

PSCI 4009B
Quebec Politics
Tuesdays, 8:35AM-11:25AM
Location: TBA (Please Confirm on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Raffaele Iacovino
Office: Loeb C675
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12-2PM
Email: raffaele.iacovino@carleton.ca

All email communication is to take place through official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace, not personal emails.

Brightspace:

On-line components of this course will be managed through Brightspace. Please visit the Brightspace course page regularly to receive the most current information pertaining to important course announcements and materials.

Course Description:

An introduction to the political history of Quebec: the development of ideologies (including nationalism), the question of diversity, constitutional developments, and the building of the Quebec state during the Quiet Revolution. The course will also cover language politics and the political party system in Quebec. Some contemporary issues in Quebec politics will also be addressed, including the debate over ‘reasonable accommodations,’ models of integration and secularism, debates about national identity, as well as the relationship between Quebec and the rest of Canada.

Learning Outcomes:

Successful completion of this course will enable students to:

- Grasp the historical development, principal ideas and primary debates that form the bases of Quebec politics and society
- Situate and contextualize key political, social and economic conflicts and turning points that have contributed to shaping Quebec’s political development and relations with Canada
- Engage in collaborative learning with peers in a classroom setting
- Develop skills associated with planning and executing a research project, including synthesizing primary and secondary research, thinking critically, organizing your reflections and finally, defending an argument

Class format:

The course is structured as a traditional seminar, led by student presentations. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them. The instructor will attempt to moderate student exchanges, yet it is expected that the weekly presenters lead the discussion and prepare themselves to take questions by both the instructor fellow students.

Texts:

- There is one book assigned for this course, available in the bookstore:

Stéphan Gervais, Christopher Kirkey and Jarrett Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions: Quebec Studies for the Twenty-First Century*, Second edition, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016). (Carleton Bookstore: \$54.99 - \$169.75)

- The readings will also be on reserve at MacOdrum Library and through the ARES link on Brightspace.
- Please see weekly schedule for assigned readings. You are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them.

Evaluation :

10%- Attendance and participation.

10%- Short assignment (**Due on Session 4, Jan 27, 2026**)

15%- Oral presentation

30%- Research paper (**Due on Session 13, April 7, 2026**)

35%- Final Take-Home Exam (To be posted on **Session 13, April 7, 2026**; Due on the last day of the formal examination period, **April 23, 2026**).

- **Attendance, participation and discussion groups:** Students are expected to attend class having read the required materials for that week and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken in class each week.
- **Short assignment:** On **Session 2 (January 13, 2026)**, the instructor will post a list of 4-5 articles from the assigned readings. Students are expected to write a short review essay (1000-1200 words) that provides a critical assessment of the author's contributions to the study of Quebec politics. It is not necessary to do any additional research for this assignment, and the aim is simply to allow students to engage more profoundly with particular theoretical, conceptual or methodological issues in the body of literature to be covered in class. The short assignment is due on **Session 4 (Jan 27, 2026)**.
- **Research paper:** The research paper must be between 16 and 20 typed pages – double-spaced, using 12 point font. The paper must follow proper essay style and structure, and must use a recognized referencing style (which must be consistent throughout). Students will construct their topics in consultation with the instructor. The subject of the paper may be drawn from any of the themes covered in the course, or students may choose to select another aspect of Quebec politics, with the approval of the instructor. Students are expected to undertake research using sources beyond those listed in the course outline. The essays are due on **Session 13, April 7, 2026**. Secondary research is all that is required to write the paper, yet students may draw upon primary sources if they wish. The

goal is to allow students to grasp the body of literature on a particular topic by providing a cogent and coherent synthesis, and to be able to articulate and defend a particular position based on the assessment of the literature. Please avoid overly drawn-out summaries in exposing what has been written on a topic – the exercise is meant to allow students to critically assess the state of research in their chosen topics.

- **Presentation:** Each student will be responsible for an oral presentation on a given weekly theme. In this capacity, students should be prepared to take questions and to lead a discussion period. Depending on the number of students in the class, we may have to pair students together on certain weeks.
- **Final Take-Home Exam:** At the end of the last class (**Session 13, April 7, 2026**), the instructor will post the final take-home exam, which is due on **April 23, 2026**. Students can submit the exam at any time throughout this period. The exam will consist of three sections, each containing three essay questions. Students will select one question from each section. Each answer should be about 900-1300 words. Moreover, students are expected to draw from class lectures and reading assignments in writing the essays, and students are not expected to include any research outside of class materials.

Other Information:

Submitting assignments and late policy: I will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>.

Please note that this self-declaration must be completed at least 24 hours prior to the due date of a given assignment. All assignments are to be submitted through Brightspace. Extensions will only be granted if students fill out the self-declaration form as per University policy. The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day.

Oral Examinations of Written Assignments: The instructor reserves the right to administer an in-person oral examination on the content of any student's written submissions. Moreover, the instructor may ask students to provide evidence of their own research (ie. Notes, screenshots of early drafts, etc.).

AI Policy: Writing, analytical, research and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, therefore all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in these areas are integral to the academic enterprise and serve as the foundations of an earned BA. As such, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. Students may use AI tools for basic word processing functions, including grammar and spell checking (ie. Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor, Copilot). If you have questions about a specific use of AI please consult the instructor.

Office Hours and E-mail: My office hours are posted on this outline, and I strongly encourage students to use them for any issue related to the course material. If students cannot make it during the posted times, we can arrange individual appointments. If I have to cancel my office hours for any reason, I will make every effort to inform the class regarding make-up office hours.

Lecture and Reading Schedule: (*indicates a suggested reading)

-Session 1 (Jan 6, 2026):

Introduction and Thematic Overview of the Course

- Course Overview
- Setting up presentation schedule and assigning discussants.

-Session 2 (Jan 13, 2026):

Introduction to Politics in Québec: Historical Background and Contemporary Context

-François Rocher, “The Life and Death of an Issue: Canadian Political Science and Quebec Politics”, in *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 52, Issue 4, Dec 2019, pp. 631-655.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423919000672>

-Charles Taylor, “Shared and Divergent Values”, in Guy Laforest, (ed.), *Reconciling the Solitudes: Essays on Canadian Federalism and Nationalism*, (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1993), pp. 155-186.

-Jocelyn Maclure and François Boucher, “Quebec’s Culture War: Two Conceptions of Quebec Identity”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Session 3 (Jan 20, 2026):

National Identity in Quebec

-Michel Seymour, “Quebec and Canada at the Crossroads: A Nation Within a Nation” *Nations and Nationalism* 6.2 (2000): 227-55.

-Rocher, F. (2023). Transformations in contemporary Quebec nationalism, 1960–2020: A shift in the sources of collective animosities. *Nations and Nationalism*, 29(1), 280–294. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12902>

-Bilodeau A, Turgeon L. Boundaries of the nation(s) in a multinational state: Comparing Quebecers and other Canadians' perspectives on national identity. *Nations and Nationalism*. 2021; 27: 530–547. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12641>

-Martin Papillon, “Indigenous Peoples and Quebec: Competing or Coexisting Nationalisms?”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Session 4 (Jan 27, 2026): ***Short assignment due***

Social and Economic Policy: The Quebec Model

-Peter Graefe, “The Politics of Social and Economic Development in Quebec”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Alain Noël, "Quebec's New Politics of Redistribution Meets Austerity" in Goodyear-Grant et Al (eds), *Federalism and the welfare state in a multicultural world* (Montreal: MQUP, 2018): 73-100.

-Antonia Maioni, "Health Care in Quebec", in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Daigneault, P.-M., Birch, L., Béland, D., & Bélanger, S.-D. (2021). Taking subnational and regional welfare states seriously: Insights from the Quebec case. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 31(2), 239-249. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0958928721996651> (Original work published 2021)

-Session 5 (Feb 3, 2026):

Public Opinion, Elections and Political Representation

-Mahéo, V., & Bélanger, É. (2018). Is the Parti Québécois Bound to Disappear? A Study of the Current Generational Dynamics of Electoral Behaviour in Quebec. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 51(2), 335-356. doi:10.1017/S0008423917001147

- Bilodeau, A., White, S., Turgeon, L., & Henderson, A. (2024). Ethnic minority belonging in a multilevel political community: the role of exclusionary experiences and welcoming provincial contexts in Canada. *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 12(7), 928–947. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2022.2080758>

-Béland D, Dinan S, Jacques O, Marier P. The Right and the (Provincial) Welfare State: The Case of the Coalition Avenir Québec Government. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 2023;56(3):636-655. doi:10.1017/S0008423923000379

-Luc Turgeon, Antoine Bilodeau, Stephen White and Ailsa Henderson, "A Tale of Two Liberalisms? Attitudes toward Minority Religious Symbols in Quebec and Canada", in *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (2019), 52, 247–265 doi:10.1017/S0008423918000999

-Session 6 (Feb 10, 2026):

Quebec and Canadian Federalism

-François Rocher, "The Quebec-Canada Dynamic or the Negation of the Ideal of Federalism," in Alain-G. Gagnon, (ed.), *Contemporary Canadian Federalism: Foundations, Traditions, Institutions*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009), pp. 81-131.

-Jean-François Gaudreault-DesBiens, "Canadian Federalism and Quebec's Pathological Prism", in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Arthur A. Silver, *The French-Canadian Idea of Confederation, 1864-1900*, Second edition, (Toronto: UTP, 1997), Chapter 2: pp. 33-50.

-David McGrane and Loreen Berdahl, “Reconceptualizing Canadian Federal Political Culture: Examining Differences between Quebec and the Rest of Canada,” in *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, Volume 50, Issue 1, Winter 2020, Pages 109–134,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/publius/pjz010>

WINTER BREAK (Feb 16-20, 2026)

-Session 7 (Feb 24, 2026):

Managing Diversity: The Challenges of National and Socio-Cultural Pluralism

-Raffaele Iacovino, “Between Unity and Diversity: Examining the Quebec Model of Integration”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Charles Taylor, “Interculturalism or multiculturalism?”, *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, Vol. 38, Nos. 4-5, May/June 2012, p. 418.

-Bouchard, Gérard. 2011. “What is Interculturalism?” *McGill Law Journal*. 56, 2: 435-468.

-Raffaele Iacovino, “Contextualizing the Quebec Charter of Values: Belonging without Citizenship in Quebec”, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*. Special issue: *Transforming Citizenship: Ethnicity, Transnationalism, and Belonging in Canada*, Vol. 47, No. 1, 2015.

-Session 8 (March 3, 2026):

The Canadian Constitution and Secession: Quebec-Canada Relations

-Rocher, François, and Nadia Verrelli. "Questioning constitutional democracy in Canada: from the Canadian Supreme Court reference on Quebec secession to the Clarity Act." *The conditions of diversity in multinational democracies* (2003): 207-237.

-André Lecours, "The political consequences of independence referenda in liberal democracies: Quebec, Scotland, and Catalonia." *Polity* 50, no. 2 (2018): 243-274.

-Jean-François Gaudreault-Desbiens, “The Law and Politics of Secession: From the Political Contingency of Secession to a “Right to Decide”? Can Lessons Be Learned from the Quebec Case?”, in Delledonne G., Martinico G. (eds) *The Canadian Contribution to a Comparative Law of Secession*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. (2019).
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-03469-6_3

-Alexandre Blanchet and Mike Madeiros, “The secessionist spectre: the influence of authoritarianism, nativism and populism on support for Quebec independence”, in *Nations and Nationalism*, Vol. 25, Issue 3, July 2019, pp. 803-21.

-Session 9 (March 10, 2026):

The Canadian Constitution and Secession: Quebec-Canada Relations II

Film and discussion to follow:

The Champions (1984); Part 3

-Session 10 (March 17, 2026):

Language Politics

-Linda Cardinal, “Language Planning and Policy Making in Quebec and in Canada”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Daniel Weinstock, “The Politics of Language: Philosophical Reflections on the Case of Quebec”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Mike Medeiros, “Refining the Influence of Language on National Attachment: Exploring Linguistic Threat Perceptions in Quebec”, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 23:4, 2017, 375-390, DOI: 10.1080/13537113.2017.1380457

-Session 11 (March 24, 2026):

Quebec's International Relations

- Jody Neathery-Castro and Mark Rousseau, “Quebec and La Francophonie: The Province as Global Player”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-Louis Balthazar, “The Ottawa-Quebec-Washington Dance: The Political Presence of Quebec in the United States”, in S. Gervais, C. Kirkey and J. Rudy, (eds.), *Quebec Questions*, (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016).

-James T. McHugh, “Paradiplomacy, protodiplomacy and the foreign policy aspirations of Quebec and other Canadian provinces”, in *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, Vol., 21, Issue 3, 2015.

-Session 12 (March 31, 2026):

Recent Debates

-Béland, Daniel, André Lecours, and Peggy Schmeiser. "Nationalism, Secularism, and Ethno-Cultural Diversity in Quebec." *Journal of Canadian Studies* 55, no. 1 (2021): 177-202.

-Félix Mathieu and Alina Hart, “Representations of the Quebec nation through reactions to Bills 21 and 96: an analysis of editorials and Op-eds in English-language media,” in *Frontiers of Political Science*, Published March 14, 2024.
DOI 10.3389/fpos.2024.1374740

-Gagnon A, Larios L. The Politicization of Immigration and Integration at the Subnational Level: Electoral Campaigns in Ontario and Quebec. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 2021;54(3):696-716.
doi:10.1017/S0008423921000469

-Salée, D. (2022). The New Face of Quebec Nationalism: Reconsidering the Nationalism/Democracy Nexus. *American Review of Canadian Studies*, 52(2), 119–138.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02722011.2022.2067733>

-Session 13 (April 7, 2026): *Research paper due*

-Catch-up and Review

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Political Science Course Outline Appendix

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:

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.dccottawa.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>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: 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, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: 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](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: 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, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

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). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work

more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Registrar's Office (3500)

300 Tory

Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)

4th floor Library

Academic Advising Centre (7850)

302 Tory

Paul Menton Centre (6608)

501 Nideyinà

Career Services (6611)

401 Tory

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)

B640 Loeb