

Governing Institutions
School of Policy Studies
Queen's University
Fall 2020/Winter 2021

Professor: Dr. Lori Turnbull
Office hours: virtual by appointment
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Course synopsis

This course offers a critical analysis of the major institutions that shape politics and governance in Canada, including: the prime minister and cabinet; the House of Commons; the Senate; the electoral system; the public service; and, intergovernmental relations. Each weekend, we focus on a particular institution by delving into its inner workings as well as some of the more prominent proposals for its reform. Special attention will be paid to the shifting power dynamics among institutions and actors and the implications of these power relationships for the integrity of democracy. This is a course about power and decision making in various political institutions and jurisdictions in Canada.

The course will draw on the current and relevant literature in political science and public administration, and will also incorporate media reports, opinion pieces, and think tank

ET). We will discuss the readings

12:30 ET) and Saturdays (12:30-2

Paper topics and dates:

1. Minority government in Canada (due November 6)
2. The role of political parties (due December 4)
3. Values and ethics in the public service (March 5)
4. Decision making and power in governmental institutions (April TBD)

Topics and Readings

Weekend 1: Responsible Government and Executive Power

Prime Minister of Canada. 2015.

at:

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