

PSCI 6001W
Political Process in Canada II
Seminar: Tuesdays 11:35 a.m. - 2:25 p.m., C665 LA

Instructor: Professor W. Cross

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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 assist students in preparing for the PhD comprehensive examination in Canadian politics. To complement the first part of the course, this half will concentrate on Canadian political institutions and political behaviour. The topics to be covered include the constitution, federalism, public administration, parliament, the executive, courts, political parties, the electoral system and electoral behaviour. We will use the theme of the much talked about “democratic deficit” as a way of uniting our consideration of different topics.

We will be covering a lot of ground and will only be able to cover a fraction of the important work on each topic. Nonetheless, students will be exposed to the principle themes on each subject and the current state of the research. We will pay attention to the research methodologies and what we do and do not know about various institutions/behavioural practices and will give consideration to what might be fruitful areas for further research.

Course Requirements:

The class will meet every Tuesday of the term for approximately two hours and twenty five minutes beginning at noon. **Students must attend each class.** The seminars will be student driven. It is not my intention to give a lecture on any of these topics. Rather, each class will begin with a presentation by two students on the themes of the assigned readings. The two presentations should together be approximately 25 - 30 minutes in length. This will be followed by a directed discussion of the readings. **All students must be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each class. All readings are available on course reserve in the university library.**

Each student will be responsible for 4 class presentations.

Student grades will be comprised of the following components:

Seminar presentations: 20 per cent

Seminar participation: 20 per cent

Literature reviews: 20 percent

Research paper: 40 per cent

Term Paper: each student will write a research based paper of approximately 15-20 double spaced pages in length. The paper should be based upon substantial research conducted by the student on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the professor. 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. Papers must be submitted during the last class of the course (4 April 2006). **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Students will present their research paper to the class during the last seminar.

Literature Reviews: each student will write 2 short reviews of the readings assigned for a particular class. Each review should be approximately 7 - 8 double spaced pages in length. Each review should: include a synopsis of at least three of the assigned readings, compare and contrast the principal argument and approach of each, offer a critical evaluation of the arguments and identify and briefly justify three possible research questions arising out of the readings. Students may choose to write their Reviews on material for which they are also giving a seminar presentation.

Seminar Participation: each student is expected to be an active participant in each seminar. This requires that students read and consider the assigned material prior to each class. Student contributions should reflect a careful reading of the material and should generally add to the class discussion. While each student should be a frequent participant in discussions, quality of contribution is more important than quantity.

Seminar Presentations: Two students will be assigned the lead for each class. These students will begin the class with a presentation of approximately 25 - 30 minutes (combined) that both summarizes and critiques the readings. The presentations should identify the key themes from the readings; comment on the approaches used by the authors; where appropriate, consider the methodology used; and should suggest discussion questions for the seminar. Students should work together in preparing their presentations to ensure they complement each other and fully cover the material. Each student will participate in four seminar presentations.

Seminar topics and readings will be distributed at the first class.

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.