

Political Studies 12

Credits: 4 **Type:** Online

Course Description:

How can political power be used in ways that make society a better place to live? The vision for this course is that students would gain an appreciation for various political ideologies, an understanding of how political institutions work, and confidence that they can knowledgeably use their own political power to make a positive difference in their communities.

In a politically polarized world, this course aims to have students learn how to have political conversations in meaningful and respectful ways with one another despite differences. Hopefully, students will gain respect for perspectives that are different from their own, and learn to turn down the temperature on political conversations. Forums and other assignments are designed to be opportunities to practice more collaborative online political dialogue.

With the encouragement and opportunities provided by this course, students will be able to make a difference in their own city, region, or country, realizing that their voice is a meaningful one in the marketplace of ideas. Opportunities to “get involved” may spur them to continue to remain involved throughout their lives, not just through voting, but through many types of peaceful civic activism.

Major Units and Topics:

- Society and Government
- Political Ideologies
- Polarization and Media
- Elections, Governing, and Political Power
- Local, Regional, National, and International Politics

Assessment Requirements:

- Quizzes and response questions
- Political Ideologies test
- Political Conversation assignment
- Minorities and Political Power Essay
- Get Involved assignment
- Country Study Project
- Various other lesson assignments
- Each lesson designed to take approximately 60 - 90 minutes, with the exception of major assignments



Learning Standards Overview:

Curricular Competencies <i>Students are expected to:</i>	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Final Project	Final Exam
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)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Content <i>Students are expected to know the following:</i>	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Final Project	Final Exam
Structure and function of Canadian and First Peoples political institutions	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Major ideologies and political systems	✓	✓				✓	✓
Election processes and electoral systems				✓		✓	✓
Methods used by media, governments, or political groups to influence public opinion			✓	✓	✓		✓
Political power in democratic and non-democratic societies	✓	✓				✓	✓
Current and future public policy	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scope and characteristics of the international system					✓		✓
Issues in local, regional, national, and international politics					✓	✓	✓

