



Course: Political Studies 12

Course Description:

Welcome to Political Studies 12. The Prussian leader responsible for the German unification in 1871 Otto Von Bismarck once said, “politics is the art of the possible, the attainable—the art of the next best.” This course will examine the complex relationship between politics and power, and how it shapes individuals, societies, and our world across space and time. Topics will include, but not limited to, the definitions of politics and powers, various political systems and ideologies, roles of government, Canadian political structure, and international politics. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand and think critically about the influence of politics within the local, national, and global contexts, from multiple perspectives in turbulent political moments.

Big Ideas: By the end of this course, students will understand how:

- Political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen
- Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes
- Decision making in a democratic system of government is influenced by the distribution of political and social power.

Curriculum Competencies: Students are expected to be able to do the following:

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data; and communicate findings and decisions
- Assess the significance of political issues, ideologies, forces, decisions, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance)
- Analyze political data and assess the reliability of sources (evidence)
- Compare and contrast continuities and changes for different political institutions and organizations at particular times and places (continuity and change)
- Assess how underlying conditions and the actions of individuals or groups affect events, decisions, and developments, and analyze multiple consequences (cause and consequence)
- Explain and infer different perspectives on political issues, decisions, or developments (perspective)
- Make reasoned ethical judgments about political issues, decisions, and developments (ethical judgment)

Core Competencies:

Communication

- Listen, connect, and engage with others through conversation, sharing my ideas, and being respectful of other’s ideas
- Understand, interpret, and present information to different audiences
- Collaborate with others and contribute to a group by taking on a role or responsibility
- Explain and retell an event and identify what I learned from it through reflection

Thinking

Creative

- Generate new ideas inspired by connecting with others’ ideas



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- Create new ideas by my interests or my environment

Critical

- Analyze and evaluate facts, information, ideas and solutions and draw conclusions
- Explore questions or challenges related to key issues or needs in my studies, my life or the media
- Create, develop, and refine a plan in response to my questions or challenges

Personal & Social

- Understand that my identity is made up of many interconnected aspects (life experiences, family, community, cultural contexts)
- Describe my values and how they affect personal choices
- Identify my individual characteristics including strengths and areas I need to focus on
- Positively contribute to my classroom, my community, and/or a larger environment

Resources: Reading distributed by teachers

Assessment:

Formative (30%)

Assignments

Quizzes

Academic journal

Participation

Summative: (70%)

Exams

Test

Projects

Presentations

First Peoples Principles of Learning

With respects to the First People's Principles of Learning, students may be alternatively assessed in ways that people can display knowledge and subject mastery. The alternative assessment can be storytelling, art or other expressions of self, knowing and learning.

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).



Week	Topics Covered
1-4	Unit 1: Introduction to politics and power Big Idea: - Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes - Understanding how political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen. Curricular Competencies: - Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data; and communicate findings and decisions - Assess the significance of political issues, ideologies, forces, decisions, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance) Content: <i>theories of power: power over (power to compel, direct, or dictate) versus power to (power to influence, enable, or empower</i> <i>methods used by media, governments, or political groups to influence public opinion</i> <i>current issues in local, regional, national, or global politics as represented in mass media (topics: e.g.</i> - current events - fake news and post-truth - authenticity of websites and other sources - diverse forms of media - freedom of the press and freedom of expression - local news <i>media ownership</i> Assignment 1: Current Affair/News Analysis Report Test
4-6	Unit 2: Political Ideologies and Systems Big Ideas - Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes. Curricular Competencies - Assess the significance of political issues, ideologies, forces, decisions, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance) Content: - Different types of political systems (democracy, theocracy, dictatorship, totalitarian state) and political ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, democratic socialism, Libertarianism) - left-to-right political spectrum and two-dimensional representation, such as the political compass



	• Compare the way terms such as “liberal,” “conservative,” “socialist” are used in Canada, the United States, and other countries. Assignment 2: Country Report: Political Systems and ideologies
7	Midterm Exam: October 19 – 23
7-9	Unit 3: The Role of Government Big Ideas: • Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes. • Decision making in a democratic system of government is influenced by the distribution of political and social power. <i>Content: Assess the significance of political issues, ideologies, forces, decisions, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance)</i> • definitions, frameworks, and types of governments • The relationship between governments, societies, and individuals Assignment 3: Prepare a case study of the influence of media, government, or political groups in shaping public perception of an issue.
10-11	Unit 4: Canadian Political Structure Big Ideas • Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes. • Decision making in a democratic system of government is influenced by the distribution of political and social power. Curricular Competencies • Compare and contrast continuities and changes for different political institutions and organizations at particular times and places (continuity and change) Content: • Canadian Constitution and Charter • Federalism and Division of Powers • Judiciary and Rule of Law • Political Parties and Party Systems • Indigenous Governance in Canada Assignment 4: Examine the role played by a Canadian political institution (e.g., Governor General, Parliament, federal government, Supreme Court etc) over time and assess how its role and power have changed or stayed the same Test



12-14	Unit 5: International politics Big Idea: - Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes. Curricular Competencies - Explain and infer different perspectives on political issues, decisions, or developments (perspective) Content: - state sovereignty, soft and hard power, international relations, economic development - issues in local, regional, national, and international politics - sovereign states, intergovernmental organizations: United Nations, NATO, EU Activity: Model United Nations Meeting on international security. Revision for final exam
15	Final Exam December 10-11