

PSCI 4006B-5006W
Legislatures and Representation in Canada

Seminar: Friday 8:35 - 11:25 am
Confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Louise A. Edmonds
Office: Loeb Building A645
Office Hours: Fri. 11:30 – 12:30 pm
Phone: (613) 520-2600 Ext. 1657 (no voicemail)
Email: Ledmonds@connect.carleton.ca



Course Overview:

This course examines issues of legislative representation in Canada at both the national and provincial/territorial levels. We examine the evolution of the Westminster parliamentary system in Canada and the role of legislatures and legislators in the modern Canadian political system particularly in terms of policy making, the role of the individual MP and differing conceptions of representation.

Required Text: (Available at Carleton University Bookstore)

Docherty, David C. 2005. *Legislatures*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Most other required readings are available online; the rest are on Reserve in the library.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

Participation	20%	
Op Ed	20%	(due February 13, 2009)
Research paper	40%	(due March 13, 2009)
Presentation	20%	

Seminar Participation:

Students are expected to attend class having read the required materials for that week and prepared to participate in class discussions on the weekly topic. The grade for seminar participation will be based on attendance at seminar sessions and, more importantly, the quality of participation in seminar sessions.

Op Ed:

Each student will be required to write a critical analysis opinion piece in the style of a newspaper op-ed worth 20% of the final grade. This will be approximately 800 - 1000 words and will be due **on Friday February 13, 2009 at the beginning of class**. An outline on style, content, expectations etcetera will be provided.

Presentation:

Groups of two to three students will be responsible for one seminar topic. Each individual member of the group is required to participate in the presentation, but the group as a whole is responsible for developing the presentation and leading the class discussion. Groups should distribute an outline of their presentation. The use of PowerPoint or other media is optional. The presentation should be at least 30 minutes long and should examine and explore the topic for that week's seminar. In doing so, it is helpful to pull in other issues and examples. Preparation and collaboration are crucial. Simply summarizing the readings is not acceptable.

Research Essay:

The Research Essay will be 12-15 double-spaced pages long (20-25 pages for graduate students) and is due March 13, 2009. Research paper topics, guidelines and expectations will be distributed in class.

Submitting Written Assignments:

Written assignments should be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date. Papers not received in class are considered late. Papers will not be accepted in electronic form. The Political Science drop box (located outside Loeb B640) is intended to collect late assignments only if a student has extenuating circumstances and is unable to submit the paper directly to me in class. The drop box is emptied every weekday at 4 pm and all items collected at that time are stamped with that day's date. Papers dropped off after that time will be date stamped for the following day.

Late papers are subject to a one letter grade deduction per day, including Saturdays and Sundays. For example, an A- paper received one day late would be reduced to a B+.

Weekly seminar outline and required readings:**January 9: Introduction to the course****January 16: Overview - Legislatures, Representation and Democracy**

Docherty, Chapter 1: "A Democratic Audit of Canadian Legislatures"

Jack Stillborn. "The Roles of the Member of Parliament in Canada: Are They Changing?" (Ottawa: Parliamentary Research Branch, Library of Parliament, 2002).

David Beetham. "Political Participation, Mass Protest and Representative Democracy." *Parliamentary Affairs*. 56,4 (2003).

January 23: The Westminster Parliamentary Model

Jennifer Smith, "Democracy and the Canadian House of Commons at the Millennium," *Canadian Public Administration*, Vol. 42, No. 4 (Winter 1999). pp. 398-420.

Recommended:

C.E.S. Franks, *The Parliament of Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 1987).
Ch. 1, "Parliament in an Age of Reform," Ch. 2, "Approaches to Parliamentary Government."

January 30: Members of Parliament

Docherty, Ch. 2: "Who Represents Canada?" and Ch. 3: "Roles in the Assembly"

Donald T. Studlaret al. "A Social and Political Profile of Canadian Legislators," *Journal of Legislative Studies*, 6:2 (2000).

February 6: Parties and the Legislative Process

Docherty, Chapter 7: "Legislative Process"

Christopher Garner and Natalia Letke, "Party Structure and Backbench Dissent in the Canadian and British Parliament," *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, June 2005. p. 463-482.

Jonathan Malloy, "High Discipline, Low Cohesion? The Uncertain Patterns of Canadian Parliamentary Party Groups" *Journal of Legislative Studies* 9:4 (Winter 2003).

Bonnie Brown, "Committees as Agents of Public Policy: The Standing Committee on Health," *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. 26:3 (2003).

February 13: MPs in Action (Op Ed due)**

Docherty, Chapter 4: "Constituency Work"

Peter MacLeod, "How to Organize an Effective Constituency Office," *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. 29:1 (2006).

Francois Côté, "Parliamentary Institutions and Cyberdemocracy," *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. 27:3 (2004).

Canadian Parliamentary Review, "Politics as Communications: Interview with Hon. Garth Turner M.P." *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. 29:3 (2006).

Recommended:

Bill Cross, "Members of Parliament, Voters and Democracy in the Canadian House of Commons," *Parliamentary Perspectives*. 3. (Ottawa: Canadian Study of Parliament Group, 2000).

Feb. 20: Reading Week

February 27: The Senate and Senate Reform

David C. Docherty, "The Canadian Senate: Chamber of Sober Reflection or Looney Cousin Best Not Talked About?" *Journal of Legislative Studies*, 8:3 (Autumn 2002).

Paul G. Thomas, "Comparing the Lawmaking Roles of the Senate and the House of Commons," in S. Joyal ed., *Protecting Canadian Democracy: The Senate You Never Knew* (McGill-Queen's University Press: Montreal and Kingston, 2003).

David E. Smith, *The Canadian Senate in Bicameral Perspective* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 2003). Ch. 8, "The Canadian Senate: What Is to Be Done?"

March 6: The Perception of Parliament.

Lisa Young, "Value Clash: Parliament and Citizens After 150 Years of Responsible Government," in F. Leslie Seidle and Louis Massicotte, eds., *Taking Stock of 150 Years of Responsible Government* (Ottawa: Canadian Study of Parliament Group, 1998).

Richard Nadeau and Thierry Giasson, "Canada's Democratic Malaise: Are the Media to Blame?" *Choices* 9:1 (Institute of Research on Public Policy: Montreal, Feb. 2003)
Available on-line at <http://irpp.org/choices/archive/vol9no1.pdf>

Cameron D. Anderson and Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, "Conceptions of Political Representation in Canada: An Explanation of Public Opinion," *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 38:4 (December 2005).

Recommended:

Report of the Gomery Commission: Restoring Accountability Recommendation. Part 2 "Accountability" (Chapters 4, 6 and 7) and Part Four "Conclusions and Recommendations" (Chapter 11). Available at: http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/pco-bcp/commissions-ef/sponsorship_program-ef/phase2report/en/phase2report/recommendations/default.htm

March 13: Representation and Diversity (Essay due)**

Linda Trimble and Manon Tremblay, "Women Politicians in Canada's Parliament and Legislatures, 1917-2000: A Socio-demographic Profile," in Linda Trimble and Manon Tremblay eds., *Women and Electoral Politics in Canada* (Oxford University Press: Toronto. 2003).

Manon Tremblay, "Do Female MPs Substantively Represent Women? A Study of Legislative Behaviour," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* XXX1:3 (September 1998).

Loretta Smith, "Aboriginal Candidates in the 2004 General Election," *Electoral Insight*. 7:1 (2005).

Recommended:

Jerome Black, and Bruce M. Hicks, "Visible Minority Candidates in the 2004 Federal Election" *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. 29:2 (2006).

March 20: Territorial and Provincial Legislatures

Docherty, Chapter 6: "Scrutiny and the Size of Legislatures"

Graham White, "Traditional Aboriginal Values in a Westminster Parliament: The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut," *Journal of Legislative Studies* 12:1 (March 2006).

David Pond, "Imposing a Neo-Liberal Theory of Representation on the Westminster Model," *Journal of Legislative Studies*. 11:2 (March 2005).

March 27: Technology

Kernaghan, Kenneth "Making Political Connections: IT and Legislative Life," in Sanford Borins et al., eds., *Digital State at the Leading Edge*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007).

Tamara A. Small, "Equal Access, Unequal Success: Major & Minor Canadian Parties on the Net" *Party Politics* 14:1 (March 2008).

Philip Norton "Four Models of Political Representation: British MPs and the Use of ICT" *Journal of Legislative Studies* 13:3 (September 2007).

April 3: Summary Discussion of the Course and Research Paper Presentations

These count only toward your participation mark.

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 letter of 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 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 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).

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. The Department's Style Guide is available at:

<http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

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. 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: 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 only communicates with students via Connect accounts. 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, visit our website at 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.