

Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of Political Science

PSCI 2003 Canadian Political Institutions
Lecture: Fridays, 11:35am - 1:25 pm
Mackenzie 3275
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Scott Pruyers

Office: D683 Loeb Building

Email: scottpruyers@cmail.carleton.ca

On weekdays, I will generally respond to your emails within 24 hours. Substantive questions are best discussed in person during office hours.

Office Hours: Fridays 2:00-3:00pm or by appointment^[1]_[SEP]

**Feel free to email me or to drop by my office to see me with any questions you may have or simply to chat about your progress in the course. This time is for you so I hope that you will use it. I look forward to getting to know you better.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course offers students an introduction to the major political institutions that shape democratic life in Canada. This includes the Constitution and the Charter, federalism, parliament, political parties and the electoral system, interest groups, and the judiciary. While the course explores the design, evolution, and modern functioning of these various political institutions, we will also consider whether and how these institutions contribute to the so called 'democratic deficit'.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide students with an understanding of the major political institutions that shape political life in Canada as well as contemporary debates/critiques surrounding these institutions.
2. Assist students in rooting their arguments in the relevant literature and expose them to the fundamental arguments of scholars in the field.
3. Help students develop and practice critical reading and writing skills.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Christopher Cochrane, Kelly Bidook, and Rand Dyck. 2016. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* (8th Edition). Toronto: Nelson Education. (Available at the University Bookstore)

Alex Marland and Thierry Giasson eds. 2015. *Canadian Election Analysis: Communication, Strategy, and Democracy*. ***Free E-book available online**
<http://www.ubcpres.ca/CanadianElectionAnalysis2015/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	% of grade	Due date
Essay Proposal	10%	February 2
Midterm Exam	20%	March 2
Essay	30%	April 6
Final Exam	30%	TBD
Tutorial	10%	Ongoing

Tutorial (10%)

An important component of this course will be student-centered tutorial discussions. Classroom participation provides students with the ability to interact with one another as well as critically engage with the course material in a small group. Attendance will be taken in each class. Students are expected to attend having read the required materials for that week.

Essay Proposal (10%) and Essay (30%)

The topics of this paper must be chosen from a specified list of themes/questions. This list, as well as further instructions, will be discussed in class and provided online. Essay proposals should be 2-3 pages in length and must include the research question, thesis statement, and a brief summary of the major arguments that the final paper will offer. Three academic sources are required in the proposal. The purpose of the outline is to identify any potential challenges before writing your final essay (i.e., too ambitious, not enough sources, etc.). The final essay, 10 double-spaced pages, will build on this proposal (and the feedback provided). All essays and proposals must be submitted in hardcopy at the beginning of the class on the appropriate due date. Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5% per day.

Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm will be held in class on March 2nd. The test will cover all assigned readings and lectures up to and including the February 16th class. It will consist of two parts: a section in which students will be asked to define and explain the significance of key terms/concepts, and a short essay question.

Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be held during the scheduled examination period. Material in readings and lectures (including any films) for the entire course will be tested in the examination. The format will be a combination of definitions, short and long-answer questions. This examination will be held in the official examination period.

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 12 Introduction to the Course

- Chapter 1: Approaching the Study of Politics.

January 19 Foundations of the Canadian State

- Chapter 2: Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State
- Chapter 11: The Canadian Political Culture

January 26 Constitution and Federalism

- Chapter 17: The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change
- Chapter 18: The Federal System

February 2 The Judiciary and the Charter

- Chapter 19: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Chapter 24: The Judiciary
- **Essay proposal due**

February 9 Elections and the Electoral System

- Chapter 13: Elections and the Electoral System
- *Election 2015: Overview*
- *Election 42: What Happened?*
- *Partisans and Elections: Electoral Reform is for Parliament to Address*

February 16 Voting and Campaigns

- Chapter 15: The Election Campaign, Voting, and Political Participation
- *Data-Driven Microtargeting in the 2015 General Election*
- *The Permanent Campaign Meets the 78-Day Campaign, and Falls Apart*
- *The Long March to the Ballot Box 2015: Voter Fatigue or Enhanced Engagement?*

February 23 WINTER BREAK – NO CLASSES

March 2 Midterm Exam

March 9 Parties and Party Systems

- Chapter 14: Political Parties and the Party System
- *The 2015 Election and the Canadian Party System*
- *The Conservative Campaign*
- *The Liberals' Campaign for the Ages*
- *The NDP's "Government in Waiting" Strategy*

March 16 Social Actors (Interest groups, etc.)

- Chapter 16: Advocacy Groups, Social Movements, and Lobbying
- *Third Parties in the 2015 Federal Election: Partying like It's 1988?*
- *Organized Interests Strike Back!*

March 23 Parliament

- Chapter 23: Parliament

March 30 HOLIDAY – NO CLASSES

April 6 The Prime Minister and Executive

- Chapter 21: The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet
- ***Essay Due***

April 11 The Bureaucracy and Policymaking

- Chapter 22: The Bureaucracy
- Chapter 20: The Policymaking Process and Policy Instruments

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.