

**PSCI 3004 A**  
**Political Parties and Elections**  
Monday, 14:35 - 17:25 p.m.  
Confirm location on Carleton Central

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### General information

**Instructor:** Émilie Foster

**Office Hours:** Monday 8:00-10:00 online on Zoom or Teams.

*Note: Please do not send substantive questions relating to course material via e-mail. When you have questions, it is much preferred for us to chat during my office hours about the material.*

**Email:** emiliefoster@cunet.carleton.ca

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### Course description

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the main institutions and practices related to political parties and elections in Canada. The regulatory framework governing Canadian elections and the role played by political parties and candidates are examined. Particular attention is paid to the internal aspects of parties (members, leader, local associations, candidates) and the electoral campaigns.

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### Course Format

In person, on campus.

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### Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students will understand:

- The history and evolution of party competition in Canada.
- The primary functions of parties within the Canadian political system.
- Canada's electoral rules.
- Debates over electoral reforms.
- Aspects of party life: members, local associations, candidate recruitment, the leader, donors.
- Relations between the party and Parliament (party in office).
- The reality in which Canadian political parties operate in practice when developing their strategies in electoral campaigns.

## Course Requirements

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The class will meet Monday afternoons. Students are expected to attend each class.

Most classes will consist of a lecture, discussion period and student presentations.

Guest speakers may join certain sessions. The instructor will notify you at least two weeks in advance if this is the case. Students are strongly encouraged to take notes, as the content of these speakers' presentations may be the subject of an exam question.

## Course Readings

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All course readings are accessible through library reserves (ARES) and will be posted on Brightspace in each module (one module per week).

## Evaluation at a glance

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Student grades will be comprised of the following components:

EVALUATIONS	%	Date
Term paper	25 %	April 10
Mid term test	20 %	February 26
Final exam	30%	During final exam period (April 13-25)
Group presentation	15 %	Week 4-5-6 and Week 9-10-11-12-13
Attendance and participation in discussion session	10 %	From January 8 to April 1

## Evaluation in detail

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*The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is not permitted in this course and is considered a violation of academic integrity standards (see Appendix).*

- **Term Paper (25%):**

Each student will write a research-based paper of 12 pages double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with left and right margins not larger than 1 ¼ inch. Students should use the *Chicago Manual of Style* in-text citation format to cite sources.

The topics of this paper must be chosen from a specified list of themes/questions. This list will be discussed in class during the second week and provided on Brightspace. The paper should be based upon substantial research conducted by the student on the chosen topic, and cite at least **ten** academic sources.

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. **Papers must be submitted by 10 April on Brightspace.** Late papers will be penalized 5% each day.

- **Mid term test (20%):**

A midterm test will be held **in class on February 26**. It will cover all course material up to and including the February 12 lecture and assigned readings. Students will answer four multiple-choice questions and two of three essay questions. All students must write the test at this time. Students will be permitted to refer to their notes, but not to any electronic devices, when writing the test. Notes must be printed in advance and brought to the class, not on your computer.

- **Final exam (30%):**

The final exam will be held in person during the scheduled examination period. It will cover all course material (lecture and readings) of the term. Students will answer five multiple-choice questions and two of three essay questions. All students must write the exam at this time. Students will be permitted to refer to their notes, but not to any electronic devices, when writing the test. Notes must be printed in advance and brought to the class, not on your computer.

- **Group Presentations (15%):**

An important component of this course will be student-centered presentations. The aim is to give students the opportunity to study an election case (federal or provincial) in depth and share it with their colleagues. Full details and expectations regarding this assignment will be included on a separate sheet posted on Brightspace and will be discussed in class on Week 1.

Students will work in groups (typically 5 depending on enrollment) in preparing and presenting a report. **Students will sign-up for a presentation topic/date after the first class on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Presentations **will begin on Week 4** and will be limited to 20-25 minutes. Groups will submit a two-to-three pages summary of their presentation. This is not a formal paper but rather an outline of the presentation together with a list of sources used for the presentation. 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.

- **Attendance - discussion sessions and guest speakers (10%):**

When a guest speaker comes to deliver a presentation, you need to show your interest and engagement by listening carefully.

Regarding the discussion sessions that take place in the last hour of class each week, the purpose is to encourage discussion on a current or recent political issue or case study related to the week's topic, in order to connect theory to practice. Discussion questions will be posted on Brightspace. Students will be divided into two groups. Each group will meet on alternate weeks for the last hour of class for a discussion relating to these questions under the directorship of the professor and the class T.A. This means each student will attend 4 discussion group sessions. You must attend the sessions you are assigned to as no credit will be given for attending alternate sessions.

## Course schedule

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Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	January 8	Introduction, overview and organization	No readings.
2	January 15	Elections, democracy and political parties	Cross, William P., Scott Pruysers, and Rob Currie-Wood. 2022. "Political parties and Their Place in Canadian Democratic Life." In <i>The Political Party in Canada</i> , edited by William P. Cross, Scott Pruysers, and Rob Currie-Wood, 3-18. Vancouver: UBC Press.
3	January 22	Electoral systems	Pilon, Denis. 2017. "Party Politics and Voting Systems." In <i>Canadian Parties in Transition. Recent Trends and New Paths for Research, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.</i> , edited by Alain G. Gagnon et A. Bryan Tanguay, 217-249. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  Loewen, Peter. 2017. "Democratic Stability, Representation, and Accountability: A Case for Single-Member Plurality Elections in Canada." In <i>Should We Change How We Vote? Evaluating Canada's Electoral System</i> , edited by Andrew Potter, Daniel Weinstock and Peter Loewen, 23-32. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.
4	January 29	Rules of the game: the franchise, electoral boundary drawing, election financing	Young, Lisa. 2017. "Money, Politics, and the Canadian Party System." In <i>Canadian Parties in Transition. Recent Trends and New Paths for Research, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.</i> , edited by Alain G. Gagnon et A. Bryan Tanguay, 28-43. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  MacIvor, Heather. 2010. "Canada's Election Law: Less

			Than Meets the Eye?" In <i>Election, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.</i> , edited by Heather MacIvor, 57-86. Toronto: Emond Montgomery Publications.
5	February 5	Inside the party (part 1): party membership and local associations	<p>Cross, William P., Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood. 2022. "The Parties' Members". In <i>The Political Party in Canada</i>, edited by William P. Cross, Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood, 22-39. Vancouver: UBC Press.</p> <p>Cross, William P., Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood. 2022. "The Local Associations". In <i>The Political Party in Canada</i>, edited by William P. Cross, Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood, 60-74. Vancouver: UBC Press.</p>
6	February 12	Inside the party (part 2): party candidates and leadership	<p>Cross, William P., Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood. 2022. "The Parties' Candidates". In <i>The Political Party in Canada</i>, edited by William P. Cross, Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood, 104-123. Vancouver: UBC Press.</p> <p>De Clercy, Cristine. 2020. "Recruitment of Stars Candidates". In <i>Inside the Local Campaign</i>, edited by Alex Marland and Thierry Giasson, 107-127. Vancouver: UBC Press.</p>
7	February 19	Winter break. No class.	No readings.
8	February 26	Mid term test	No readings.
9	March 4	Party and Parliament: party in office	Cross, William P., Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood. 2022. "The Party in Public Office". In <i>The Political Party in Canada</i> , edited by William P. Cross, Scott Pruyzers, and Rob Currie-Wood, 197-231.

			<p>Vancouver: UBC Press.</p> <p>Marland, Alex. 2020. "Party Discipline." In <i>Whipped. Party Discipline in Canada</i>, edited by Alex Marland, 3-25. Vancouver: UBC Press.</p>
10	March 11	Election campaigns	<p>Esselment, Anna Lennox and Thierry Giasson, 2020. "Conclusion: Revealing the Campaign Machine." In <i>Inside the Campaign. Managing Elections in Canada</i>, edited by Anna Lennox Esselment and Thierry Giasson, 207-226. Vancouver: UBC Press.</p>
11	March 18	Past to present: party and election campaigns professionalization	<p>Norris, Pippa. 2000. "The Evolution of Campaign Communications". In <i>A Virtuous Circle: Political Communications in Postindustrial Societies</i>, edited by Pippa Norris, 137-161. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p>
12	March 25	Party strategies in and between elections: political marketing and permanent campaigning	<p>Esselment, Anna Lennox, Marland, Alex, and Thierry Giasson, 2017. "Permanent Campaigning: Changing the Nature of Canadian Democracy". In <i>Permanent Campaigning in Canada</i>, edited by Alex Marland, Thierry Giasson, and Anna Lennox Esselment, 298-321. Vancouver: UBC Press.</p> <p>Marland, Alex and Thierry Giasson. 2017. "From Brokerage to Boutique Politics: Political Marketing and The Changing Nature of Party Politics in Canada." In <i>Canadian Parties in Transition. Recent Trends and New Paths for Research, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.</i>, edited by Alain G. Gagnon et A. Bryan Tanguay, 343-363. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.</p>

13	April 1	Dealing with the media: constraints and opportunities for the party	<p>Savoie, Donald J. 2019. "The Media: The Lost Institution." In <i>Democracy in Canada: The Disintegration of Our Institutions</i>, edited by Donald. J.Savoie, 239-258. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.</p> <p>Casero-Ripollés, Andreu, Izquierdo-Castillo, Jéssica, and Hugo Doménech-Fabregat. 2014. "From Watchdog to Watched Dog: Oversight and Pressures between Journalists and Politicians in the Context of Mediatization", <i>Tripodos</i>, 34:23-40.</p>
14	April 8	Wrap up; discussion of potential reforms and the role of parties in Canadian democracy for the future	No readings.
Final examination period	To be determined (TBD)	Final exam	

## Appendix

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### **Student Mental Health**

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

- **Carleton Resources:**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

- **Off Campus Resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### **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:

**Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances:** Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the [Self-Declaration form](#) to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.



**Pregnancy accommodation:** 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**Religious accommodation:** 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 [click here](#).

**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](mailto: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, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, [click here](#).

**Accommodation for student activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who engage in student activities 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. For more information, please [click here](#).

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

### **Sexual Violence Policy**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. 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](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support).

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or

examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

### ***Plagiarism***

The Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include, but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, websites, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

### ***Use of Artificial Intelligence***

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

### ***Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations***

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question or a final grade of "F" for the course. More information on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

## **Intellectual property**

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. The departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

## **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:

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>12-point scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>12-point scale</b>
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

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 Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

## **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/>.

### **Official Course Outline**

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

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