



University
of Victoria

POLI 360 Canadian Federalism and Public Policy

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Justin Leifso

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

Course description:

Federalism is a fundamental component of the Canadian state, and few (if any) policy areas can be separated from the complexities of the Canadian federal system. In this course, we will trace how federalism and its effects on policy in the country have changed in ways that have corresponded with broader political shifts, such as the emergence of the Canadian welfare state or the austerity of the 1990s. This will include exploring the emergence of federalism, highlights in its evolution such as the Rowell-Sirois Commission and the Patriation Negotiations, how the federal system operates within a settler-colonial state, and how the mechanisms of policy-making in Canada are shaped by the country's elaborate system of intergovernmental relations.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Understand the historical context of how federalism emerged as an integral part of the Canadian state
- Appreciate the ways in which federalism in Canada has evolved over time
- Develop knowledge of how contemporary federalism operates, including the political and policy dynamics of (for example) equalization, transfers, and intergovernmental relations
- Analyze how public policy in Canada is shaped by the federal system

Topics may include:

Federalism
Public policy
Intergovernmental relations
Healthcare
Political economy

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.