

Carleton University  
Department of Political Science

Spring 2010

**PSCI 2003B**  
**Canadian Political Institutions**  
**Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday 9:35am-12:25pm**  
**Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

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(Note – use this address rather than WebCT mail for potentially faster results)

This course explores the major constitutional, political, judicial and bureaucratic institutions of the nation. It is not a course on the rules and practices of these institutions, but rather an exploration of how power and democracy shape, and are shaped by, these institutions.

**Text: Required**

Dyck, Rand. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> edition) (Toronto: Nelson)

NOTE: The 6<sup>th</sup> edition has just been published and is only available new. Used copies of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition can also be used.

**Books are available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca St. (havenbooks.ca)**

**Grading:**

Midterm Test ( <b>June 3</b> )	20%
Term Paper - Due <b>June 17</b>	30%
Final Exam (to be scheduled during the regular exam period)	35%
Participation	10%
Attendance	5%

The midterm test will take place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> during class. It will cover all material from the assigned readings and lectures covered so far in the class.

The term paper will be approximately 2000 words and is due *at the beginning of class on June 17*. Further information will be distributed in class. Papers received after 10 AM on June 17 without excuse will lose one percent. Papers received after 4 PM on June 17 will lose one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., from B+ to B), including weekends unless valid reasons are presented.

The final exam will be during the regular exam period at the end of term.

Participation forms an important part of the course and your learning. Depending on the final size of the class, students will be asked to engage in class discussions, complete short assignments and/or post on the WebCT discussion board.

Attendance will be taken in class. If you are not able to make it to class, e-mail the instructor, preferably beforehand.

## *Topics and Reading Assignments*

**The textbook is your friend.** Review it before and after class to ensure you are familiar with the concepts under discussion, and to further understand concepts covered in the lectures.

### May 11 – Introduction

### May 13 - Historical Foundations

Chapter 2 “Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State”

### May 18 – The Constitution

Chapter 17 “The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change”

### May 20 - Orders of Government

Chapter 4 – “Aboriginal Peoples”

Chapter 18 “The Provinces and the Federal System”

### May 25 - The Judiciary and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Chapter 19 “The Charter of Rights and Freedoms”

See also Chapter 24 “The Judiciary”

### May 27 - The Electoral System

Chapter 13 “Elections and the Electoral System”

Chapter 15 “Parties, Voting and the Election Campaign”

### June 1 - Political Parties

Chapter 14 “Political Parties and the Party System”

### June 3 – *Midterm*

### June 8 – Parliament

Chapter 23 “Parliament”

### June 10- The Executive

Chapter 21 “The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister and Cabinet”

### June 15 - Public Policy and Administration

Chapter 22 “The Bureaucracy”

June 17 - Exam Review - *Essays Due*