

## **The Design and Evolution of Public Institutions**

### **PSCI 4809A**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Scott Edward Bennett A627 Loeb Building <a href="mailto:sebalpha@connect.carleton.ca">sebalpha@connect.carleton.ca</a>
<b>ClassTimes:</b>	8:35am to 11:25am on Tuesdays beginning on September 11. Please confirm location on Carleton Central. The instructor will usually be in his office from 14:30 to 17:00 Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:00 Fridays and 15:00 to 16:00 Fridays (unless altered by last minutes adjustments arising from University Scheduling or University meetings). These hours will probably not be held during the first week of the term.
<b>Office Hours:</b>	

The instructor may also be contacted throughout the week via e-mail. Read this syllabus carefully. This syllabus stipulates class and university policies. Exemptions from these policies are almost never granted.

**NOTE: NEARLY ALL OF THE TIMING AND LOCATION INFORMATION GIVEN ABOVE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS OF THE TIME THIS OUTLINE IS BEING SUBMITTED.**

**NOTE: IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, YOU SHOULD TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR IN CLASS OR THROUGH ELECTRONIC MAIL. IN PERSON MEETINGS DURING OFFICE HOURS SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR MATTERS THAT CANNOT BE DEALT WITH IN ANY OTHER WAY.**

### **Course Description**

This course is an examination of the emergence and development of institutional collective action in a broad historical context with attention to probable future scenarios for change. The broad historical backdrop to the evolution of public institutions will be examined using the works of various evolutionary economists, anthropologists, historians and political theorists. For example, aspects of the work of Daniel Friedman, Francis Fukuyama, Ian Morris and Joseph Tainter will be considered as they relate to the design, development and design of major institutions of control in human communities. In addition, the work of such thinkers as Elinor Ostrom (recent Nobel Prize winner) on institutional design and evolution will be examined.

Students will have an opportunity to develop scenario papers that describe the future of public institutions given what is already known about their nature, stability and change.

Apart from mastering the substantive knowledge involved in the course, it is hoped that students will also develop some intellectual habits that may not have been central to some of their other academic experiences. For example, you may find that the work in this course involves a greater degree of counterintuitive and speculative thinking compared to other courses you have taken.

## Class Format

**This is a seminar in which, by definition, the students must have the primary responsibility for using course time effectively. You must be prepared to do your part in covering course material and participating. Also note that the way students are evaluated in a seminar is different from evaluation in large lecture classes. Therefore, do not expect to have a precise knowledge of the number of “points” you have earned in the grading system on any given day in the term. The seminar experience requires a greater degree of maturity than that, but it is also more forgiving in terms of typical grade distributions.**

## Grade Components

Major Seminar Paper                      70% of course grade

Participation                                      30% of Course Grade

More details on the paper will be provided in class. It is due in digital form (email attachment in WORD format) by November 27. In order for the student to have a chance at a reasonable grade, the paper must be at least 6250 words long at a bare minimum. Typically, many papers will likely be considerably longer than this. Also, during the last class, you will make an oral presentation of your final work, if time permits.

The instructor **may** allow students to write a kind of take home exam in place of a paper. However, the amount of work will be just as great as the paper. It is just a matter of the instructor posing the questions for the students that differentiates this option from the paper.

Class participation will probably be judged primarily in terms of presentations of one's own work and presentations of readings for which one is responsible. There may be other elements to participation (such as attendance), and these will be clearly determined and defined later. Generally, it is expected that a student will be principally involved in at least 2 or 3 presentations on readings. In addition, students will also do a mid-course presentation on their proposed major paper. If time permits, there will also be a

presentation of final papers. We will not finalize the exact details of presentation procedures until we know more about the people enrolled in the seminar.

If you are principally responsible for a particular part of the readings in a given week, you should prepare an electronic/typed summary of that area and provide copies of that summary to the class.

## Main Text Books

Morals and Markets, Friedman, published by Palgrave Macmillan, 2008

The Origins of Political Order, Fukuyama, published by Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2011

Why The West Rules – For Now: The patterns of History, and What They Reveal About The Future, Morris, published by McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 2010

Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions of Collective Action, Elinor Ostrom, published by Cambridge University Press, 1990

Understanding Institutional Diversity, Elinor Ostrom, Princeton University Press, 2005

The Collapse of Complex Societies, Tainter, published by Cambridge University Press, initially published in 1988 with many subsequent reprints

**NOTE: DO NOT PURCHASE TEXTS UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN TO THE FIRST CLASS.**

## Course Topics & Readings

It is possible that the readings will be modified. Perhaps they will be extended in some areas and reduced in others. It may even turn out to be the case that certain secondary topics cannot be covered at all due to lack of time. Some patience is required in this regard.

**Note that the instructor considers it to be bad pedagogy and probably bad administration to assign in advance specific dates to the coverage of specific topics. In general, we hope to reach topic 4 (preliminary proposals) no later than the beginning of week 5 or 6 of the course. However, this is an expectation that can be altered in light of student background, interests and progress. We will cover as many of the topics as is appropriate and possible in the order listed below.**

## 1. Introduction to the Course

## 2. History of Market Institutions

### a. Emergence

Friedman, chapters 1 and 2

Morris, chapters 1 to 3 is useful background reading here.

### b. Development

Friedman, chapters 3 and 4

Morris, chapters 9 and 10 is useful background reading here.

### c. Collapse or Continuation

Friedman, chapters 5 to 12 with special emphasis on 12

Morris, Chapters 11 and 12 is useful background reading here.

## 3. History of Governing Institutions and Related Institutions

### a. Emergence

Fukuyama, Chapters 1 to 5

Tainter, Chapter 2

Morris, again, in chapters 1 and 3 is useful background reading here.

### b. Development

Fukuyama, Chapters 29 and 30

Tainter, Chapter 4

Morris, again, chapters 9 and 10 is useful background reading here

### c. Collapse or Continuation

Tainter, Chapters 5 and 6

Morris, Chapters 11 and 12 is, again , useful background reading here

## 4. Preliminary Proposals

## 5. The Middle Ground Between the Market and Government: Common Pool Resource Institutions and the Work of Ostrom

### a. Basic Foundations and Frameworks

Ostrom, Governing the Commons, Chapters 1 and 2

### b. Stability, Change and Collapse in Commons Institutions

Ostrom, Governing the Commons, Chapters 3 to 5

### c. A Methodology to Understand and Design Commons Institutions

Ostrom, Understanding Institutional Diversity

Ideally, we would cover most of the second Ostrom book, but I expect that time constraints will permit, at most, one part of it, probably part 3.

## 6. Problem Solving Sessions Relating to the Final Paper

## 7. Concluding Presentations

You will note that we put Morris in as a background reading for both market and governing institutions, and this is because he writes about social development more broadly and sees everything as part of the same materialistic web of relations. Some of the work of Jared Diamond is also relevant to both market and public institution collapses, and that can be brought forward if desired. However, it must be viewed as secondary in what is already a heavy reading list.

## Instructor's Important Guidelines, Rules and Warnings

**First of all, it is extremely important to note that this is a seminar. A significant part of a seminar necessarily involves students making presentations and discussing material. If you are absolutely unable to do this, no matter what the reasons, you cannot succeed in a seminar. In such a case, you should seek a special exemption from any programme requirement for seminar credits.**

From the instructor's point of view other important rules in a seminar are:

1. Do your work on time as described in this outline and in class.
2. Do not engage in plagiarism.
3. Do not disrupt the class.
4. Keep an open mind with respect to value systems and approaches to inquiry.

With respect to point one above, the final copy of the course paper should be handed in by November 27, 2012. It must be in electronic form as a WORD attachment to an email. Be sure you keep copies of what you submit, and wait for the instructor's return message that he has received and can open the attachment. No excuses for lateness will be accepted except for some extreme emergency (such as the student's hospitalisation) that makes it physically impossible for the student to turn in a paper. Failure to observe this rule will lead to a loss of all marks associated with the paper.

In some cases, a minor extension of this final paper submission date is made, but this would apply to the whole class and not to particular individuals.

Presentations must be done on time as assigned. The only excuses accepted are the same as those noted in the previous paragraph. Failure to observe this will lead to a loss of all marks associated with a presentation.

Other rules of general interest from a departmental or university perspective are contained in the insertion that follows. The instructor only takes responsibility for the essence of the material above.

### Standard Departmental Attachment Follows

#### **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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for December examinations and March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 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

**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

**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.

**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.