

PSCI 3004 (Section A)
Political Parties and Elections in Canada

Mondays 2:35 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Steve White
Office: Loeb C677
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4pm (or by appointment)
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Course Description

This course focuses on two related topics: 1) the analysis of the voting behaviour of Canadians and its relation to Canada's electoral system, and 2) the analysis of Canadian political parties and the systems in which they must compete for political power. It explores why citizens vote for some parties or candidates rather than others, whether and how election campaigns matter, the ways in which rules for selecting candidates and leaders, and electing public officials, influence political competition, and how parties and party systems organized. Throughout the course we will contemplate a fundamental question: Who is in control? Citizens, or the politicians they elect?

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will understand:

- Canada's electoral rules, including the system for translating votes into representation
- Major theories of, and debates about, voting behaviour in Canada
- The primary functions of parties within the Canadian political system
- The history and evolution of party competition in Canada
- Debates over electoral and party finance reforms

Format

Weekly lectures will focus on topics identified in the schedule. The assigned readings and lectures will complement one another, with the lectures providing important context in which to interpret the assigned readings. Students are not expected to read the week's assigned readings before the class. Instead, at the beginning of the next class there will be an opportunity to review and discuss the previous week's lecture topic in view of the assigned readings.

Course Materials

Required Text

MacIvor, Heather (Editor). 2010. *Election*. Toronto: Emond Montgomery. (Available at the University Bookstore)

Cross, William. 2004. *Political Parties*. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Available at the University Bookstore)

All other material is available through ARES system on CULearn.

Evaluation

Overview

Assignment	% Final Grade	Due Date
Class attendance	10%	Throughout course
Midterm test	25%	November 2 (in class)
Research paper	30%	December 7 (in class)
Final examination	35%	In the University's formal Examination Period (December 9-21)

Examinations

Midterm test (25%): The midterm test will be held in class on November 2. It will cover all course material up to and including the October 19 lecture and assigned readings. Students will answer three of four essay questions. These questions will be provided in class on October 19, and will be posted on cuLearn on the same day.

Students who miss the midterm test because of special circumstances (e.g. illness, bereavement), and who have verifiable documentation, will have the opportunity to write a make-up midterm test at a later date to be determined.

Final examination (35%): The final examination will take place in the Examination Period, at a date, time, and location assigned by the University. It will cover all course material. Students will answer three of four essay questions. These questions will be provided in class on November 30, and will be posted on cuLearn on the same day.

Term Work

Research Paper (30%): Students will analyze an aspect of the 2015 General Election. The analysis will focus on one of the following:

- News stories and commentary about the election campaign in print/online media
- The campaign promises of the parties
- Party advertising (in print and other media)

- The rhetoric of leaders and candidates

Further instructions will be provided in class, and posted on cuLearn.

You must also research and cite in your paper at least **ten** other academic sources. The paper should be 10-12 pages double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Cambria font, with left and right margins not larger than 1 ¼ inches. Use the *Chicago Manual of Style* in-text citation format to cite sources.

Essays submitted at the deadline will be returned at the final examination. Essays submitted late may not yet be graded at that time. Students can arrange to collect their essays from the instructor’s office, or provide the instructor with a self-addressed stamped envelope to return the essay.

Other Forms of Evaluation

Class attendance and tutorial participation (10%): Students are expected to attend class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken in class each week and will count towards your grade for this portion of the evaluation. *Students may miss one class without penalty, but except in cases with special circumstances (e.g. illness, bereavement) for which there is verifiable documentation, there is a significant penalty for any further absences.*

Policies and Procedures

Late Penalties: Assignments are due IN CLASS on the dates specified in the course outline. ***All papers not submitted in class will be considered late.*** Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 3% for the first day past the due date, and 6% per day (excluding weekends) thereafter. Assignments that are more than two weeks past the due date will not be accepted.

No extensions on assignments will be granted after their due dates. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic(s)	Readings
September 4	Introduction	- <i>Election</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
September 14	Elections: rules of the game	- <i>Election</i> , Chapters 3 & 4 - <i>Political Parties</i> , Chapter 7
September 21	Voting: mandates, throwing the rascals out, or something else?	- <i>Election</i> , Chapter 11 - Anderson & Stephenson, “The Puzzle of Elections and Voting in Canada” - Clarke & Kornberg, “The Valence Politics Model of Electoral Choice”
September 28	Voting: social groups and party loyalties	- <i>Election</i> , Chapters 13 & 14 - Blais, “Accounting for the Electoral Success of the Liberal Party in Canada” - Clarke et. al., “Party (Dis)Loyalties”
October 5	Parties and their campaign machines	- <i>Election</i> , Chapters 6 & 8 - <i>Political Parties</i> , Chapter 6

October 12	THANKSGIVING	No assigned readings
October 19	Campaign dynamics: the roles of framing and priming	- <i>Election</i> , Chapter 10 - Johnston et al., "Asking the Right - Question: The Campaign Agenda, Priming, and the Vote" - Mendelsohn, "Television's Frames in the 1988 Canadian Election"
October 26	READING WEEK	No assigned readings
November 2	MIDTERM TEST	No assigned readings
November 9	Participation: where did everybody go?	- <i>Political Parties</i> , Chapter 2 - <i>Election</i> , Chapter 12

Date	Lecture Topic(s)	Readings
November 16	Canadian party systems	- Carty, Cross & Young, "A New Canadian Party System" - Koop & Bittner, "Parties and Elections After 2011: The Fifth Canadian Party System?" - Johnston, "Polarized Pluralism in the Canadian Party System"
November 23	Parties: brokerage and ideology	- Brodie & Jenson, "Piercing the Smokescreen" - Carty & Cross, "Political Parties and the Practice of Brokerage Politics" - Cochrane, "Left/Right Ideology in Canadian Politics"
November 30	Leader and candidate selection	- <i>Political Parties</i> , Chapters 3, 4, & 5 - <i>Election</i> , Chapter 7
December 7	Reforming parties and elections	- <i>Parties</i> , Chapter 8 - Katz, "Problems in Electoral Reform: Why the Decision to Change Electoral Systems is not Simple" - Seidle, "Public Funding of Political Parties: The Case for Further Reform"

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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 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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

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
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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.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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 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, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> 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.