

Carleton University  
July-August 2010  
Department of Political Science

**PSCI 2002A**  
**Canadian Political Environment**

6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: John Crysler

Office: C660 Loeb Building

Office Hours: 5:15-5:45pm Mondays and Wednesdays and by appointment

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**Course description**

This course introduces students to the social and economic foundations of the Canadian polity. We focus particularly on the evolution of political cleavages and the politics of identity in the Canadian context.

We begin by situating Canada in the global context. The classes that follow focus on Canada's original inhabitants, First Nations and Inuit peoples, and Canada's traditional cleavages of language and region. The class cleavage, frequently noted for its lack of saliency in the Canadian context, is also considered. The course moves on to analyze the impact of notions of ethnicity, "race" and gender in Canadian political identity. We continue by looking at how various Canadian political interests mobilize through group politics, and conclude by considering the process of political socialization in Canada and the role of the mass media.

The aim of the course is to give students a basic grounding in the main political currents in the Canadian polity. For this, the course textbook is particularly useful. In addition, other selected readings are designed to provoke students to question some of their assumptions and re-think what Canada is all about.

The course is also designed to help students improve their writing skills by providing feedback on a short writing assignment before the research essay is due. Finally, it is anticipated that through open class discussions students will improve their oral communication skills and reinforce the concepts covered in lectures and the textbook.

**Required textbook** (available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore)

Dyck, Rand. 2010. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches. 6th ed. Toronto: Nelson.

**Other readings**

Students are also expected to read and to be prepared to comment on the discussion readings indicated in the class schedule. Readings will be available on Web CT and/or through library reserves.

**Evaluation Summary**

15% short paper – **due July 19**

35% research essay – **due August 9**

35% final exam – to be scheduled during the regular examination period

15% participation

## Written Assignments

The **short paper** is due at the beginning of class on **July 19, 2010**.

The task is to select a quotation that relates to a topic covered early in the course and write a critical response **no more than two pages double-spaced**. One of the purposes of this task is to get students in the habit of writing clearly and concisely, which is a very useful skill for assignments of any length.

Select from among the following quotations:

“Living next to you [the United States] is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, if I can call it that, one is affected by every twitch and grunt.”  
- Pierre Trudeau

“[W]hen Europeans arrived in North America, aboriginal peoples *were already here*, living in communities on the land and participating in distinctive cultures, as they had done for centuries. It is this fact, and this fact above all others, which separates aboriginal peoples from all other minority groups in Canadian society, and which mandates their special legal, and now constitutional, status.”  
- Chief Justice Antonio Lamer

“We understand the legitimate desire of Canadians to build a stronger country, even if that means a more centralized system. We understand all of this, but we cannot accept it. Neither can the current Premier of Quebec, who is an ardent federalist, nor will the next Premier, be able to accept it. Unfortunately, this often means that Quebec slows Canada down, just as Canada slows Quebec down. Too often, we stand in each other’s way.”  
- Gilles Duceppe

If some countries have too much history, we [Canada] have too much geography.  
- Mackenzie King

In this paper, students should:

- State whether you agree or disagree with the selected quotation;
- Identify clearly your position on the matter;
- Construct a logical argument in support of your position, while using specific examples;
- Address possible counter-arguments to your position.

Students should, at the very least, read the chapter(s) of the textbook related to the selected quotation to enable the construction an informed argument.

References are permitted but not required. If you do refer to other sources, please provide a bibliography.

The **research essay** is due at the beginning of class on **August 9, 2010**.

The instructor will provide several research questions in class and on Web CT. Students must address one of these research questions in their research essay, which should be **8-10 pages double-spaced**.

## Grading Policy

Both written assignments will be evaluated in terms of quality of argument, quality of writing, accuracy and appropriateness of citations. For the research paper, breadth and depth of research is an additional criterion. Assignments will be assigned a grade out of 100, which will be converted to a grade out of 15 for the short paper and a grade out of 35 for the research essay.

## Submission of written assignments

Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class on July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> respectively. If, for some extraordinary reason, you are unable to attend class, you may submit your paper through the departmental drop box (a mail slot in the wall) located outside room B640 Loeb Building. Assignments are retrieved once every business day at 4:00pm, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. Assignments submitted after 4:00pm will be date stamped as received the next business day.

Late papers may either be submitted through the departmental drop box or at the instructor's office hours (5:15 to 5:45pm Mondays and Wednesday). A penalty will be applied (see below).

E-mail submissions of written assignments will **not** be accepted.

## Late paper policy

Late papers will be assigned a penalty of 5% per business day. For example, a research essay awarded a grade of 80% would be reduced to 75% if it were submitted one business day late, and the mark out of 35 would be reduced from 28 to 26.25.

Late papers will be accepted up to and including seven calendar days following the due date. For example, the short paper is due on July 19<sup>th</sup>. One could hand in the short paper as late as July 26<sup>th</sup> with a penalty of 25% (5% multiplied by 5 business days). However, **any paper submitted more than seven calendar days after the due date will not be accepted.**

Extensions will be considered only in extraordinary circumstances. For example, significant illness as documented by a medical certificate.

## Final Exam

The **final exam** will be scheduled sometime during the regular examination period for the late summer term.

All material covered in the course is examinable, including lectures, assigned textbook and discussion readings, and films. However, class discussions will not be examinable to facilitate a more comfortable environment for discussion.

The exam will be three hours and will include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. More details on the exam will be provided in class and on Web CT. Exams will receive a grade out of 100, which will be converted to a grade out of 35.

## Participation

Each week there will be a class discussion. Students are expected to read and be prepared to comment on assigned discussion readings. Students will be evaluated on the quantity and quality of their interventions (with more emphasis on quality). Those whose comments engage with the assigned discussion reading and other relevant course material will be rewarded.

Attending class without participating in the class discussion will not contribute to the participation grade.

Any students uncomfortable participating in class discussion should visit the instructor during office hours to discuss ways to facilitate their participation.

## Lecture Schedule and Required Readings

### July 5: Course introduction, studying Canadian politics

- Dyck Chapter 1

### July 7: Canada and the World

- Dyck Chapter 10
- Open Canada: A Global Position Strategy for a Networked Age (pp. 1-31) (click "Download Report" at <http://www.onlinecic.org/opencanada>).

### July 12: Aboriginal Peoples

- Dyck Chapter 4
- Stannard, David E. 1992. *American Holocaust*. New York: Oxford University Press. Prologue (ix-xv), Chapters 1, 3 & 4).

### July 14: French-English Relations and Quebec

- Dyck Chapter 5
- Trudeau, Pierre. 1992. "Trudeau speaks out". *Maclean's*, 28 September, 22-26.
- Newman, Peter C. 1992. "Blaming Trudeau for Our Troubles". *Maclean's*, 28 September, 46.

### July 19: Regionalism (short paper due)

- Dyck Chapter 3
- Harper, Stephen; Tom Flanagan, Ted Morton, Rainer Knopff, Andrew Crooks and Ken Boessenkool. 2001. "The Alberta Agenda," *Policy Options*. April. (<http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/apr01/alberta.pdf>).

### July 21: Elites, Classes and Inequality

- Dyck Chapters 8
- Porter, John. 1965. *The Vertical Mosaic*. (Chapter 1)

### July 26: The Politics of Ethnicity, Race, Culture and Religion

- Dyck Chapter 6
- Bissoondath, Neil. 2002. *Selling Illusions*. Toronto: Penguin. (Chapters 1&2)

### July 28: Gender

- Dyck Chapter 7
- Trimble, Linda. 2005. "Who Framed Belinda Stronach? National Newspaper Coverage of the Conservative Party of Canada's 2004 Leadership Race." (<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~ltrimble/WhoFramedBelindaStronach.pdf>).

### August 2: NO CLASS – CIVIC HOLIDAY

### August 4: Other Cleavages and Identities

- Dyck Chapter 9
- Blais, André. 2005. "Accounting for the Electoral Success of the Liberal Party in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 38, 821-840.

### August 9: Group Politics (research essay due)

- Chapter 16
- Malloy, Jonathan. 2009. "Bush/Harper? Canadian and American Evangelical Politics Compared." *American Review of Canadian Studies*, 39:4.

### August 11: Political Socialization and the Mass Media

- Dyck Chapter 12
- <Discussion reading to be determined>

### August 16: Examination Review

## 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 **June 11 2010 for early summer examinations and July 30 2010 for late summer 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.

**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:** 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:** 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.