

Carleton University
Fall 2015
Department of Political Science

PSCI 1100A
Introduction to Political Science I: Democracy in Theory and Practice
Friday 11:35 am - 13:25 pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Philippe Azzie
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Course description

This is one of two foundational courses in the Department of Political Science designed to introduce students to the study of politics and its major subfields. In this course, students will be introduced to the subfields of Canadian politics and political theory. The course begins with an introduction to Canadian politics by way of a study of the Canadian constitution, with a focus on its three pillars: Parliamentarism, Federalism, and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Students will then be introduced to political theory by way of an exploration of the idea of 'freedom' or 'liberty', the central idea informing the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, liberal-democratic regimes, and much of modern political philosophy.

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to some of the fundamental issues they need to think about when studying Canadian politics and political theory. Related objectives include the following:

- Provide students with an opportunity for a direct encounter with foundational documents and texts that have informed the understanding and study of Canadian politics and political theory.
- Help students improve their interpretive and critical skills through close and careful examination of documents and texts.
- Through direct engagement with these texts, and the fundamental claims they make and issues they raise,
 - Help students better understand and critically assess their own assumptions and presuppositions about politics.
 - Help students better understand and interpret current issues and debates in Canadian politics and political theory.

Requirements for success in this course include attending all lectures, taking notes, reading all required texts, as well as attending and participating in discussion groups. Success is also achieved by reading recommended texts and engaging in dialogue with, or asking questions of, your professor and teaching assistant.

Texts

Required Texts

The following texts are required for this course and are available for purchase in the Carleton University bookstore which is located on the first floor of the University Centre.

- PSCI 1100A Course Pack.
- John Stuart Mill, On Liberty.

The following additional required texts (in pdf format) have been uploaded to the course webpage, accessible through <http://culearn.carleton.ca>. They include the following:

- Supreme Court of Canada, 'Senate reference question' (also available online at: <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/13614/index.do>).
- Rainer Knopff and Dave Snow, "*Harper's New Rules*" for Government Formation: *Fact or Fiction*, in Canadian Parliamentary Review/Spring 2013, pages 18-27 (also available online at: http://www.revparl.ca/36/1/36n1_13e_Knopff-Snow.pdf).
- Supreme Court of Canada, 'Carter vs. Canada' (also available online at: <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/14637/1/document.do>).
- Pierre Trudeau, 'Federal Grants to Universities' and 'A Constitutional Declaration of Rights'.

Recommended Readings

Recommended readings have been placed on reserve in the MacOdrum Library and are available for two hour loan periods. These readings are included in the following texts:

- Christopher Dunn, Canadian Political Debates: Opposing Views on Issues that Divide Canadians.
- Mark Dickerson and Tom Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics.
- James Bickerton and Alain Gagnon, eds., Canadian Politics 5th edition.
- Rand Dyck and Christopher Cochrane, Canadian Politics, Critical Approaches, 7th edition.
- Michael Whittington and Glen Williams, eds., Canadian Politics in the 21st Century, 6th edition.
- Paul Fox and Graham White, eds., Politics: Canada, 7th edition.
- Robert Sharpe and Kent Roach, The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 3rd edition.
- Benjamin Constant, Political Writings.

The readings and lectures for this course complement each other. Neither one should be considered an adequate substitute for the other.

Course Work/Evaluation

The evaluation for this course will consist of the following:

- 20%: Research Assignment on Canadian Politics (due in class on October 23rd)
- 20%: Research Assignment on Political Theory (due in class on December 4th)
- 10%: Attendance and participation in discussion groups
- 50%: Final Exam (scheduled during official examination period, December 9-21).

NOTE: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to receive a passing grade, and no grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean.

Research Assignments

Students will write two mini-research papers for this course, one in the area of Canadian politics and one in the area of political theory. Essays must conform to the following specifications: include a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 1,200 words, be written double-spaced, with 1.25 inch margins all around, and typed using a font size of 12 in Arial style. Essays will be evaluated according to the following criteria, each of which will be accorded equal weight in determining the grade:

- *Clarity*: Is the paper written in a clear, easy to understand style.
- *Coherence*: Does the paper develop logically and hold together in a coherent manner.
- *Comprehension*: Does the student show that she/he understands the topic.
- *Completeness*: Has the student included everything required to address the topic.

These criteria, as well as other specifications regarding assignments, will be discussed in greater detail on September 11th. Topics will be assigned through the course webpage, accessible through <http://culearn.carleton.ca>, and will be available to students on September 11th.

When writing their assignments, students must rely on the specific primary texts associated with the topic. Consequently, references and citations must be primarily from these sources, not secondary materials. Reference to or citation of secondary materials, including materials accessed through the Internet, must be kept to a minimum.

Bibliographies and footnotes are necessary. The citation format to be used is that described in Kate L Turabian, *A manual for writers of research papers, theses, and dissertations: Chicago style for students and researchers*; Chicago: University of Chicago Press. This manual can be consulted at the MacOdrum Library 2nd Floor Research Desk. An online version of the manual is also available at the library, and a quick guide can be accessed online through the following link: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html.

Students must submit assignments in class. The first assignment is due on **October 23rd**, and the second is due on **December 4th**. Assignments will be returned to students 2-3 weeks after being submitted. If a student wishes to have an assignment returned by mail, he/she should submit it with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Late papers will be subject to a one point deduction per day (including Saturdays and Sundays) unless students provide documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances have arisen (e.g. illness, accident, family affliction). For example, a paper submitted one day late that would have received a mark of 18/20 will receive a mark of 17/20).

Note: The Political Science department has a drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb intended to collect late assignments if a student has extenuating circumstances and is unable to submit the paper directly in class. The drop box is emptied **every weekday at 4 p.m.** and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date. The late paper policy described above applies to any papers submitted by way of the drop box.

Discussion groups

Participation in discussion groups is mandatory and, as noted earlier, crucial to success in this course. The participation grade will be based on attendance and the quality of interventions. All students should verify the location and time of their group.

Final Examination

The final examination for the course will cover Canadian politics and political theory and will be scheduled for three hours. As noted above, the examination will be scheduled during the official examination period. **Students are reminded not to make any travel arrangements before they have checked the examination schedule.**

Email communication

Any and all email communication sent to the professor and teaching assistants should have as its subject heading: PSCI 1100A from [your name]. Carleton requires that students, staff and faculty use Carleton email accounts when conducting University business. As stipulated above, term assignments must be submitted in class, which means that they will not be accepted by email.

Lecture Schedule

Below is the lecture schedule for the course, including assigned readings for each lecture. Students are expected to attend all lectures. It is also strongly recommended that students bring their course pack to class for lectures on Canadian politics and their copy of On Liberty for the lectures on political theory, as the lectures will often make explicit reference to passages from required readings.

September 11: General introduction to course

September 18: Canadian Politics: Parliamentarism

Required reading: 'Baldwin on Responsible Government' (Course pack); John A. Macdonald, 'Speech on the Quebec Resolutions' (Course pack); 'Constitution Act 1867', articles 1-90 (Course pack).

Recommended reading: Dickerson and Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics, Part 3, chapter 20; Dyck and Cochrane, Canadian Politics, Critical Approaches, chapters 21 and 23.

September 25: Canadian Politics: Parliamentarism

Required reading: Supreme Court of Canada, 'Senate reference question' (Uploaded to course web page); Knopff and Snow, "Harper's New Rules" for Government Formation: Fact or Fiction (Uploaded to course web page).

Recommended reading: Dunn, Canadian Political Debates, Part 5; Whittington and Williams, Canadian Politics in the 21st Century, chapters 1-2.

Recommended viewing: 'Is Canadian Democracy in Crisis?': A Debate between Andrew Coyne and John Pepall (accessible at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG6ulAPnFO4>).

October 2: Canadian Politics: Federalism

Required reading: 'Constitution Act 1867', articles 91-146 (Course pack); Donald Creighton, 'The Use and Abuse of History', and 'The Myth of Biculturalism' (Course pack).

Recommended reading: Dickerson and Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics, Part 3, chapter 21.

October 9: Canadian Politics: Federalism

Required reading: Pierre Trudeau, 'Federal Grants to Universities' (Uploaded to course web page).

Recommended reading: Dunn, Canadian Political Debates, Part 3; Whittington and Williams, Canadian Politics in the 21st Century, chapter 4; Bickerton and Gagnon, Canadian Politics, chapter 8; Dyck and Cochrane, Canadian Politics, Critical Approaches, chapter 18.

October 16: Canadian Politics: Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Required reading: Pierre Trudeau, 'A Constitutional Declaration of Rights' (Uploaded to course web page); 'Constitution Act 1982' (Course pack).

Recommended reading: Roy Romanow, 'Shortcomings and Dangers in the Charter' in Fox and White, Politics: Canada, pp.79-83; Sharpe and Roach, The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, chapters 1-2.

October 23: Canadian Politics: Charter of Rights and Freedoms
***First assignment due (in class)**

Required reading: Supreme Court of Canada, 'Carter vs. Canada' (Uploaded to course web page).

Recommended reading: Christopher Dunn, Canadian Political Debates, Part 2; Whittington and Williams, Canadian Politics in the 21st Century, chapter 11; Dyck and Cochrane, Canadian Politics, Critical Approaches, chapter 19; Sharpe and Roach, The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, chapters 3-4.

October 30: Study break (no class)

November 6: Introduction to Political Theory

Required reading: Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Course pack).

Recommended reading: Dickerson and Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics, Part 2, chapter 9; Benjamin Constant, 'The liberty of the ancients compared with that of the moderns' in Benjamin Constant, Political Writings.

November 13: Political Theory

Required reading: J S Mill, On Liberty, chapters 1-2.

Recommended reading: Dickerson and Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics, Part 2, chapter 10.

November 20: Political Theory

Required reading: J S Mill, On Liberty, chapter 3.

Recommended reading: Dickerson and Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics, Part 2, chapters 11-12.

November 27: Political Theory

Required reading: J S Mill, On Liberty, chapters 4-5.

Recommended reading: Dickerson and Flanagan, An Introduction to Government and Politics, Part 2, chapters 13-15.

December 4: Conclusion and review
* **Second assignment due (in class)**

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

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.