

PSCI 2003 A
Canadian Political Institutions

Lecture: Monday 13:35 – 15:25
Southam Hall 416 (confirm on Carleton Central)

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to key political institutions in the Canadian context and will build upon knowledge that you may have gained earlier in your education or simply by living in Canada. Some of these institutions were built into the founding of the country and evolved over time, while others were established to meet new or unexpected circumstances. Understanding how we got them, how to change them, and how they *have* changed is important for understanding Canada. Given that the course will be happening during the 2019 election, we will take advantage of the unique opportunities that arise as a result – but we will be looking at more than just the politics and circumstances of this election.

Course Text – Available at *Haven Books* [43 Seneca Street]

- Cochrane, Christopher, Kelly Blidook and Rand Dyck. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, **8th Edition** (Toronto: Nelson, 2017)
- Additionally, I recommend that you follow the Canadian election coverage (*The Toronto Star*, *Macleans*, *National Post*, *CBC*, *The Globe and Mail*). There are many other sources that you can draw on to be well informed including television and radio/podcast programs, but remember that relying solely on news-as-entertainment sources can present as distorted a picture of current events as heavily biased sources can.

Evaluation

	Tutorial	15%
23 September	Film Response	5%
7 October	Party Assignment	5%
28 October	Election Assignment	15%
25 November	Final Paper	25%
Exam Period	Final Exam	35%

Tutorial (15%): Attendance and participation in tutorials is an important part of working through the course material. While there will be some opportunity in class for discussion, tutorials are where *everyone* will be expected to contribute at points throughout the term. Participating in these discussions is not about having the right answer, but as a way of thinking through the concepts that you are reading and listening to in class.

A Note on Assignments: Title pages and bibliography do not count towards the overall length. The length requirements mean that you are expected to have that amount of *content*. While you are not required to have a title page, you do need to have a complete bibliography. Additionally, please double space your papers and use 12 point Times New Roman with one inch margins.

Late Assignments: If an assignment is not submitted on the due date, without valid reasons, it will receive a 5% penalty per day that it is late for up to 7 days – after which assignments will not be accepted.

Film Response (5%): 250 words. Due to cuLearn on *23 September* by the start of class. After watching *My Internship in Canada*, reflect on what the film had to say about one of the Canadian political institutions that we will be looking at in the course.

Party Assignment (5%): 250-400 words. Due in class on *7 October*. Political parties are both an institution unto themselves and one that has a significant impact on many other Canadian institutions. To that end, you will be crafting a platform-in-brief for your imagined, ideal party. *This assignment will be discussed further on 30 September.*

Election Assignment (15%): 750 words. Due in tutorial on *28 October*. Given that it is an election year, there is an opportunity for you to directly engage with this important Canadian political institution. For this assignment, you will first have to go to any event that is directly related to the 2019 election: this could be a candidate rally, riding debate, or official party function. Keep in mind that you must actually **go** to an event: for example, streaming the leader's debates is insufficient. For those of you who are volunteering (or working) for a party/candidate, you are more than welcome to use those experiences for your reflection, but doing so is **not** a requirement of this assignment (and will not result in a better or worse grade). Afterwards, you will write a reflection on your experience in relation to the course material.

* While the election is expected to be held on 21 October, there is a possibility that date will change between when this syllabus is written and that date. If that occurs, an alternate assignment may be arranged.

Final Paper (25%): 2000 words. Due in tutorial on 25 November. You will look to either the [Reference re Senate Reform \[2014\]](#) OR [Haida Nation v British Columbia \(Minister of Forests\) \[2004\]](#) and explore the ways that a political institution has changed following it. I do not expect you to have an in-depth knowledge of the court case or bill itself, but you should have done sufficient research (of academic and journalism sources) to understand the important details. In addition to the textbook and whatever other research you do, must use no fewer than 3 academic sources. Remember: **this is *not* a summary of the judicial decision.** While a brief summary will be required, you should be focused on the changes (and implications of those changes) that resulted. There are many different ways to approach this paper, but you are not expected to cover all of them. Instead you should come up with a clear and specific thesis that you argue throughout your paper. Keep in mind that you do not have to focus on how these decisions *directly* changed political institutions. You might look to how they led political leaders to act: either in accordance with the decision or to work around it. We will discuss this further in class.

Final Exam: (35%): The exam will take place during the official exam period between 9-21 December. It will cover all aspects of the course material from the textbook and discussion, but you are also expected to have at least a broad understanding of the lead up to the 2019 election. To that end, you should be paying attention to current events in Canadian politics – and be able to incorporate those into your answers.

Schedule

9 September

Introduction

- Chapter 1 – “Approaching the Study of Politics”

16 September

Historical Foundations

Tutorials Begin

- Film: *My Internship in Canada*
(<https://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b4418415>)
- Chapter 2 – “Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State”

23 September

Parliament

Due: Film Response

- Chapter 23 – “Parliament”

30 September

Parties

- Chapter 14 – “Political Parties and the Party System”

7 October

Elections

Due: Party Assignment

- Chapter 13 – “Elections and the Electoral System”
- Chapter 15 – “The Election Campaign, Voting, and Political Participation”

14 October

No Class – Thanksgiving

21 October

No Class – Reading Week

28 October

The Executive

Due: Campaign Assignment

- Chapter 21 – “The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet”

4 November

Colonialism

- Chapter 4 – “Aboriginal Peoples”

11 November

Federalism

- Chapter 18 – “The Federal System”
- Dubois, Janique and Kelly Saunders . ““Just Do It!": Carving Out a Space for the Métis in Canadian Federalism”, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 187-193.

18 November

The Constitution and the Charter

- Chapter 17 – “The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change”
- Chapter 19 – “The Charter of Rights and Freedoms”

25 November

The Courts

Due: Final Paper

- Chapter 24 – “The Judiciary”

2 December

The Bureaucracy

- Chapter 20 – “The Policymaking Process and Policy Instruments”
- Chapter 22 – “The Bureaucracy”

6 December [*Friday]

Catchup, Conclusion, and Exam Prep

- Readings TBA on cuLearn

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:

Pregnancy obligation: 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation: 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic 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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

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 is 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

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 must be provided to students who compete or perform 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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

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.

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

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/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.