

**PSCI 2003B
Canadian Political Institutions**

Instructor: Professor W. Cross

Lecture: Thursday, 2:35 - 4:25 p.m., 3275 Mackenzie Building

Office: 691 Loeb

Email address: bcross@connect.carleton.ca

Office hours: Tuesday: 8:45 - 10:30 a.m.; Thursday: 10:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Note: Please do not send substantive questions relating to course material via e mail. When you have questions, it is much preferred for you to drop by my office and for us to chat about the material.

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the key institutions and practices associated with Canadian politics. We will consider the constitution, federalism, parliament, the executive, political parties, election campaigns, the judiciary, interest groups and the news media. In addition to considering the organization and function of each of these, we will consider how citizens interact with them. One of the principal themes of the course will be whether Canada's political institutions lend themselves to meaningful public participation in our democracy. Lectures will consider material beyond that found in the assigned readings. Weekly tutorial sessions will focus on contemporary debates relating to Canadian government and politics.

Course Requirements:

The class will meet every Thursday of the term for approximately one hour and fifty minutes beginning at 2:35 p.m. Students are expected to attend each class. Students will also attend a tutorial session each week as scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Student grades will be comprised of the following components:

Term paper: 40 per cent

Tutorial participation: 10 per cent

Final examination: 50 per cent

Term Paper: each student will write a research based paper of approximately 2,000 words in length. The paper should be based upon substantial research conducted by the student on a topic chosen by the student from a list provided by the instructor at the first class. Students should follow the department's style guide (found on the departmental website). The grade assigned for the papers will reflect an assessment of the quality and persuasiveness of the argument, the clarity of the argument,

the depth of research evident, the appropriate use of sources and the clarity and accuracy of the writing. Paper topics will be distributed on a separate sheet at the first class. Term papers are due in class on 9 March 2006. Papers not submitted in class may be deposited in the departmental essay drop box before 4 p.m. on 9 March 2006. DO NOT SUBMIT PAPERS UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR. NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH ELECTRONIC OR FAX SUBMISSION. LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED BY TWO FULL LETTER GRADES (AN 'A' BECOMES A 'C') AND NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 13 MARCH 2006.

Final Examination: Students will write an examination. The examination will be scheduled during the university's final examination period (April 10 - 29). The examination will cover all material covered in the classes and assigned readings.

Tutorial Participation: Students will attend weekly tutorial sessions for which there are assigned readings. Students are expected to complete and consider the assigned readings before each tutorial. The participation grade will reflect both the quality and quantity of tutorial participation and attendance. Readings for the tutorial sessions will be distributed during the first class. Tutorial groups will begin to meet the week of 9 January.

Required Textbooks:

1, Heather MacIvor, *Parameters of Power: Canada's Political Institutions* 4th edition (Toronto: Thomson, 2006)

2, Mark Charlton and Paul Barker, *Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues* 5th edition (Toronto: Thomson, 2006).

Both books are available in the University Bookstore. The MacIvor readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. The Charlton and Barker readings are for the tutorial sessions.

Class Schedule: (subject to revision)
(all readings in this list are from the MacIvor text)

January 5, introduction, distribution of course outline and assignment information sheets

January 12, Institutions and Politics, pages 1 - 25

January 19, Federalism, pages 377 - 427

January 26, The Constitution, pages 439 - 478

February 2, The Charter and the Courts, pages 485 - 531

February 9, Political Parties, pages 73 - 134

February 16, Elections and Voting, pages 143 - 190

March 2, Elections and Voting (2)

March 9, Parliament, pages 199 - 257

March 16, The Executive, pages 269 - 321

March 23, Interest Groups and Social Movements, pages 329 - 348

March 30, The Media, pages 349 - 369

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's

own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, *subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.*

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure – No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.