



University
of Victoria

POLI 101 Canadian Politics

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Matt James

Course delivery: In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered face-to-face on campus.

Course description:

This course will explore some of the major divisions and fault lines in Canadian politics, with a particular emphasis on understanding conflicts over sovereignty and the ways in which traditional assumptions of Canadian politics have been challenged in recent decades.

We begin by examining the colonial history and machinations that led to Confederation. After discussing the idea of a distinctive Canadian political culture, the course then looks at the contours and conduct of partisan politics at the official level, focusing on Canadian elections, parties, and party systems. The remainder of the course studies the country's central societal debates and divisions, starting with what the political scientist Peter Russell calls Canada's constitutional odyssey.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop knowledge of Canadian politics including the conflicts with an emphasis on the debates surrounding sovereignty and self-determination
- Explore themes of identity and equity
- Expand critical thinking skills including the ability to analyze, synthesize, interpret and evaluate ideas, information, situations and texts
- Develop and practice academic writing skills
- Develop and practice research skills related to the discipline of political science

Topics may include:

Quebec nationalism
Indigenous peoples and settler colonialism
Feminism and gender
Racialization and multiculturalism
Globalization

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.