

**PSCI 2002B
The Canadian Political Environment**

Lecture: Tues. 9:35 - 11:25 pm

Room: Loeb C-164

Instructor: S.A. Bottomley

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Office Hours:

Mon. 11:45 - 2:15

Tues. 11:30 - 1:00

This course explores the cultural, social, and economic context of Canadian politics, including interest groups and social movements, regionalism, language, class, ethnicity, and gender. The international influence on Canadian politics is also discussed.

The course focuses on the major issues, conflicts and identities that frame Canadian political life. For example, what are the roots of Western alienation? How can the idea of French and English as “two-founding nations” be reconciled with either the status of Canada’s First Nations or the rights of Canadians of other backgrounds? How does Canada’s proximity to the United States influence Canadian culture and politics? How has the emergence of new, non-territorial identities changed Canadian politics? These and many other issues will be covered in the course.

Format:

Lectures are held Tuesdays from 9:35 - 11:25 pm. Students must attend their discussion group which are formally scheduled by the university. *Attendance will be taken at discussion groups and a participation mark will be given.* The discussion groups will be based on the assigned readings and lecture topics. Students are encouraged to follow Canadian politics in the news throughout the course.

Grading:

Mid-term exam	15%
Essay	35%
Final Exam	40%
Discussion Group	10%

The mid-term exam will take place on Feb. 14 during the lecture period. The essays are due March. 7. Essay topics, guidelines and late penalties are given in detail below. The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period (April 10 – 29, 2006).

Required Textbooks

Ensure that you purchase the correct edition of the book.

Dyck, Rand. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* (4th ed.), Toronto: Nelson, 2004.

Please note that the textbook has a website and is updated regularly.

Lecture Overview

Jan. 10: Introduction to the Course; Studying Politics; Introduction to Canadian Politics

Dyck, chapter 1: “Approaching the Study of Politics.”

Jan. 17: Canadian Political Culture and Canadian Identity

Dyck, chapter 10: “The Canadian Political Culture.”

Jan. 24: Regionalism in Canadian Politics

Dyck, chapter 3: “Regional-Economic Cleavages.”

Dyck, chapter 17: “The Provinces and the Federal System.”

Jan. 31: Regionalism, The Urban/Rural Cleavage, and the Class Cleavage

Dyck, chapter 8: “Class Cleavages”

Feb. 7: French-English Relations

Dyck, chapter 5, “The French-English Cleavage and the Quebec Questions.”

Feb. 14: **Midterm** -- no discussion groups this week.

Feb. 21: Reading Week. No lecture or discussion groups this week.

Feb. 28: Aboriginal Politics.

Dyck chapter 4: "Canada's Aboriginal Peoples."

March 7: Group Politics. **Essay Due.**

Dyck, chapter 15: "Pressure Groups and Lobbying."

March 14: Gender and Politics.

Dyck, chapter 7: "Gender and Politics."

March 21: The Politics of Ethnicity, Race, Culture and Religion

Dyck, chapter 6: "Other Ethnic Groups and Multiculturalism."

March 28. 17: The International Setting of Canadian Politics

Dyck chapter, 9: "The United States and the Global Environment."

April 4: Media, Socialization and Politics

Dyck, chap. 11: "Political Socialization, the Mass Media, and Opinion Polls."



Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. 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 in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

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*.

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 strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.

Essay Topics and Guidelines

Essays must be between 10-12 double-spaced pages (2500-3000 words) in length. Please do not tinker with the font, font size, margins or spacing to reach the required length. Such manipulation is obvious to detect and insulting to the reader. Do not include pictures, graphs, charts, diagrams or appendices in your paper. Please do not bother with fancy title pages, folders or binders as they will not impact your mark. The essays will be evaluated for both content and presentation. Spelling and grammar count. Please submit the paper directly to the instructor.

Essays must have a minimum of five *academic* sources not including the required readings. Other sources are permitted, but only to bolster the academic sources. Be wary of internet sources, very few of them can be considered academic and many are unreliable. Any standard academic citation style is acceptable. However, you must be consistent.

This is an academic essay. **You must present a clearly defined thesis supported by logically constructed arguments.** You must also anticipate and address criticisms of your thesis and defend it against opposing arguments. Be aware that there is a difference between opinion and argument.

Plagiarism will result in automatic failure. Plagiarism includes the submission of someone else's work, directly quoting a source without acknowledgement, paraphrasing a quote without acknowledgement, or using someone else's ideas and points without acknowledgement. If in doubt, consult the professor or a TA. Please refer to the university policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty included in the course outline.

Essays are due on March 7. Essays submitted after the March 7 lecture, but before the end of the class on March 14 will be penalized 5 percent. Essays submitted after March 14, but on or before March 21 will be penalized 10 percent in total. Essays submitted after the end of class on March 21 will be penalized 20 percent in total. Essays will **not** be accepted after March 28. Please refer to the university policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty included at the end of this course outline. Papers should be given directly to the instructor. **Students must keep a copy of their essay until after final grades are given.**

You **must** write an essay from one of the topics listed below. Essays written on other topics will not be accepted.

1. Is there too much concentration of media ownership in Canada? Does media ownership have any significant impact on Canadian politics?

2. In recent years, has religion become *more* or *less* important in Canadian political life?
3. To what extent, if any, should the federal government take steps to protect Canadian culture? Assess the impact of the governmental attempts to preserve Canadian culture in the face of Americanization and globalization
4. How important is class in Canadian politics? What accounts for the relative absence of class consciousness in Canada?
5. Assess the Hartz-Horowitz “fragment” explanation of Canadian political culture. Does the Hartz-Horowitz explanation still have merit today?
6. Assess the impact of interest groups on Canadian democracy. Do they play a positive role in Canadian politics or do they benefit narrow interests at the expense of the majority?
7. Is Western alienation justified?
8. Assess the effectiveness of Quebec’s language laws in protecting the French language in that province. Can Quebec’s language laws be justified in a liberal democracy?
9. Do business groups have privileged access to government? Is their influence in government detrimental to Canadian politics?
10. Have government initiatives helped or hindered the quest for political, social and economic equality by Canadian women?
11. Discuss the contemporary demands of Aboriginal people and organizations in Canada. Can Aboriginal demands be accommodated within the current constitutional framework?