



# POLI 201 Canadian Institutions of Government

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**Instructor Spring 2022:** Dr. Jamie Lawson

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

## **Course description:**

Canada's governing institutions, including colonial, liberal-democratic, federal, and parliamentary, have a long history marked by both continuities and changes. Whatever opinion you may have about them, understanding how they operate is useful. This course introduces these institutions, their origins, and conceptual frameworks for understanding them. Topics may include the imperial legacy, crown sovereignty, parliament, the prime minister and cabinet, the courts, federalism, the police, and the charter of rights. We also look at key turning points in Canadian history, when new elements of the constitutional framework arose out of political debates and decisions and took their modern form. This course also provides some limited training and assignments to enhance students' academic writing skills.

## **Course outcomes/objectives:**

- Identify the history, structure, and functions of key Canadian governing institutions with an emphasis on the federal, parliamentary and colonial character of these institutions.
- Develop an understanding of liberal-democracy and other concepts as they are defined, debated, and assessed in distinct and sometimes conflicting ways
- Develop analytical reading, speaking and writing skills appropriate to social science research at the second-year university level
- Practice research, reasoning and presentation skills appropriate to social science research at the second-year university level

## **Topics may include:**

Liberal democracy  
Parliamentary government  
Federalism  
Settler-colonialism  
Constitutional law and convention  
Charter of rights and freedoms  
Policing and the Judicial System

*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.*