



POLI 433/533 - The Canadian State: Analysis, Critique, Resistance

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Jamie Lawson

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

Course description:

An advanced undergraduate seminar on theoretical, historical, and strategic analysis of the Canadian State. Topics may include historical patterns and explanations of Canadian state evolution; state-centred, non-state, and anti-state politics; nationality and nation; state form and function, including parliamentarism, bureaucracy, federalism, multiple legal traditions, and liberal-democracy; policing, security, and intelligence; influence, representation, and exclusion; Canada's place in the international state system; regionalism and federal-provincial-territorial relations; theories of class exploitation, settler colonialism and imperialism, and regional, race, and gender oppression as they apply to the Canadian state.

Prerequisite: Pre-requisites POLI 101, 201, or 263; one or more courses in the Canadian field at 300-level; plus fourth-year standing or permission of department.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Familiarization with state theories that have influenced studies of the Canadian state and the relations of various social and national forces with that state.
- Familiarization with empirical and explanatory studies of the Canadian state: debates and methods.
- Exploration of the strategic implications of state theory for movements engaging, resisting, or refusing the Canadian state

Topics may include:

Settler-colonialism

Rich dependency versus secondary imperialism

Ideological and Repressive State Apparatuses (Althusser)

Strategic-relational approach (Jessop, Mahon)

Hegemony, counter-hegemony, domination, anti-hegemony (Gramsci)

Conceptions of imperialism and empire (Grant, Lenin, Luxemburg)

Structures of Representation (Mahon)

Relative and absolute state autonomy (Poulantzas, Nordlinger)

Pacification (Dafnos)

Striation, Territory, and Territorialization (Deleuze and Guattari)

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