This course is about legislatures and their role in the Canadian political system. We explore the pressures and demands on legislatures and the different ways in which they can be evaluated and understood. The course does not concern itself closely with legislative procedure, but asks what role parliamentary institutions play in Canadian politics and how they relate to other vehicles of policy-making and democratic representation.

**Texts**

*Required Text for book review assignment:*


(Copies have been ordered through Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street, costing about $32)

Other readings are available online or on reserve.

*Background Reading:*


**Grading**

*Undergraduate (4006)*

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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*Graduate (5006)*

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<td>Second Book Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., from B+ to B), including weekends. See further details below for each assignment.

Book Reviews

All Students:
Write a critical review of Democratizing the Constitution by Aucoin, Jarvis and Turnbull. The review is due November 2, should be at least 1500 words long, and will:

- Briefly summarize the main argument of the book (no more than a third of the review)
- Analyze the arguments and give your own reactions to them
- Compare and contrast the arguments with other course readings

Late reviews will lose one-third of a letter grade every day, each “day” starting at 4 PM.

Graduate (5006) Students:
Write a critical review of one of the following, due October 12:

David E. Smith, The People’s House of Commons (UTP: Toronto, 2008)
John Pepall, Against Reform (UTP: Toronto, 2010)
Ian Stewart Just One Vote: From Jim Walding’s Nomination to Constitutional Defeat (University of Manitoba Press, 2009)
Manon Tremblay, Quebec Women and Legislative Representation (UBC Press: Vancouver, 2009)

Research Paper

The research paper will explore an aspect of Canadian legislatures.

- The paper must argue a clear thesis, not simply describe some aspect of legislatures.
- The paper must be primarily about legislatures and representation, not just “politics.”
- It can look at federal, provincial or territorial legislatures. Comparative international studies are welcome as long as there is significant Canadian content.
- Papers should be 3000-4000 words long.
- Any standard citation format (MLA, APA, footnotes, endnotes) may be used. Be particularly careful to give full Internet citations.
By **Monday November 14**, all students must e-mail a one-page summary of their topic and ideas to the instructor. The summary must:

- Clearly state the topic and thesis
- Outline the anticipated major arguments and general structure of the paper
- State how it will be researched and anticipated challenges
- Provide a list of preliminary sources

Papers are due **November 30** in class. Papers can also be left in the political science drop box outside Loeb B640. Late papers will lose one-third of a letter grade every day, including weekends.

**Presentations**

Every student will sign up to give a presentation on one class’s readings. Usually there will be several students each week and you must work together.

*Before the presentation, presenters must submit a written text, slide deck or other summary of their presentation to the instructor.*

**Presentations must be interesting.** Simply summarizing the readings will earn a grade of zero. Presentations must engage with the arguments and the overall theme of the class. Answer questions including:

- What are the authors’ arguments and how effective are they? Do you agree or disagree with them? Which are the strongest and weakest readings from an analytical point of view?
- How do the different readings fit together? Do they complement or counter each other? How do they fit with earlier readings in the course?
- What type of methodology and research is used in each article? Were the author’s choices appropriate?

*Take ownership of the topic and be innovative, using technology to enhance the experience.* Use PowerPoint, websites, YouTube, the CBC archives (archives.cbc.ca) and other resources.

Games, role-playing, skits and class surveys can all be interesting and useful.

**Participation**

The class will be very boring if the same people talk all the time, or if participants are not clearly familiar with the week’s readings. Thus participation grades are awarded based on both **quantity** and **quality** of participation throughout the term. Students are expected to be familiar with the readings and contribute regularly in class.
**Schedule**

**Sept 14**  
Introduction

**Sept 21**  
Parliament and Parliamentary Reform  
David Smith, Chapter 1, "The State of the Commons" in Smith, *The People’s House of Commons* (University of Toronto Press, 2007)

**Sept 28**  
Representation and MPs  
Samara Exit Interview publications: [http://www.samaracanada.com/MP_Exit_Interviews](http://www.samaracanada.com/MP_Exit_Interviews)  
Optional:  

**Oct 5**  
Parties  

**Oct 12**  
Citizens and Voting  
*5006 First Reviews Due*


Oct 19 Executive Power

Donald Savoie, Chapter 12, “Power: Locating It and Holding It To Account” in Savoie, Court Government and the Collapse of Accountability in Canada and the United Kingdom (University of Toronto Press, 2008)

Herman Bakvis, “Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canada: An Autocracy in Need of Reform?” in Journal of Canadian Studies, 35:4 (Winter 2000-2001)


Oct 26 Parliament Under Stress

Peter Aucoin, Mark Jarvis and Lori Turnbull, Democratizing the Constitution (Emond Montgomery, 2011)

Nov 2 Field Trip (tentative)

Book Reviews Due

Nov 9 The Senate and Officers of Parliament

David E. Smith “The Senate of Canada and the Conundrum of Reform”, Hugh Segal, “Senate Reform and Democratic Legitimacy: Beyond Stasis” and Lorna Marsden “Thoughts on Senate Reform” all in Jennifer Smith, ed., The Democratic Dilemma: Reforming the Canadian Senate (Institute of Intergovernmental Relations: Queen’s University, 2009).


Monday November 14 – Essay Outlines Due

Nov 16 Gender and Diversity

Manon Tremblay, “Do Female MPs Substantively Represent Women? A Study of Legislative Behaviour in Canada’s 35th Parliament” Canadian Journal of Political Science

Reading from Sylvia Bashvkin, Opening Doors Wider: Women’s Political Engagement in Canada (UBC Press, 2009) - TBA

Nov 23 Technology and Parliament

Mary Francoli, "The digital MP or how I learned to stop worrying and love MP" Journal of Media Practice 10: 2/3 (2009) [journal available via library catalogue]

Philip Norton "Four Models of Political Representation: British MPs and the Use of ICT" Journal of Legislative Studies 13:3 (September 2007) [journal available via library catalogue]


Nov 30 Conclusion: The Future of Legislatures

Essays Due

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 (November 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations).

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:** The following is the Carleton University grading system.

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<th>Percentage</th>
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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.
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.