

Carleton University
Department of Political Science
Fall 2012

PSCI 4006A/5006F
LEGISLATURES AND REPRESENTATION IN CANADA
Monday 2:35-5:15
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor: Dr. Rand Dyck
Office: B643 Loeb
Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00; Tuesday 11:30-12:30
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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 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 Russell, *Two Cheers for Minority Government* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2008)

Peter Aucoin, et al., *Democratizing the Constitution* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2011)

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:

David C. Docherty, *Legislatures*
C.E.S. Franks, *The Parliament of Canada*
Canadian Parliamentary Review (quarterly)

Rand Dyck, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, ch. 23 (WebCT).
 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>
 Samara Exit Interview publications at
http://www.samaracanada.com/MP_exit_interviews

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

Method of Evaluation

Book Review	15%	October 1
Two field reports @ 10 percent each	20%	October 22; November 5
Seminar presentation (20%) and report (10%)	30%	
Major paper (on different topic than seminar)	25%	November 19
Attendance and participation	10%	

Field reports represent observation of

- (a) a session of a Commons Committee
- (b) a session of a Senate Committee
- (c) Question Period in the Commons **and** in the Senate
- (d) a day in an MP's constituency office
- (e) 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/c_a_index-e.htm

3. Sept. 24: Provincial and Territorial Legislatures

Canadian Study of Parliament Group papers on provincial legislatures (Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec) 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)

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*

Caroline Andrew, et al, eds. *Electing a Diverse Canada: The Representation of Immigrants, Minorities and Women*

Jonathan Dignan, "(Less) Male, (Even Less) Educated, (Even Less) Experienced & (Even more) White," at

<http://www.ppforum.com/publications/> (Past Publications)

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.
Public Policy Forum, *Edging Toward Diversity: A Statistical Breakdown of Canada's 41st Parliament, with Comparisons to the 40th Parliament*, June 2011, available at http://www.ppforum.ca/sites/default/files/edging_towards_diversity_final.pdf.

5. Oct. 15: 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
Soroka et al., "Constituency Influence in Parliament," *CJPS* (September 2009)
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

6. Oct. 22: 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
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*
Martin, *Harperland: The Politics of Control*

7. Oct. 29: Controlling the Purse Strings: Parliament's Role in Public 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

http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/206/301/pco-bcp/commissions/sponsorship-ef/06-02-10/www.gomery.ca/en/phase2report/volume1/cispaa_vol1_2.pdf

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.

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

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*

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)

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

Aucoin, *Democratizing the Constitution*

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

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by

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.

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.

Course Requirements: Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.