

PSCI 3004B  
Political Parties and Elections in Canada  
Class: Thursdays, 2:35 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.

Instructor: Professor W. Cross

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office hours: Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in Loeb 699

Thursdays 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. on Zoom (log in details on Brightspace)

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 in during my office hours and for us to chat about the material.

Course Description:

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 Format: In person, on campus

Course Requirements:

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

## Student Evaluation:

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 3 April. **LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED 5% EACH DAY, NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 7 APRIL 2023.**

*Group Presentations:* Students will work in groups in preparing and presenting a report on a Canadian 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/provincial 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. 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 23 March 2023. **All students must write the test at this time.**

*Discussion sessions:* 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 5 discussion group sessions. **You must attend the sessions you are assigned to as no credit will be given for attending alternate sessions.**

## Course Readings:

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 schedule/topics:

**week 1 (January 12): Introduction, overview and organization**

**week 2 (January 19): Why we have elections and the role of political parties**

**week 3 (January 26): Electoral systems**

**week 4 (February 2): Rules of the game: the franchise, electoral boundary drawing, etc.**

**week 5 (February 9): Party and election financing**

**week 6 (February 16) Social media and politics**

**week 7 (March 2): Representation and party membership**

**week 8 (March 9): Party candidate selection**

**week 9 (March 16): Party leadership selection**

**week 10 (March 23): Term test**

**week 11 (March 30): Election campaigning**

**week 12 (April 6): wrap up and discussion of potential reforms**

## **Appendix**

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### **Covid-19 Pandemic Measures**

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

**Feeling sick?** Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

**Masks:** Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask

use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

**Vaccines:** While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca).

### **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:

***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 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](https://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](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support).

## **Plagiarism**

Carleton's [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.

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. 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.