

PSCI 5003W
Political Parties in Canada
Wednesdays, 11:35 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.
Please find class location on Carleton Central

William Cross
Bill_cross@carleton.ca

Office hours: in person: Wednesdays 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Loeb 699
On-line (via zoom) Thursdays 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(For on-line office hour appointments, students must sign-up by 2 p.m. on the day they wish to meet. A link to a google sign-up form will be available through Brightspace as well as the office hours zoom link).

Note: Please **do not** send substantive questions relating to course material via e-mail. When you have questions, it is much preferred for you to drop into my office hours and for us to chat about the material.

Course Description and Objective:

This is a graduate-level **seminar** course investigating the organization, role and practices of political parties. While the focus is on Canadian parties, we will situate the debates surrounding Canada's parties in a comparative/theoretical context. The course will be centered around questions relating to the role of parties in an advanced contemporary democratic state with an emphasis on intra-party organization and democracy. We will consider how peculiarities of the Canadian context influence the organization and functions of our parties.

Course format:

The class will meet in person every Wednesday of the term for approximately two and one-half hours. **Students must attend each class.**

The seminars will be student driven. It is not my intention to give a lecture on any of these topics. Depending on our numbers, one or two students will be responsible for leading the discussion each class. After a brief introduction by the instructor, students responsible for that class will present an overview of the readings. Rather than detailed summaries of the readings, students are expected to distill the key points from them, focusing on the important research questions and the similarities and differences among the readings. When appropriate, attention should be paid to methodological questions.

Presenting students should also place the particular questions of that week within the broader themes of the course and should prepare questions for seminar discussion. More about this will be said during the first class.

All students must be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each class.

All readings are available on course reserve in the university library. A full list of assigned readings will be available on Brightspace prior to the first class.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Student grades will be comprised of the following components:

Seminar presentation: 15 per cent

Seminar participation: 20 per cent

Take-home test: 30 per cent

Research paper, prospectus and presentation: 35 per cent

All written work must be submitted through Brightspace (NOT through e-mail).

Research Paper: each student will write a research-based paper of approximately 15-20 double spaced pages in length. The paper should be based upon substantial research conducted by the student on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the professor. Students should follow a standard academic style guide. The grade assigned for the paper will reflect an assessment of the quality and persuasiveness of the argument, the clarity of the argument, the depth of research evident, the appropriate use of sources and the clarity and accuracy of the writing. Papers are due on March 27, 2024. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE INSTRUCTOR.**

A two-page paper prospectus is due on March 6, 2024. This shall include the title of the paper, a short description of the research question being addressed, where this question fits into the broader literature on political parties and a list of about 5 principal sources for your paper. The quality of the prospectus will be considered in assigning a grade to the final paper.

Students will present their paper to the class on April 3, 2024. Presentations will be limited to 10 minutes in length with a few minutes extra for questions from the class. The quality of the presentation will be considered in the grade assigned to the essay. Details for the presentations will be provided closer to the date.

Seminar Participation: each student is expected to be an active participant in each seminar. **This requires that students read and consider the assigned material prior to each class.** Student contributions should reflect a careful reading of the material and should generally add to the class discussion. While each student should

be a frequent participant in discussions, quality of contribution is more important than quantity.

Take home test: A take-home test covering assigned course readings and material covered in the seminars and readings will be distributed at the end of class on March 13 and will be due by the end of day on March 20, 2024. This test is **open book**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

See the course format section for more information on seminar presentations. Details for these will be discussed during the first two class sessions at which time students will sign up for their preferred topic.

Seminar topics and schedule:

week 1 (January 10): Introduction, overview and organization

**week 2 (January 17): What is a political party?
Overview of the electoral system and its importance**

week 3 (January 24): Canadian parties and party systems

week 4 (January 31): Party functions and party democracy

week 5 (February 7): Party members

week 6 (February 14): Candidate selection

February 21 – no class, winter break

week 7 (February 28): Leadership selection

**week 8 (March 6): Party law
Policy development**

week 9 (March 13): Elections/Campaigning

week 10 (March 20): take-home test due – no class

week 12 (March 27): Political Financing

Week 13 (April 3): Research Paper Presentations

Appendix

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.dcottawa.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>

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:

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the Self-Declaration form to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

Pregnancy accommodation: Please 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, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious accommodation: Please 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](#).

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation, or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please 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 information, please [click here](#).

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. 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: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation,

withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include, but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, websites, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- Using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question or a final grade of "F" for the

course. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

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).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. The departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

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

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 Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.