

Carleton University
Department of Political Science
Fall 2015

PSCI 4006A/5006F
LEGISLATURES AND REPRESENTATION IN CANADA
Wednesday 11:35-2:25

Professor: Dr. Rand Dyck
Office: B643 Loeb
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30-11:00 and 2:30-3:00
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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 normally expected to spend considerable time on Parliament Hill, but it will probably be dark until Christmas; especially when British exchange students are in the course, we 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:

O'Brien and Bosc, *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, 2nd ed., 2009 at
<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/procedure-book-livre/Document.aspx?>

Supplementary Reading:

C.E.S. Franks, *The Parliament of Canada*

Canadian Parliamentary Review (quarterly)

Rand Dyck and Christopher Cochrane, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, ch. 23.

Parliament of Canada website, at <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

Compendium of Procedure at http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c_a_index-e.htm

Library of Parliament Research Publications at

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/VirtualLibrary/ResearchPublications-e.asp>

Alison Loat and Michael MacMillan (Samara), *Tragedy in the Commons*

Check the above sources for relevant material on each of the topics discussed.

The following books are critical of the manner the Harper government has treated Parliament:

Martin, *Harperland: The Politics of Control*

Harris, *Party of One: Stephen Harper and Canada's Radical Makeover*

Rathgeber, *Irresponsible Government: The Decline of Parliamentary Democracy in Canada*

Whittington, *Spinning History: A Witness to Harper's Canada*

Hurtig, *The Arrogant Autocrat: Stephen Harper's Takeover of Canada*

Method of Evaluation

Two Book Reviews @15% each	30%	September 23; October 7
One Field Report	10%	October 21
Seminar presentation (15%) and report (10%)	25%	
Major paper (on a different topic than seminar)	25%	November 25
Attendance and participation	10%	

The book reviews should be 5-7 pages long. The two books to be reviewed are Peter Russell, *Two Cheers for Minority Government* (Sept. 23) Peter Aucoin, et al., *Democratizing the Constitution* (Oct. 7).

The Field Report should be based on personal involvement in the 2015 election campaign. Unless you have access to the national party war rooms, it could most easily be a report on your involvement in a local candidate campaign. It should be about 10 pages long and contain your observations of the campaign, as such, as well as how it relates to issues such as representation discussed in class.

The seminar report is due one week after the seminar presentation. The report is a written version of the seminar presentation, revised as appropriate, about 10 pages, and in semi-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 in 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 some of the 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. 2: Introduction

2. Sept. 9: Provincial and Territorial Legislatures

Canadian Study of Parliament Group, papers on provincial legislatures available at <http://www.studyparliament.ca>

Graham White, "Traditional Aboriginal Values in a Westminster Parliament: The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut," *Journal of Legislative Studies* (March 2006)

Graham White, "Westminster in the Arctic: The Adaptation of British Parliamentarism in the Northwest Territories," *CJPS* (September 1991)

Graham White, "Go North, Young Scholar, Go North," *CJPS* (December 2011)

Canadian Parliamentary Review, Winter 2012

3. Sept. 16: 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/c_a_index-e.htm

Samara, *Tragedy in the Commons*, Conclusion

4. Sept. 23: Representation: To what extent are MPs representative of the population and to what extent should they be (especially in terms of gender, ethnicity, and class)?

Docherty, ch. 2

Sylvia Bashevkin, *Women, Power, Politics: The Hidden Story of Canada's Unfinished Democracy*

Jonathan Dignan, "(Less) Male, (Even Less) Educated, (Even Less) Experienced & (Even more) White," (Public Policy Forum, 2009); "Edging Towards Diversity: A Statistical Breakdown of Canada's MP's," (Public Policy Forum, 2011)

Michael Mezey, *Representative Democracy: Legislators and their Constituents*, ch. 2

Cameron Anderson, "Conceptions of Political Representation in Canada," *CJPS* (December 2005)

Jerome H. Black and Lynda Erickson, "Ethno-Racial Origins of Candidates and Electoral Performance: Evidence from Canada," *Party Politics* 12, 4 (2006): 541–61.

Samara, *House of Words, Tragedy in the Commons*

Franks, *Parliament of Canada*, ch. 4

Canadian Parliamentary Review, Spring 2011; Spring, Summer, and Autumn, 2013; Summer 2015

Canadian Public Administration, December 2013

5. Sept. 30: 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, *Tragedy in the Commons, Who's the Boss?*

Blidock, *Constituency Influence in Parliament*

Compendium of Procedure at

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

Canadian Parliamentary Review, Autumn 2009; Autumn 2011; Spring and Autumn 2013; Winter 2013; Winter 2014

6. Oct. 7: Party Discipline, Partisanship, Caucus, and the Dominant Role of PM and PMO

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, *Tragedy in the Commons*, chs. 5, 7 and 8

Blidook, "Exploring the Role of 'Legislators' in Canada," *Journal of Legislative Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 1

Aucoin and Turnbull, "The Democratic Deficit: Paul Martin and Parliamentary Reform," *Canadian Public Administration* (Winter 2003)

Aucoin, *Democratizing the Constitution*

Smith, *Across the Aisle: Opposition in Canadian Politics*

7. Oct. 14: 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

Strengthening Parliamentary Scrutiny of Estimates and Supply at

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=5690996&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=1>

O'Brien, *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, ch. 18

Malloy, "The Standing Committee on Public Accounts," in (Gomery Report) *Restoring Accountability: Research Studies*, Volume 1. *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, Spring, Summer, and Winter, 2012

8. Oct. 21: Election Analysis

(October 26-30 is Fall Break)

9. Nov. 4: The Role of Parliamentary Committees

Docherty, Ch. 7

Compendium of Procedure – Committees at

http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c_a_index-e.htm

House of Commons and Senate websites

O'Brien, *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, ch. 20

Aucoin, *Democratizing the Constitution*

Samara, *Tragedy in the Commons*, ch. 6

Canadian Parliamentary Review, Spring 2014

10. Nov. 11: Parliamentary Officers (Agents of Parliament)

Docherty, Ch. 6

Jeffrey Graham Bell, "Agents of Parliament: A New Branch of Government?" *Canadian Parliamentary Review* (Spring 2006)

Gary Levy, "A Parliamentary Budget Officer for Canada," *Canadian Parliamentary Review* (Summer 2008)

John A. Stilborn, "The Officers of Parliament: More Watchdogs, More Teeth, Better Governance?" in Doern and Stoney, eds., *How Ottawa Spends 2010-11*

Aucoin, *Democratizing the Constitution*

Websites of individual Parliamentary Officers

11. Nov. 18: Majority, Minority, and Coalition Governments

Russell, *Two Cheers for Minority Government*

Paul Thomas, "Measuring the Effectiveness of a Minority Parliament," *Canadian Parliamentary Review* (Spring 2007)

Policy Options (October 2009)

Jonathan Malloy, "The Drama of Parliament under Minority Government," in Doern and Stoney, eds., *How Ottawa Spends 2010-11*

Aucoin, *Democratizing the Constitution*

R.S. Conley, "Legislative activity in the Canadian House of Commons," *American Review of Canadian Studies* 41 (4)

J. Godbout and B. Hoyland, "Coalition voting and minority governments in Canada," *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 49 (4) *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, Winter 2013

12. Nov. 25: The 2008 and 2009 Prorogation Crises and the 2009/10 and 2010/11 Privilege Cases

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)
Canadian Parliamentary Review, Summer 2012

13. Dec. 2: 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
Smith, ed., *The Democratic Dilemma: Reforming the Canadian Senate*
Harper bills
Reference Re Senate Reform, [2014] 1 S.C.R. 704

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.
