



University
of Victoria

POLI 101 Canadian Politics

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Justin Leifso

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus face-to-face.

Course description:

Political Science 101 will introduce you to the key concepts and ideas that shape the societal basis of Canadian Politics. The main theme of the course is **power**, specifically how the Canadian State shapes, distributes and exercises political power; uses and abuses of power; group-based struggles of power; and societal processes of power. In order to examine forces of power in Canadian politics, we will explore various case studies and examples to make the discussions specific, concrete, and relevant. We will examine different sites of power that inform the Canadian political landscape including: the historical and contemporary colonial basis of Canada; Quebec nationalist struggles for power; citizenship and social inequities; political parties; interest group practices of power; the governance of Indigenous peoples by the Canadian State; resistant forms of power by Indigenous peoples; the power of ideas about multicultural and race politics; and Canada's changing influence on the global scene.

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
Feminism and gender
Multiculturalism and ethnicity
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.