

PSCI 2002 A and V
The Canadian Political Environment
2:35 pm - 5:25 pm Mondays and Wednesdays
(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Dr. Dan Webb
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Office Hours: Mondays, Time TBA
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Email: you can contact me via WEBCT (you can expect a reply within 48 hours).

Course Description

This course is designed to give students an introduction to some of the most important concepts related to formal political structures in Canada, as well as some of the most significant socio-cultural and economic issues that animate Canadian society today. Topics include Canadian political institutions like the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, federalism and the Charter, globalization and political economy, nationalism and multiculturalism, and much more. The course will be designed around twice-weekly lectures, but there will be much time set-aside for in-class discussions. We will also watch two topic-relevant films that will complement the lecture and reading content.

Texts

There is one required textbook that must be purchased from Haven bookstore:

Whittington and William, eds., *Canadian Politics in the 21st Century*, 7th Edition, Thompson/Nelson Press (2008).

Viewing Course Lectures

The lectures are broadcast on Rogers Ottawa Digital Channel 243 (day and time TBA) and via video streaming on the internet at the same time. Lectures are also available via Video on Demand. See: www.carleton.ca/cuol for details.

In addition to the broadcast, the CUOL Student Centre located in Loeb D299, provides a course review service to the Carleton University community. Copies of the weekly lectures are available for one day loan and in-house viewing. The

CUOL lecture loan service is for review purposes only and must not be considered a primary means of accessing CUOL lectures. The number of copies of each lecture is limited and at times the demand may exceed the supply. See:

<http://cuol.carleton.ca/general-studentcentre.php>

Evaluation

Paper #1 (due July 16)	= 20%
Mid-Term Exam (tentatively July 27 @ 6:00 PM)	= 20%
Paper #2 (due August 13)	= 20 %
Final Exam (TBA)	= 40 %

* **Please Note:** For writing assignments, students will be evaluated primarily in terms of: 1. coherence, depth, and accuracy of argument, 2. inclusion of required number of legitimate secondary sources; 3. grammar, style, and structure; and 4. quality of thesis statement. On WEBCT I will post a list of “writing tips” for students to use as a style and writing guide, as well as a check-list students can use before submitting their papers.

Examinations

There will be two formally scheduled exams (20% and 40% of final grade respectively).

The format of the exams will be a mixture of fill-in-the-blank, short definitions, and long answers.

Please note that distance students are responsible for knowing when and where their exams are to be written. Refer to <http://www.cuol-carleton.ca/students-exams.php> for details. There are important deadlines for arrangements, so don't delay looking at this!

Term Work

Papers:

Students will write two 5-6-page research essays.

The basic format for all written work is: 12 font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced. I highly appreciate double-sided print outs, but if you can't manage it, don't worry about it.

The topics for the papers will be posted online via WEBCT no later than the first day of class:

All essays require a minimum of 5 sources, 4 of which must come from recognised scholarly journals or books. While you can use assigned class readings in your papers, they will not be considered in the final source count. In addition, introductory textbooks (for Canadian Politics, Political Science, or any other topic) can be used but will not be counted toward the final required source tally. Finally, it is not acceptable to use a majority of the same sources for each essay. Ideally, each essay will incorporate five new sources that you did not use in your previous papers, but there will be some flexibility on this issue.

Late Assignment Policy

Any paper that is handed in after the class is finished on the assigned deadline will be considered late. All papers handed in late will receive a deduction of 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late. So, for example, an A paper handed in one day late will receive an A-, two days late = B+, etc. Late papers can be left in the department of Political Science drop box (B 640 Loeb Building). The drop box is emptied every weekday at 4:00 PM and time-stamped. Any papers dropped off after 4:00 PM will be considered submitted the following day. Weekend days are treated no differently than week-days (if you hand a paper in on Friday after 4:00, it will not be time-stamped until Monday).

Academic Support:

If you require research, computer or learning support services, please consult the Carleton University Learning Commons at http://www.library.carleton.ca/learning_commons/

For help with academic writing and related issues, please consult the Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service (<http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>).

Class Schedule (more readings may be added)

July 4 – **Introduction**

July 9 – **Executive and Legislative**

* Chapter 1: Parliament and Political Success in Canada - Michael M. Atkinson and David C. Docherty

* Chapter 2: The Prime Minister, Cabinet, and the Executive Power in Canada - Michael S. Whittington

July 11 – **Political Parties / Electoral System**

- Chapter 6: The End of Brokerage? The Canadian Party System in the Twenty First Century - Anthony Sayers
- Chapter 7: Elections - Jon H. Pammett

July 16 – **The Charter and Judiciary (Paper #1 due)**

- Chapter 9: Charter Politics and the Judiciary - Radha Jhappan

July 18 – **Federalism**

- Chapter 4: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations - Garth Stevenson
- Chapter 5: Regions within Region: Canada in the Continent - Glen Williams

July 23 – **Business and Labour**

The following two chapters are from: Miram Smith (ed.), *Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press (2007), and are available on WEBCT.

- Yates, CHAPTER 3: “Organized Labour in Canadian Politics: Hugging the Middle or Pushing the Margins”
- Clancy, CHAPTER 1: “Business Interests and Civil Society in Canada”

July 25 – **Movie! – Final Offer**

July 27 – Mid Term Exam, Tentatively 6:00 PM, building and room TBA

July 30 – **Environmentalism and the Economy**

- Reading: TBA

August 1 – **The Media and Globalization**

- Chapter 14: The Media and Canadian Politics in an Era of Globalization - Frederick J. Fletcher and Robert Everett

August 6 – **NO CLASS**

August 8 – **Canadian Nationalism / Multiculturalism**

- Chapter 10: Political Culture in Canada - David V.J. Bell
- Chapter 12: Unequal Relations: Race and Ethnicity in Canadian Politics - Daiva Stasiulis and Yasmeen Abu-Laban

August 13 – **Québec / First Nations Nationalism (Paper #2 due)**

- Chapter 13: Quebec: Province, Nation, or Distinct Society - Kenneth McRoberts

August 15: – **Movie! – TBA – Exam Review**