

Canadian Politics

Students choosing Canadian politics as one of their two major fields are expected to demonstrate knowledge of theories and research methods that are used in the field as well as knowledge of major themes within the field.

The written comprehensive examination will consist of two sections. Students are required to answer one question from the section covering general theory and research methods, and three questions from the section on thematic topics. The first section will offer a choice among three questions while the second section will contain eight questions. Previous exams are posted online. The current exam format is reflected in exams set since 2014.

The examination will last four hours. The field coordinator will solicit questions from all members of the field. The exam will be graded by all members (excepting those on sabbatical).

A list of core readings is available. These readings are intended to serve as a guide to the major debates and key contributions within the field of Canadian politics. Students are expected to do additional readings in order to develop their own critical perspectives on these debates. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with faculty members in the Canadian field for suggestions about additional readings.

Where appropriate, students should consider attending undergraduate courses to fill in gaps in their background preparation. Working as a teaching assistant for an introductory Canadian politics courses can also be helpful in preparing for the exam and so can consulting faculty members' course syllabi.

1. Theories and Research Methods

Students should demonstrate their familiarity with the most significant theories, conceptual frameworks and research methodologies in the field.

2. Thematic Topics

Thematic topics include, but are not limited to:

- Constitutional and judicial politics
- Federalism
- Gender and politics
- Indigenous politics
- Political behaviour
- Political institutions and the political process
- Provincial politics
- Public policy
- The politics of race
- Quebec politics