

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
POLITICAL STUDIES 2210 (3 credits)

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY
POLITICAL SCIENCE 320 (first 3 of 6 credits)

INTRODUCTION TO THE CANADIAN POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
September - December 2007
University Transfer**

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD
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Room: A212
Time: M 1-2:20/F 11:30-12:50

Office hours (fall term): TBA and by appointment

College Calendar Course Description:

This course examines the cultural, social and economic context in which political actors in Canada seek to protect and advance their interests and power. Attention is given to divisions or cleavages as well as unifying elements.

Topics will include language, culture, political culture, economic class cleavages, gender, ethnic diversity, political socialization and social movements, interest groups and Canada's external political environment provided by the United States and the rest of the world.

This course along with PO2210, Introduction to Canadian Political Institutions, Federalism and the Constitution, constitutes a full year introduction to Canadian politics. The two courses provide preparation (and serve as a prerequisite) for further studies in Canadian Politics at the postsecondary level.**

Prerequisite: There is no prerequisite for taking this course.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation	10%
Short test on part I.....	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Term Paper.....	25%
Final exam	25%

You are expected to reference sources fully and properly for your term paper. An instructor's handout will provide assistance. See College Calendar, pp. 44-45, for information on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Students who miss an excessive number of classes may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar on p. 40.

** Successful completion of both PO2210 and PO2220 is needed to obtain credit for having taken the equivalent of POLS220 at the U. of A.

For information on key dates and other important matters, see the Calendar as well.

Note that you are required to write the final exam on the date scheduled by the College. Take this into account when making any December travel plans.

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Conversion table:

A+ 90-100	B+ 76-79	C+ 67-69	D+ 55-59
A 85- 89	B 73-75	C 64-66	D 50-54
A- 80- 84	B- 70-72	C- 60-63	F 0-49

Required texts:

1. Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 5th edition. Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson, 2008.
2. Course Package.
3. Course Blackboard postings.
4. Readings from the internet and databases.

Topics

I. Introduction.

- A. What is Political Science. Related job opportunities. Approaches to study of Politics.
- B. Overview of Canadian Political System. How governments are formed. Amounts and distribution of government revenues, spending.

II. Canada and Afghanistan.

Should we withdraw sooner, later or "after the job is done"? The roles of Canadian peacekeeping ideals, Quebec pacifism, anti-Americanism, military alliances, economic interests, and other factors in Canadian foreign policy decision-making.

III. The Canadian Political Landscape.

- A. Canadian political culture. Which political values do Canadians share? Is Canada a real nation or country? Distinctive Canadian values. Canadian identity. Democracy.
- B. Class cleavages and social programs.
- C. Regional cleavages. The West and western alienation. Ontario. Atlantic Canada. Regional economic development and equalization.
- D. Aboriginal peoples. Identity and relationship with Canada. Demographics. Social and cultural conditions. History in Canada. Land claims. Self-government.
- E. French Canada and Quebec. Demographics. Language and culture. Historical grievances. Quebec nationalism.
- F. Ethnic groups, multiculturalism, immigration and religion.
- G. Women and politics in Canada.

H. Political participation and socialization.

I. The news media, diversity and unity, class and democracy.

[Note: Topics in Part IV will be dealt with on a time-permitting basis.]

IV. Canada and the World.

A. Culture and politics. Broadcasting policy. Film. Magazine publishing.

B. Foreign ownership and trade agreements. Economic Integration.