

Carleton University

Winter 2016

Department of Political Science

PSCI 4209 B

Westminster Democracy: Parliaments, Parties & Elections

Seminar: Tuesdays, 8:35 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor W. Cross

Office: 699D Loeb

Email address: bill_cross@carleton.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays 12– 1 p.m. & Fridays 10 – 11 a.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:

This is an honours seminar course investigating contemporary issues relating to party and parliamentary democracy in the five principal Westminster systems: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. We will consider the effects of different electoral systems (single member plurality, single transferable vote, alternative vote and mixed member proportional) on the way political parties organize and operate. Topics to be covered include: the institutional arrangements in each country (e.g federal or unitary, unicameral or bicameral, etc.), the party system, candidate and leadership selection, party financing, election campaigning and government formation.

Course Requirements:

The class will meet on Tuesdays for approximately two and one-half hours. **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. A small group of students will be responsible for leading the discussion each class (numbers dependent upon final registration figures). **All students must be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each class.** All readings are available on course reserve in the university library. A list of readings for week 4 and onwards will be distributed in the first class.

Working in groups, each student will be responsible for leading class discussion (seminar presentations) on 2 occasions. Full details regarding this will be discussed in the first class.

Student grades will be comprised of the following components:

Seminar presentations: 20 per cent

Seminar participation: 15 per cent

Examination: 35 percent

Research paper and presentation: 30 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 a standard academic style guide. The grade assigned for the paper 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 in class on 29 March 2016. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Students will present their paper in class and the quality of the presentation will also be considered in assigning the paper grade.

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.

Examination: An examination covering assigned course readings and material covered in the seminars will be given during the regular examination period as scheduled by the Registrar's office.

Seminar topics:

week 1 (January 12): Introduction, overview and organization

week 2 (January 19): Electoral Systems

David Farrell, *Electoral Systems*, pages 55-60 & 97-152.

David Farrell & Ian McAllister, *The Australian Electoral System*, pages 47 -77.

Henry Milner, *Steps Toward Making Every Vote Count*, pages 43 – 64 & 85 -101

Week 3 (January 26):

Overview of the issues – using the Canadian Case

William Cross, *Auditing Canadian Democracy*, chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Week 4 (February 2):

**Introduction and overview of the issues in
New Zealand & Australia**

Week 5 (February 9):

**Introduction and overview of the issues in
Ireland & The United Kingdom**

FEBRUARY 16 – NO CLASS – READING WEEK

Week 6 (February 23)	Candidate Selection
Week 7 (March 1)	Party Leadership Selection
Week 8 (March 8)	Party and Election Financing
Week 9 (March 15)	Election Campaigning
Week 10 (March 22)	Class films & WORK ON RESEARCH PAPERS
Week 11 (March 29)	Governments and Legislatures RESEARCH PAPERS DUE
Weeks 12 (April 5)	Paper presentations

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
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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.

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.