

Carleton University
Department of Political Science
Summer 2015

PSCI 2003-A
CANADIAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS
Tuesday/Thursday 8:35 - 11:25

Professor: Dr. Rand Dyck
Office: B643 Loeb
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or by appointment
E-mail: Rand.Dyck@carleton.ca

Course Description

This course is designed to achieve an understanding of the federal political institutions in Canada. These institutions principally include the constitution, federalism, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet, the Bureaucracy, Parliament, and the Judiciary. But less formal institutions are also of great interest, including the electoral system, political parties, and advocacy groups. A companion course, PSCI 2002, examines the “environment” of the Canadian political system.

Required Text available at CU Bookstore

Rand Dyck and Christopher Cochrane, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, 7th ed. Toronto: Nelson Education, 2013

Supplementary Reading

Since the textbook was written by the professor of the course, you should enhance your perspective by reading at least one of the other articles listed for each subject. They are chosen from the following books of readings, which have been put on reserve in the Carleton Library:

Mark Charlton and Paul Barker, eds. *Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues*, 7th ed. Toronto: Nelson Education, 2013.

Peter Russell, François Rocher, et al., eds. *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics*. Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2009.

Michael Whittington and Glen Williams, eds. *Canadian Politics in the 21st Century*, 7th ed. Toronto: Nelson, 2008.

Method of Evaluation

Minor Essay	10%	July 14
Midterm Exam	25%	July 23
Major Essay	20%	August 6
Final Exam	35%	(August 17-23)
Attendance and participation	10%	

The minor essay should be 7 pages long and the major paper should be 10 pages long. All assignments are to be submitted in class or the drop-box on the due date. Late submissions are subject to a penalty of 5 marks per day.

Students are expected to attend every class. One mark out of the 10 allotted for Attendance and Participation is deducted for each absence.

Class Schedule and Readings

1. July 2: Institutional Foundations

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, chs. 1 and 2

2. July 7: The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 17

Rocher and Verrelli, "Questioning Constitutional Democracy in Canada," in Russell and Rocher
McRoberts, "Quebec: Province, Nation, or Distinct Society?" in Whittington and Williams

3. July 9: The Federal System

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 18

Cairns, "The Judicial Committee and Its Critics," in Russell and Rocher

Simeon and Robinson, "The Dynamics of Canadian Federalism," in Russell and Rocher

Stevenson, "Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations," in Whittington and Williams

4. July 14: Elections and the Electoral System

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 13

Charlton and Barker, ch. 9 – Is a Mixed-Member Proportional Electoral System in Canada's Interest?

Pammett, "Elections," in Whittington and Williams

5. July 16: Political Parties and the Party System

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 14

Brodie and Jenson, "The Party System," in Russell and Rocher

Carty, Cross and Young, "A New Canadian Party System," in Russell and Rocher

Horowitz, "Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism in Canada," in Russell and Rocher

6. July 21: Advocacy Groups, Social Movements, and Lobbying

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 16

Smith, "Interest Groups and Social Movements," Whittington and Williams,

<http://democracywatch.ca/20120517-reismay1712/>

7. July 23: Midterm Exam

8. July 28: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch.19

Charlton and Barker, ch. 4 – Is the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Antidemocratic?"

McLachlin, "Courts, Legislatures and Executives in the Post-Charter Era," in Russell and Rocher

9. July 30: The Policymaking Process and Policy Instruments

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 20

10. August 4: The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 21

Savoie, "The Rise of Court Government in Canada," in Russell and Rocher.

Whittington, "The Prime Minister, Cabinet, and the Executive Power in Canada," in Whittington and Williams

11. August 6: The Bureaucracy

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 22

Whitaker, "Politics versus Administration: Politicians and Bureaucrats," in Whittington and Williams

12. August 11: Parliament

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 23

Charlton and Barker, ch. 8 – Should Party Discipline Be Relaxed?

Charlton and Barker, ch. 7 – Is a Majority Government More Effective Than a Minority Government?

Atkinson and Docherty, “Parliament and Political Success in Canada,” in Whittington and Williams

13. August 13: The Judiciary

Dyck, *Canadian Politics*, ch. 24

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 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.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

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 <http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety> 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.