

Carleton University
Winter 2016
Department of Political Science

PSCI 2003
Canadian Political Institutions
Friday, 12:35 - 2:25 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor W. Cross
Office: 699 Loeb
Email address: bill_cross@carleton.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays 12:00 – 1, Fridays 10:00 – 11:00

Notes:

Please do not send substantive questions relating to course material via e-mail. When you have questions, it is much preferred for you to drop by my office and for us to chat about the material.

No recording of class lectures (audio or video) is permitted without prior permission from the instructor.

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the key institutions and practices associated with Canadian politics. We will consider the constitution, federalism, the Charter, parliament, the executive, political parties, election campaigns, the judiciary, and interest groups. In addition to considering the organization and function of each of these, we will consider how citizens interact with them. One of the principal themes of the course will be whether Canada's political institutions lend themselves to meaningful public participation in our democracy. Lectures will consider material beyond that found in the assigned readings. Weekly tutorial sessions will focus on contemporary debates relating to Canadian government and politics.

Course Requirements:

The class will meet every Friday of the term for approximately one hour and fifty minutes beginning at 12:35 p.m. Students are expected to attend each class. Students will also attend a tutorial session each week as scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Student grades will be comprised of the following components:

Midterm examination: 10 per cent
Term paper: 30 per cent

Tutorial participation: 15 per cent
Final examination: 45 per cent

Term Paper: each student will write a research based paper approximately 2,500 words in length. The paper should be based upon substantial research conducted by the student on a topic chosen by the student from the list provided in the course outline. Students should follow a standard academic style guide (such as MLA). The grade assigned for the papers will reflect an assessment of the quality and persuasiveness of the argument, the clarity of the argument, the depth of research evident, the appropriate use of sources and the clarity and accuracy of the writing. Term papers are due in the tutorial sessions on 11 March 2016. Papers not submitted then may be deposited in the departmental essay drop box before 4 p.m. on 11 March 2016. **DO NOT SUBMIT PAPERS UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR. NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH ELECTRONIC OR FAX SUBMISSION. LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED BY ONE FULL LETTER GRADES (AN 'A' BECOMES A 'B') AND NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4 p.m. 16 MARCH 2016.**

Midterm Examination: Students will write a midterm examination. The examination will be held in class on 12 February 2016. There will be no make-up for the midterm. Students who miss the midterm and have a valid medical approved absence will have the remainder of their grade pro-rated to account for this. Unexcused absences result in a grade of 0 for the midterm.

Final Examination: Students will write a final examination. The examination will be scheduled during the university's final examination period. The examination will cover all material covered in the classes and assigned readings.

Tutorial Participation: Students will attend weekly tutorial sessions for which there are assigned readings. Students are expected to complete and consider the assigned readings before each tutorial. The participation grade will reflect both the quality and quantity of tutorial participation and attendance. Readings for the tutorial sessions are below. Tutorial groups will begin to meet the week of 18 January.

Required Textbooks:

- 1, Rand Dyck, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, 7th edition (Toronto: Nelson, 2014).
- 2, William Cross, *Auditing Canadian Democracy* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010).

Both books are available in the University Bookstore. The Dyck readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. The Cross readings are for the tutorial sessions.

Class Schedule: (subject to revision)
(all readings in this list are from the Dyck text)

January 8, introduction, review of course outline and expectations

January 15, Democracy and the Canadian State, chapters 2 & 11

January 22, Federalism, chapter 18

January 29, The Constitution, chapter 17

February 5, The Charter, chapter 19

February 12, mid term examination

February 26, The Courts, chapter 24

March 4, Parliament, chapter 23

March 11, the Executive and the Bureaucracy, chapters 21 & 22

March 18, Political Parties, chapter 14

April 1, Elections, chapter 13

April 8, Campaigns and Voting, chapter 15

Readings for tutorial sessions, (all are from the Cross text):

January 15, chapter 1

January 22, chapter 2

January 29, chapter 5

February 5, essay preparation session

February 12, no session

February 26, chapter 8

March 4, chapter 4

March 11, chapter 3

March 18, chapter 7

April 1, chapter 6

April 8, chapter 9

Essay topics:

1. How would a weakening of party discipline in the House of Commons change Canadian politics? Would this be a change for the better?
2. Various reform proposals for the Canadian Senate have been advanced over time. What are the principal arguments in favour of Senate Reform? Which reform proposals do you find most compelling and why?
3. Electoral system reform has recently been on the agenda both in several Canadian provinces and at the federal level. What are the principal arguments both in favour of reform and of maintaining the status quo? Which arguments do you find most compelling and why?
4. Women continue to be under represented in Canada's legislatures. What are the principal causes of this under representation and what might be done to remedy this situation?
5. Some observers argue that the Prime Minister has become too powerful in Canada. What are the principal arguments advanced in support of this position? What is your assessment of this argument?

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.