorku.ca/e/resolver/id/2514971
Limited to one user at a time and no downloads.
*** During the course of study, additional readings may be assigned or recommended.

Suggested Book:

Grading Scheme and Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Test (--July 17------)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper---- July 29----</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam ( Take Home Exam----------)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Be sure to keep a hard copy of all the work you submit.

Lecture and Reading Schedule;
Part I: Introduction to State Formation

Week 1: Institutional Foundations of the Evaluation of Canadian State and the Canadian Political Culture.
Required Readings:
Ch1
Canadian History:
http://www.canadahistory.com/sections/eras/confederation/Confederation.html


Week 2: The Constitution and the Principles of the Canadian Constitution
Required Readings:
Ch 2, ch 3

Week 3: Federalism and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Required Readings:
ch 4, ch 5
Part II: Machinery of Government: Political Institutions

Week 4: The Three Branches of Government
Required Readings:
Ch 6, ch 7, ch 8

Part III: Political Participation

Week 5: Elections, Political Parties and Interest Groups
Required Readings:
Ch 9, Ch 10, Ch 11

Part III: Canada in North America

Week 6: Canada’s External Environment
Global Economic Restructuring, Continental Economic Integration and the Canadian Identity

Term Assignment:
Students are required to write a research paper of 7 pages in length. The essay paper is worth 30% of the final mark. Specific essay questions will be handed out at a later date and students will be expected to pick one topic on which to write their research paper. The essay should be double-spaced, with standard margins and standard font size. You should have at least 5-7 sources (books, journals, government reports/documents). Late paper will lose 2% of its grade for each day that it is late. Extension will only be granted for exceptional circumstances. Written assignments should be submitted either in class or during my office hours.

Accommodation for Disability:
Students with disabilities who require adaptations or services must discuss their needs with the instructor. Accommodation for disability must be arranged in conjunction with the Office for Persons with Disability.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is generally considered to be the most serious academic misconduct that a student can commit. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, instances of plagiarism will have serious academic consequences. In order to avoid slipping into the realm of plagiarism, students are advised to familiarize themselves with York University’s definition of academic dishonesty.