

# Canadian and International Politics, Grade 12

University Preparation

CPW4U

This course explores various perspectives on issues in Canadian and world politics. Students will explore political decision making and ways in which individuals, stakeholder groups, and various institutions, including governments, multinational corporations, and non-governmental organizations, respond to and work to address domestic and international issues. Students will apply the concepts of political thinking and the political inquiry process to investigate issues, events, and developments of national and international political importance, and to develop and communicate informed opinions about them.

**Prerequisite:** Any university or university/college preparation course in Canadian and world studies, English, or social sciences and humanities

## OVERVIEW

The course has five strands. Instruction and learning related to the expectations in strand A are to be interwoven with instruction and learning related to expectations from the other four strands. Strand A must not be seen as independent of the other strands. Student achievement of the expectations in strand A is to be assessed and evaluated *throughout* the course.

### Strand A

A. Political Inquiry and Skill Development
<b>Overall Expectations</b>
<b>A1. Political Inquiry:</b> use the political inquiry process and the concepts of political thinking when investigating issues, events, and developments of national and international political importance
<b>A2. Developing Transferable Skills:</b> apply in everyday contexts skills developed through investigations related to politics, and identify various careers in which a background in political studies might be an asset

(continued)

**Overview** *(continued)*

Throughout this course, when planning instruction, teachers should weave the expectations from strand A in with the expectations from strands B–E.

**Strands B–E**

Overall Expectations and Related Concepts of Political Thinking	Big Ideas*	Framing Questions*
<b>B. Political Foundations</b>		
<b>B1. Political Thought:</b> demonstrate an understanding of various political ideologies, theories, and concepts, and analyse their relevance to Canadian and international politics ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Political Significance; Political Perspective</i> )	Political thinking reflects social, economic, and technological changes and affects political policy.	What criteria would you use to assess political thinkers? Whose voices are represented, and whose voices are not, in traditional political theory?
<b>B2. The Evolution of Modern Politics and International Relations:</b> analyse the role of ideology, diplomacy, and conflict, including conflict related to decolonization, in the evolution of politics in and relations between various countries around the world in the past century ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Political Significance; Stability and Change</i> )	The past century has been marked by extensive political conflict but also by cooperation and diplomacy.	Under what circumstances can diplomacy work?  How does decolonization continue to affect politics and international relations today?
<b>B3. Influences on Canadian and International Politics:</b> analyse how social, economic, and geographic factors influence contemporary politics in and relations between various countries around the world ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Objectives and Results; Political Perspective</i> )	Relations between countries are affected by various economic, social, cultural, and environmental factors.	How do political/cultural values and identity affect relations within and between countries?
<b>C. Governments and Canadian and International Politics</b>		
<b>C1. The International Influence of Governments:</b> analyse how strategies/practices used by a state or states can affect the policies and status of other states ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Political Significance; Objectives and Results</i> )	Individual nations use various means to influence the policies and/or status of other nations.	What are the benefits and disadvantages to Canada of being a member of international and intergovernmental organizations?
<b>C2. Intergovernmental Cooperation:</b> demonstrate an understanding of the role of intergovernmental cooperation in international politics ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Objectives and Results; Stability and Change</i> )	Canada's participation in international organizations has changed over time.  Technological advances create new reasons for intergovernmental cooperation.	How and why does Canada exert political pressure on other nations?  Is Canada an important world player?
<b>C3. Canadian Government Policies and International Relations:</b> analyse Canada's foreign policy objectives and factors that affect them ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Objectives and Results; Political Perspective</i> )	Canada's foreign policy objectives and actions are influenced by political, economic, and cultural considerations.	Are Canadian values about democratic and human rights reflected in our foreign policy?

\* See page 17 for a discussion of the purpose of big ideas and framing questions.

Overall Expectations and Related Concepts of Political Thinking	Big Ideas*	Framing Questions*
<b>D. Non-governmental Action on Canadian and International Political Issues</b>		
<b>D1. Civic Awareness and Responsibility:</b> analyse the role of civic awareness and responsibility among citizens and non-governmental stakeholders in the national and international community ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Political Significance; Political Perspective</i> )	Informed and responsible citizens can make a difference in the local, national, and global community.	What are the attributes of a responsible global citizen?  How has technology affected political participation?
<b>D2. Challenges and Strategies:</b> demonstrate an understanding of key challenges relating to various issues of national and global political importance and of the strategies and effectiveness of various non-governmental stakeholders, including NGOs, in addressing them ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Objectives and Results; Political Perspective</i> )	There are many forms of political activism and civic engagement.	Is civil disobedience ever justified?  How does one measure the effectiveness of a non-governmental organization or social enterprise group?
<b>D3. Contributions to the Global Community:</b> assess the importance of the contributions of individuals and other non-governmental stakeholders to national and global communities ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Objectives and Results; Stability and Change</i> )	The global community has benefited in many ways from the actions of individuals and groups.	
<b>E. Rights and Power in the International Community</b>		
<b>E1. Influence, Power, and Decision Making:</b> demonstrate an understanding of how power is distributed and exercised in Canada and other countries, and of factors that affect its distribution ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Political Significance; Objectives and Results</i> )	Geographic, demographic, economic, political, and military factors all affect the global balance of power.	What makes a nation politically powerful? Why are some countries more powerful than others?  How is Canada's democratic system of government different from systems in other countries?
<b>E2. Technology and Globalization:</b> assess the influence of globalization and technology on Canadian and international politics ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Stability and Change; Political Perspective</i> )	Communications and information technology has had an impact on political action and processes in Canada and worldwide.  Globalization has affected political, cultural, and economic boundaries.	Has globalization harmed or benefited Canada? Would the answer be the same for all Canadians?  How and why do multinational enterprises hold political as well as economic power?
<b>E3. Human Rights at Home and Abroad:</b> explain violations of human rights in Canada and abroad as well as the role of Canadian and international laws, institutions, and processes in the protection of human rights ( <b>FOCUS ON:</b> <i>Political Significance; Stability and Change</i> )	There have been human rights abuses in many countries, including Canada.  Many governments and other institutions work in defence of human rights.	Should the Canadian government defend human rights beyond its borders?  Why do human rights abuses still exist?