PSCI 4006A/5006F

LEGISLATURES AND REPRESENTATION IN CANADA

Tuesday 8:35-11:25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor: Dr. Rand Dyck
Office: B643 Loeb
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30
E-mail: Rand.Dyck@carleton.ca

This course is designed to achieve an understanding of the role of Parliament and of the individual M.P. in terms of policy making, party discipline, and differing conceptions of representation. It examines Commons procedure, Question Period, Debate on Bills, Caucus, Committees, Parliamentary Officers, Controlling the Purse Strings, the Work of MPs, Minority and Coalition Governments, the Parliamentary Crises of 2008 and 2009, Senate Reform and the whole concept of democratic, responsible government. Because this course is being offered in Ottawa, students are expected to spend considerable time on Parliament Hill, and because several exchange students are in the course, we will explicitly compare Canada and the U.K. After three introductory lectures, the other classes will take the form of seminars in which two or three students will present or debate the topic of the day, followed by general class discussion.

Texts available at CU Bookstore:

Peter Aucoin, et al., Democratizing the Constitution (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2011)
David C. Docherty, Legislatures (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2005)
Peter Russell, Two Cheers for Minority Government (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2008)

On-line Text:


Supplementary Reading:

C.E.S. Franks, The Parliament of Canada
Canadian Parliamentary Review (quarterly)
Check the above sources for relevant material on each of the topics discussed.

**Method of Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two field reports @ 10 percent each</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 15; November 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar presentation (20%) and report (10%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major paper (on different topic than seminar)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Field reports represent observation of
(a) a session of a Commons Committee
(b) a session of a Senate Committee
(c) a day in an MP’s constituency office
(d) a day in an MP’s Parliamentary office

These must be live observations, not based on electronic coverage.

The book review is either of Peter Russell, *Two Cheers for Minority Government* or Peter Aucoin, et al., *Democratizing the Constitution*

The seminar report is due one week after the seminar presentation. The report is a written version of the seminar presentation, revised as appropriate and in scholarly format.

The major paper for undergraduates should be 15 pages long and for graduate students, at least 20 pages long. All assignments are to be submitted in class or the drop-box. Late submissions are subject to a penalty of 5 marks per day.

Students are expected to attend every class and to have done the required readings beforehand so that they can contribute regularly. One mark out of the 10 allotted for Attendance and Participation is deducted for each absence.
Class Schedule

1. Sept. 10: Introduction

2. Sept. 17: Overview: House of Commons: What Goes on in the Chamber?

   Docherty, chs. 1, 3, 5, 7
   Compendium of Procedure at
   http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/e_a_index-e.htm

3. Sept. 24: Provincial and Territorial Legislatures

   Graham White, “Go North, Young Scholar, Go North,” CJPS (December 2011)

4. Oct. 1: Representation: To what extent are MPs representative of the population and to what extent should they be? (Book Review due)

   Docherty, ch. 2
   Samara Exit Interviews
   Sylvia Bashevkin, Women, Power, Politics: The Hidden Story of Canada’s Unfinished Democracy
   Michael Mezey, Representative Democracy: Legislators and their Constituents, ch. 2
   Cameron Anderson, “Conceptions of Political Representation in Canada,” CJPS (December 2005)


5. **Oct. 8:** Representing the Constituency and Constituents: What MPs and their staff do; their resources; Question Period; Private members’ business; members’ statements; and petitions

Docherty, ch. 4, 5
Docherty, *Mr. Smith Goes to Ottawa: Life in the House of Commons*
Samara Exit Interviews
Compendium of Procedure at [http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c_a_index-e.htm](http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c_a_index-e.htm)
O’Brien, *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, chs. 21 and 22

6. **Oct. 15:** Party Discipline, Caucus, and the Dominant Role of PM and PMO (Field Report #1 due)

Docherty, ch. 7
Franks, *The Parliament of Canada*, ch. 5
Savoie, *Court Government and the Collapse of Accountability in Canada and the United Kingdom.*
Samara Exit Interviews
Aucoin, *Democratizing the Constitution*
Martin, *Harperland: The Politics of Control*
7. Oct. 22: Controlling the Purse Strings: Parliament’s Role in Public Spending and Oversight of its Own Spending!

Docherty, ch. 5, 7
Compendium of Procedure – Financial Procedures at
http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c_a_index-e.htm
Meaningful Scrutiny: Practical Improvements to the Estimates Process at
http://www2.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/372/OGGO/Reports/RP1062530/oggorp06/oggorp06-e.pdf
Dobell/Ulrich, Parliament and Financial Accountability at
O’Brien, House of Commons Procedure and Practice, ch. 18

(October 28-November 1 is Fall Break)

8. Nov. 5: The Role of Parliamentary Committees (Field Report #2 due)

Docherty, Ch. 7
Compendium of Procedure – Committees at
http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c_a_index-e.htm
O’Brien, House of Commons Procedure and Practice, ch. 20
Aucoin, Democratizing the Constitution
Samara Exit Interviews

9. Nov. 12: Parliamentary Officers

Docherty, Ch. 6
Gary Levy, “A Parliamentary Budget Officer for Canada, Canadian Parliamentary Review (Summer 2008)
Aucoin, Democratizing the Constitution
10. Nov. 19: Majority, Minority, and Coalition Governments  
(Major Paper due)

Russell, _Two Cheers for Minority Government_  
Paul Thomas, “Measuring the Effectiveness of a Minority Parliament,” _Canadian Parliamentary Review_ (Spring 2007)  
_Policy Options_ (October 2009)  
Aucoin, _Democratizing the Constitution_

11. Nov. 26: The 2008 and 2009 Prorogation Crises and Privilege

Russell and Sossin, eds. _Parliamentary Democracy in Crisis_  
Aucoin, _Democratizing the Constitution_  
Nicholas MacDonald and James Bowden, “No Discretion: On Prorogation and the Governor General,” _Canadian Parliamentary Review_ (Spring 2011)

12. Dec. 3: Senate Reform

Serge Joyal, ed., _Protecting Canadian Democracy: The Senate You Never Knew_  
Reference Re Legislative Authority of Parliament to Alter or Replace the Senate, [1980] 1 S.C.R. 54  
Special Senate Committee on Senate Reform, October 2006  
Harper bills  
Smith, ed., _The Democratic Dilemma: Reforming the Canadian Senate_

_**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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

<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>
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Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

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 http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety 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.