



University
of Victoria

POLI 433 A02 Issues in Politics: “Neoliberal Canada” (Seminar)

Instructor Spring 2023: Dr. Justin Leifso

Course delivery: POLI 433 will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Prerequisite: None

Course description: Neoliberalism has been the prevailing form of governance across much of the world for almost forty years. It has been located in myriad spaces, from policies like privatization, deregulation and austerity to the ways in which neoliberal citizenship governs how we live our lives. In this course will, we will trace the emergence of neoliberal governance in Canada.

The course includes three units that seek to understand exactly what neoliberalism is, how it emerged in Canada, and what its (and our) future holds. We will trace the emergence and growth of neoliberal thought, starting with the context that incubated the ideas of neoliberal thinkers such F.A. Hayek and Milton Friedman, then think about how to best conceptualize exactly what neoliberalism is, focussing on political economy and institutional understandings of neoliberalism versus post-structural perspectives. Finally, we will take these lessons and deploying them to understand how neoliberalism came to Canada and how it has been articulated here in specific places and in specific ways.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Have a sound understanding of the history of neoliberal ideas.
- Be able to identify various theoretical perspectives on neoliberalism
- Feel comfortable deploying concepts related to neoliberalism in research.

Topics may include:

Neoliberalism
Policy
Canadian politics
Political economy
Governmentality

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