

**FYSM 1602D**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS**  
**Class: Wednesday, 11:35-14:25**  
**Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

**Instructor:** Professor J. H. Pammett  
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**Office Hours:** Monday 10:00-12:00; 13:00-14:00  
Wednesday 14:30-16:30

**Teaching Assistant:** Nicole Goodman  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:00am – 11:00am

This course provides a partial introduction to Political Science through a special emphasis on political participation by young people. Topics relevant to political theory, Canadian politics, and comparative politics are discussed. It is conducted primarily in seminar (discussion) format, but includes some presentations by the instructors.

**Evaluation**

**First Term marks will constitute 45% of the total.**

**Class attendance and participation: 10%**

Students are required to attend class and complete the weekly readings. Participation marks will be earned for a combination of class attendance and a student's contribution to discussions and activities in the classroom.

**Debate participation 5%**

Each student will participate in one of the 5 debates which will be held in the Fall Term. Marks will be earned for the debate presentation itself and for the research involved in developing the presentations.

**Written assignment 15%**

This assignment will take the form of a comparative book review, involving two books or other approved published material. Expected length is ten pages, double spaced. The paper will be due in class on **December 1**. (Late papers will be penalized one grade point per day late).

**Midterm in-class examination 15%** This will be held in class on **November 17**. It will contain both short-answer and essay questions.

**Winter Term evaluation.** Percentage components for class participation, class exercises, written assignments and final examination will be outlined in the Winter Term outline to be distributed later. Marks for the Winter Term will constitute 55% of the final grade.

**Suggested books for first written assignment. (Substitutions must be approved by the instructor or teaching assistant.)** ® signifies book is on reserve (for this or other courses) In the case of books which are very long, consult with instructors about which parts to include in your review.

Strategies for effectively completing the written assignment will be discussed in class on October 6.

Gerry Stoker, *Why Politics Matters*

® C.B. MacPherson, *The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy*

® Benjamin Barber, *Strong Democracy*

® Russell Dalton, *The Good Citizen*

Colin Hay, *Why We Hate Politics*

® Lawrence LeDuc, *The Politics of Direct Democracy: Referendums in Global Perspective*

® William Mishler, *Political Participation in Canada*

® Elisabeth Gidengil, Andre Blais, Neil Nevitte, Richard Nadeau, *Citizens*

Harold Clarke, Jane Jenson, Lawrence LeDuc and Jon Pammett *Absent Mandate* (any edition)

Jon H. Pammett and Christopher Dornan, eds, *The Canadian Federal Election of 2008* (or previous volume in the series)

Jon H. Pammett and Lawrence LeDuc, *Explaining the Turnout Decline in Canadian Federal Elections* (Elections Canada online; hard copies Library documents division)

® Alan Gerber & Donald Green, *Get Out the Vote.*

® Martin Wattenberg, *Where Have all the Voters Gone?*

® Steven Rosenstone and John Mark Hansen, *Mobilization, Participation and Democracy in America*

® Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*

**Required Readings.** These will be posted in advance on WebCT. Students are required to read these before class and be prepared to discuss them. Strategies for effective class preparation will be discussed on September 15.

**NOTE: CLASS DISCUSSION TOPICS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

### **September 15**

Introductory class

How to read

How to participate in class

Discussion: What is political science? What is political participation?

## **September 22**

Participation and Democracy

Discussion: What does participation achieve? How is participation relevant to democratic government? Is democracy in crisis?

Readings:

Gerry Stoker, *Why Politics Matters*, Chapter 1.

Centre for Research and Information on Canada (CRIC). 2009. "Voter Participation in Canada: Is Canadian Democracy in Crisis," in George A. MacLean and Brenda O'Neill Eds., *Ideas, Interests, and Issues*.

## **September 29**

Reasons for political participation

*Group Exercise*

Discussion: Why do people participate? How do we measure participation?

Readings:

Russell Dalton, "Political Participation," chapter 3 of *Citizen Politics*

Jan E. Leighley. 1995. "Attitudes, Opportunities and Incentives: A Field Essay on Political Participation", *Political Research Quarterly*, 48: 181-209.

## **October 6**

Research and writing

How to use the library (tour)

How to use the Internet for research

How to write an essay and book review

Readings:

How To Write A Book Review, Queen's University:

<http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/book-reviews/how-write>

Writing Book Reviews, University of Waterloo:

<http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/libguides/1-12.html>

## **October 13**

Parliamentary and Presidential systems

Debate: Parliamentary vs. Presidential: Is one type of system better at promoting participation?

Readings:

Dickerson et al., *An Introduction to Government and Politics*, Chapter 20.

Douglas Verney. 1992. "Parliamentary Government and Presidential Government" in Arend Lijphart Eds. *Parliamentary Versus Presidential Government*, Chapter 1

## **October 20**

The nature of electoral systems

*CPAC segment: comparing Canada and New Zealand*

Debate: Should Canada consider adopting a Mixed-Member Proportional electoral system? Why or why not?

Readings:

Denis Pilon, "Understanding Electoral Systems," in Heather MacIvor, ed, *Election*

Pippa Norris, "Choosing Electoral Systems" *International Political Science Review*, July 1997, 297-312.

## **October 27**

Representative and direct democracy.

*Movie: Referendum – Take 2*

Debate: Should countries decide important issues by referendum? What about Canada?

Readings:

Lawrence LeDuc, "Referendums and Initiatives," chapter 3 of LeDuc, Norris and Niemi, *Comparing Democracies 3*

Dickerson et al., 241-245

## **November 3**

The changing nature of civic duty

*Class Exercise "the Price of your Vote"*

Debate: What does it mean to be a good citizen today?

Readings:

Russell Dalton, *The Good Citizen*, Chapter 1.

Nicole Goodman, Heather Bastedo, Jon H. Pammett and Lawrence LeDuc. 2010.

"Young Canadians in the 2008 federal election campaign: Using Facebook to probe perceptions of citizenship and participation."

## **November 10**

Elections and voting.

Debate: Do elections matter, or not?

Elections around the world

Readings:

Jon Pammett, "Elections," chapter 7 of Whittington and Williams, *Canadian Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

Leduc, Pammett, Mackenzie & Turcotte, *Dynasties and Interludes*, chapter 14.

**November 17**  
IN CLASS EXAMINATION

**November 24**  
Political ideologies and the roles of citizens

*Potential guest speaker*

Discussion: How can we tell a liberal from a conservative (or a socialist)?

Readings:

Michael Brewster, "The Case for Liberalism" from Macdonald Burbidge, ed, *A Casebook of Ideologies*.

Terence Qualter, "The Socialist Faith" from his book *Conflicting Political Ideas in Liberal Democracies*.

**December 1**  
**Examinations returned and discussed. First Term Paper due.**

Discussion topic: TBA

Readings: TBA

**Prospective Winter Term topics. Final outline and reading assignments to be posted and distributed before the end of the first term.**

**Prospective Winter Term Schedule:**

**January 5**  
Participation in everyday life: The case of political consumerism

News article discussion and *No Logo* video

Discussion: Do we participate every day?

**January 12**  
Types of non-electoral political activities and youth

Discussion: What other types of participation are young people engaging in?

Debate: Are young people neglecting traditional methods of engagement in favour of newer methods?

**January 19**  
Turnout decline: How important is turnout decline?

Movie: *Slacker Uprising* by Michael Moore

Debate: Is declining turnout, particularly among young people, really a problem for democracy? Will it work itself out?

**January 26**  
Direct democracy through Citizens' Assemblies

*Potential guest speaker*

Discussion: How did the Citizens' Assemblies work in Ontario and BC?

Debate: Are Citizen's Assemblies a good idea? Should we use them to make decisions on important issues?

### **February 2**

Political knowledge and civic literacy

Discussion: How politically informed are people? How politically informed should they be?

Debate: Should people be politically informed to participate politically?

### **February 9**

The nature of political and social trust

Discussion: Do we trust our politicians (or each other)?

Debate: Is one type of trust more important than the other? Why or why not?

### **February 16**

Participation and political parties

Discussion: Are political parties participative? Can parties and their members still have an important effect on civic life and democracy? Is there a role for young people?

### **February 23 WINTER BREAK, NO CLASSES**

### **March 2**

Participation in groups and social movements

Short movie and part of *Thank you for Not Smoking*

Discussion: Are groups and social movements better forums for participation? Are they important for democracy?

### **March 9**

The impact of the Internet on media and campaigns

Discussions: How is the Internet changing the nature of elections and participation within them through its impact on the media and campaigns?

### **March 16**

IN CLASS EXAMINATION

### **March 23**

Internet voting

Discussion: Should we vote over the Internet? Will it help solve the problem of declining turnout?

Essay assistance

### **March 30**

Methods of increasing participation

Discussion: How can we improve the participation rate, especially among young people?

**Examinations are returned and discussed. Final papers are due.**

**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 15 2010 for December examinations and March 11 2011 for April examinations**.

**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](http://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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**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.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** 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:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.