PSCI 2003 A - Canadian Political Institutions
Lecture: Thursdays, 12:35 – 2:25PM
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Paul Thomas
Office: Loeb B644
Email: paul.thomas@carleton.ca (On weekdays I will typically respond to emails within 24 hours. Detailed questions are often best raised in office hours or by appointment)
Office hours: Thursdays 10:00-11:00 or by appointment
Class Twitter feed: @PSCI2003

Course description
How do Canadians govern themselves? This course explores the design, evolution, and modern functioning of the major political institutions that shape Canadian democracy. These include: the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, federalism, parliament, the executive, the judiciary, the electoral system, political parties, and interest groups. It will also examine whether these institutions meet citizens’ current expectations and the demands of modern governance, with particular attention paid to the so called ‘democratic deficit’ and efforts to achieve reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

Course 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

Course evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course component</th>
<th>Proportion of Grade</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Sept. 27, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Oct. 18, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Nov. 22, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tutorial (10%)
This class combines lectures with weekly tutorial sessions. Attendance at both is expected, and attendance in tutorial will be recorded. Attendance on its own, however, is not sufficient to
ensure full tutorial grades. Students must participate actively in tutorials, keeping in mind that quantity does not trump quality. Comments should focus on the subject of the day’s session and the assigned readings – which you are expected to read. Partisanship should be set aside in favour of analysis, and your contributions should be delivered in a fashion that fosters an open environment. Participation also requires attention and active listening. Emails and texts should only be checked after each session.

**Research Essay (30%) – Due at the start of class on Thursday, November 22, 2018**

Students will prepare a research essay of approximately 2500 words (no more than 3000 words including bibliography) from one of the topics or themes provided in class. The essay should focus on Canada although international comparisons are also possible with the prior approval of the Instructor. Examples may be drawn from current events, although students are reminded that the paper should employ a clear analytical framework and not rely primarily on anecdotes. At least five scholarly sources must be used in the paper and cited appropriately.

Please consult the rubric that will be posted on CULearn for further details about the expectations for the essay. Also, please refer to the policies below on citations, academic integrity, late penalties, and extensions.

**Research Essay Proposal (10%) – Due at the start of class on Thursday, September 27, 2018**

Students will submit a three page (double-spaced) overview of their essay, including the thesis, a description of the major arguments, and a list of at least three supporting academic sources. Please refer to the policies below on assignment formatting and citations, academic integrity, late penalties, and extensions.

**Midterm exam (20%) – In class on October 18, 2018**

The midterm test will cover all assigned readings and lectures up to and including the February 11th class. It will consist of three sections: (1) definitions of key terms; (2) short answers explaining key concepts; and (3) a short essay question.

**Final exam (30%) – To be scheduled**

The final exam will be held in the designated exam period. It will cover material from the course readings and lectures from the entire course. The exam will include a mix of definitions, short, and long answer questions, with further details to be provided in class.

**Course texts**

There are two primary course texts that are supplemented by book excerpts, journal articles, and newspaper/magazine articles that will be posted on CULearn.

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

Class policies

Respectful discussion
Politics is a subject on which people often have very strongly held views. To ensure the class offers an open and inclusive environment, students are asked to remember the following principles when making contributions in class or in tutorials:

• Respect for the diversity of classmates;
• Respect for different partisan affiliations;
• Respect for different opinions and perspectives.

Extensions
Extensions on class assignments will be granted only for exceptional, unforeseen circumstances that are beyond a student’s control. Please advise the Instructor at your earliest opportunity if you believe you will require an extension or will miss a class. Extensions will not be granted after a due date or class has passed. Please note that suitable documentation, such as a medical certificate in the case of illness, will be required for an extension to be granted.

Late penalties
Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 5% per day, inclusive of weekends. Note that papers not submitted at the start of class on the due date be considered late and will receive a 5% penalty. A failure to submit all course requirements will result in a failure of the course.

Submission of term work
Unless alternate arrangements have been made as per the extensions policy above, papers must:

1. Be submitted directly to the Instructor as a hard-copy in-class at the beginning of class on the appropriate due date.
2. Be emailed to the instructor at psci2003@outlook.com. Note: the electronic copy will not be graded, but is used to verify submission.

Students are strongly advised to keep rough drafts and notes from their assignments until the marked assignments have been returned.

Course Calendar

September 6: Introduction to the Course
Required readings
• Cochrane et al. Chapter 1: Approaching the Study of Politics

September 13: Foundations of the Canadian State
Required readings
• Cochrane et al. Chapter 2: Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State
• Cochrane et al. Chapter 11: The Canadian Political Culture
Additional readings


September 20: Constitution and Federalism

Required readings

- Cochrane et al. Chapter 17: The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 18: The Federal System

Additional readings


September 27: The Charter and the Judiciary (Essay proposal due)

Required readings

- Cochrane et al. Chapter 19: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 24: The Judiciary

Additional readings


October 4: Parties and Party Systems

Required readings

- Cochrane et al. Chapter 14: Political Parties and the Party System
- Marland+Giasson: The 2015 Election and the Canadian Party System
- Marland+Giasson: The Conservative Campaign
- Marland+Giasson: The Liberals’ Campaign for the Ages
- Marland+Giasson: The NDP’s “Government in Waiting” Strategy
October 11: Elections and the Electoral System

Required readings
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 13: Elections and the Electoral System
- Marland+Giasson: Election 2015: Overview
- Marland+Giasson: Partisans and Elections: Electoral Reform is for Parliament to Address

Additional readings
- Samara Canada and Stewart Prest. 2016. *What we talk about when we talk about electoral Reform*. Toronto: Samara Canada.

October 18: MIDTERM EXAM

**October 25: Reading week – no class**

November 1: Voting and Campaigns

Required readings
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 15: The Election Campaign, Voting, and Political Participation
- Marland+Giasson: Data-Driven Microtargeting in the 2015 General Election
- Marland+Giasson: The Permanent Campaign Meets the 78-Day Campaign, and Falls Apart
- Marland+Giasson: The Long March to the Ballot Box 2015: Voter Fatigue or Enhanced Engagement?

Additional readings
November 8: Social Actors (Interest groups, etc.)

Required readings
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 16: Advocacy Groups, Social Movements, and Lobbying
- Marland+Giasson: Organized Interests Strike Back!

Additional readings

November 15: Parliament

Required readings
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 23: Parliament

Additional readings

November 22: The Prime Minister and Executive (Research essay due)

Required readings
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 21: The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet

Additional readings

November 29: The Bureaucracy and Policymaking

Required readings
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 22: The Bureaucracy
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 20: The Policymaking Process and Policy Instruments
Additional readings

December 6: Indigenous Peoples and Reconciliation

Required readings
- Cochrane et al. Chapter 4: Aboriginal peoples

Additional readings

Accommodation and department policies

Requests for Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

**Religious obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your
instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/ and our website https://carletonpss.com/, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!

Official Course Outline
The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.