

PSCI 5003W
Political Parties in Canada
Wednesdays, 2:35 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.
Please find class location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. William Cross

Email: bill_cross@carleton.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Loeb 699

Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Loeb 699

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%

Seminar participation: 20%

Take-home assignment: 30%

Research paper, prospectus and presentation: 35%

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- have a broad understanding of the concepts and literature relating to political parties
- have a better understanding of the role of political parties in Canadian democracy
- be able to critically evaluate the operation and functions of Canadian political parties
- be able to synthesise academic readings and draw connections among them

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 2 April, 2025. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE INSTRUCTOR.**

A two-page paper prospectus is due on March 5, 2025. 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 2, 2025. 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 assignment: A take-home assignment will be distributed at the end of class on March 19 and will be due by the end of day on March 26, 2025. In completing the assignment, students will

draw upon the assigned course readings and material covered in the seminars. 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 8): Introduction, overview and organization

NOTE: *this class will be held over zoom. The link will be posted on Brightspace and distributed via Carleton e-mail prior to 8 January.*

week 2 (January 15): What is a political party?

Overview of the electoral system and its importance

week 3 (January 22): Canadian parties and party systems

week 4 (January 29): Party functions and party democracy

week 5 (February 5): Party members

week 6 (February 12): Candidate selection

February 19 – no class, winter break

week 7 (February 26): Leadership selection

week 8 (March 5): Party law

Policy development

week 9 (March 12): Elections/Campaigning

week 10 (March 19): Political Financing

week 11 (March 26): take home assignment due, NO CLASS

Week 12 (April 2): Research Paper Presentations

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.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/>

ood2Talk: 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

The last day to withdraw from full fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment is **September 30th, 2024**. The last day for a fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or the winter portion of two-term courses is **January 31, 2025**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses is **November 15, 2024**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses is **March 15, 2025**.

WDN: For students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term the term WDN will be a permanent notation that appears on their official transcript.

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Fall courses: **December 9-21, 2024**. Winter and Fall/Winter courses: **April 11-26, 2025** (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton 2024-2025 Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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.

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

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| Department of Political Science (2777) | B640 Loeb |
| Registrar's Office (3500) | 300 Tory |
| Centre for Student Academic Success (3822) | 4 th floor Library |
| Academic Advising Centre (7850) | 302 Tory |
| Paul Menton Centre (6608) | 501 Nideyinàn |
| Career Services (6611) | 401 Tory |