

Carleton University

Winter 2019

Department of Political Science

PSCI 3004A
Political Parties and Elections in Canada
Class: Thursdays, 8:35 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Instructor: Professor W. Cross

Office: 699D Loeb

Email address: bill_cross@carleton.ca

Office hours: Thursdays 11:45 – 1:15 p.m. & Fridays 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Note: 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.

Course Overview:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the key institutions and practices connected with Canadian elections. Consideration is given to the question of why we hold elections in Canada, the regulatory framework governing Canadian elections, and the roles played by political parties and voters. Special attention is paid to consideration of the role of parties as vehicles for meaningful citizen participation in Canadian democracy.

Course Requirements:

The class will meet on Thursday mornings. **Students are expected to attend each class.** Most classes will consist of a lecture, discussion period and student presentations.

Student grades will be comprised of the following components:

Term paper: 40 per cent

Group presentation: 15 per cent

Final examination: 45 percent

Term Paper: each student will write a research-based paper of approximately 3,000 words in length. The paper should be based upon substantial research conducted by the student on a topic chosen by the student from a list provided by the instructor. Students should follow a standard academic style guide. The grade assigned for the paper 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. Paper topics will be distributed on a separate sheet at the first class and will be posted on CU Learn. Papers must be submitted at the start of class on 21 March 2019. **LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED 5% EACH DAY, NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4 PM 25 MARCH 2019.**

Group Presentations: Students will work in groups in preparing and presenting a report on a Canadian federal election. Students will sign-up for a presentation topic/date at the first class on a first-come, first-served basis. The reports will be presented in class and should be approximately 25 minutes in length. Each presentation will discuss the dynamics of a different federal election campaign. Full details and expectations regarding this assignment will be included on a separate sheet distributed during the first class session and posted on CU Learn. Groups will submit a two-to-three page summary of their presentation. This is not a formal paper but rather an outline of the presentation (bullet point-form is acceptable). The grade for the assignment will reflect the quality of research evident in the presentation, the organization and synthesis of the material, and the clarity of the presentation.

Examination: An examination covering assigned course readings and material covered in the lectures will be given during the regular examination period as scheduled by the Registrar's office.

Assigned Text:

There is one required text that is available in the university bookstore: Election, by Heather MacIvor (2010), Emond Montgomery Publications.

In addition, there are course readings accessible through library reserves (ARES). A full list of these readings will be posted on CU Learn and distributed at the first class.

Class topics:

week 1 (January 10): Introduction, overview and organization

week 2 (January 17): Why we have elections and the franchise

NOTE: this class will begin at 9:20 a.m.

week 3 (January 24): Rules of the game: voter and party registration, electoral boundary drawing, the Fair Elections Act, etc.

week 4 (January 31): Electoral systems

week 5 (February 7): Political party organization, representation and membership

week 6 (February 14): Party candidate selection

week 7 (February 28): Party leadership selection

week 8 (March 7): Party and election financing

week 9 (March 14): The local campaign

week 10 (March 21): The national campaign

week 11 (March 28): Political Polling, Guest Dr. David Coletto

week 12 (April 4): Voters and voting

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.