

PSCI 3004B  
Political Parties and Elections in Canada  
Class: Thursdays, 8:35 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. (on-line)

Instructor: Professor W. Cross  
Email address: [bill.cross@carleton.ca](mailto:bill.cross@carleton.ca)  
On-line office hours: Mondays 9:45 a.m.-1:30 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 sign-up for a time during my office hours and for us to chat about the material. Details regarding office hours are posted on Brightspace.

Course Overview:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the key institutions and practices connected with Canadian political parties and 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 candidates. 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-line 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: 35 per cent

Group presentation: 15 per cent

Term test: 40 per cent

Attendance and participation in discussion sessions: 10 per cent

*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 posted on Brightspace. Papers must be submitted by 4 April. **LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED 5% EACH DAY, NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 7 APRIL 2022.**

*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 after the first class on a first-come, first-served basis. The reports will be presented in class and should be approximately 25-30 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 posted on Brightspace. 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 together with a list of sources used for 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.

*Term test:* An open-book term test covering assigned course readings and material covered in the lectures will be given during the regular class time on 24 March 2022. **All students must write the test at this time.**

*Discussion sessions:* Discussion questions will be posted on Brightspace on the Monday before class. Students will be divided into two groups each week to discuss these questions under the directorship of the professor and the class T.A.

All course readings are accessible through library reserves (ARES). A full list of these readings will be posted on Brightspace prior to the first class.

Class topics:

**week 1 (January 13): Introduction, overview and organization**

**week 2 (January 20): Why we have elections and the role of political parties**

**week 3 (January 27): Electoral systems**

**week 4 (February 3): Rules of the game: the franchise, electoral boundary drawing, etc.**

**week 5 (February 10): Party and election financing**

**week 6 (February 17) Representation and party membership**

**week 7 (March 3): Party candidate selection**

**week 8 (March 10): Party leadership selection**

**week 9 (March 17): Election campaigning**

**week 10 (March 24): Term test**

**week 11 (March 31): Parties as complex organizations: stratarchy, franchise and brokerage models**

**week 12 (April 7): wrap up and discussion of potential reforms**

## **Appendix**

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### **Covid-19 Information**

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) When accessing campus you must fill in the [COVID-19 Screening Self-Assessment in cuScreen](#) each day before coming to campus. You must also check-in to your final destination (where you plan on being longer than 15 minutes) within a building using the [QR location code](#).

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

### **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 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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-)

[Accommodation.pdf](#).

**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, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf).

**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 information, please visit [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc).

**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 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. <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](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).

### **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 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, 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.

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.

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. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 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:

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

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.