

PSCI 2002A
Canadian Political Environment
Wednesday 8:35a.m.-10:25a.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Laura Way
Office: B646 Loeb
Phone: (613)520-2600 ext.1598 (please note that there is no voicemail)
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30a.m.-11:30a.m.
Email: Please use the email function within WebCT to contact me.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the contested terrain of “Canadian identity” by examining how our multiple identities are shaped by broader geographic, institutional, ideological, and historical factors (e.g. the evolution of the welfare state to the neoliberal one). Students are encouraged to think about the ways in which power relations shape how groups define themselves, as well as how they interact with each other and the Canadian state.

Course Objectives

Primary course objectives include:

1. To increase students’ understanding of the Canadian political environment by exploring long-standing cleavages and issues.
2. To foster students’ ability to root their opinions about Canadian politics in the broader traditions of Canadian Political Science.
3. To help develop critical oral and written communication skills specifically by having students
 - a. write concise and accurate summaries of longer articles
 - b. write a persuasive essay
 - c. participate in oral discussions in a small group settings
 - d. use online technology, WebCT, to foster discussion
 - e. demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of course material through short and long answer exam questions

Required Texts

Books are available at the Carleton University Bookstore.

Dyck, Rand. 2008. *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 5th edition*. Toronto: Nelson Canada.

Bickerton, James, and Alain G. Gagnon (editors). 2009. *Canadian Politics, 5th edition*. Toronto:

University of Toronto Press.

Students must use the correct editions of the above books.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

All course requirements are listed below. **All course requirements must be completed to pass the course.**

Assignment	% of Course Grade	Due Date
Tutorial participation 5% will be based upon attendance 5% will be based upon contribution in the seminar. 5% will be based upon WebCT participation.	15%	Ongoing
Digests/summaries 2 digests (2-3 pages), each worth 10%	20%	1 st Digest: October 7 2 nd Digest: October 28
Essay A persuasive essay (8-10 pages)	30%	November 25
Final Exam	35%	The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period (December 9-22 including Saturdays)

The Grading Scheme is posted on **WebCT** for all assignments, including tutorial participation. Students should familiarize themselves with it before they start an assignment.

Tutorial Participation

Tutorials are an important part of this class. Tutorials give students the opportunity to critically interact with each other and the course material in a small group setting. Regular tutorial attendance is integral to doing well in the overall course as tutorials provide an opportunity to raise questions, clarify issues, and test one's understandings. Tutorials will be held weekly starting on Sept 23, the second week of this class.

Overall tutorial participation is worth 15% of your mark. It is broken down into three components. Attendance is worth 5%. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. The quality of your contributions in seminar setting is worth an additional 5%. Lastly, students are encouraged to post questions, enter into discussions, and engage each other on

WebCT. Student participation in this medium is worth an additional 5%. Tutorial leaders, and I, will be monitoring discussions on WebCT.

Digests

A digest is a concise summary which highlights the article's main arguments without obfuscating its ideas. For each digest, your assignment is to write a summary (2 to 3 pages in length) of one of the three assigned readings found in **Bickerton and Gagnon's** edited book, *Canadian Politics*. The purpose of this assignment is to have you identify an article's line of argument, including its thesis statement, and clearly communicate it to a reader who hasn't read the original article. The digest should mainly be in your own words (i.e., relies on paraphrasing) and uses direct quotes only sparingly. Long direct quotes **should not** be included in your summary.

The first digest is due on October 7 and needs to be based on **one** of the following readings:

- Samuel LaSelva. "Understanding Canada's Origins: Federalism, Multiculturalism, and the Will to Live Together."
- Martin Papillon. "The Re-emergence of Aboriginal Government"
- Will Kymlicka. "Citizenship, Communities, and Identity."

The second digest is due on October 28 and needs to be based on **one** of the following readings:

- James Bickerton and Alain G. Gagnon. "Regions and Regionalism"
- Yasmeen Abu-Laban. "Diversity in Canadian Politics"
- Lisa Young. "Women (Not) in Politics: Women's Electoral Participation."

Persuasive Essay

Politics is most often about persuading others that your preferred course of action is the right one (or at least is better than the alternatives). While there may not be just one acceptable point of view, *there are* stronger arguments to particular political questions. This assignment is designed to help students develop their ability to present a cohesive and persuasive argument.

A persuasive essay not only outlines the main arguments in support of your position but also gives fair treatment to opposing points of view. One must also be careful not to use a flawed argumentation style (e.g., the slippery slope argument or making a faulty analogy).

Topics will be posted on WebCT.

For more information about how to write a digest or a persuasive essay, please consult:

Buckley, Joanne. 2001. *Fit to Print: The Canadian Student's Guide to Essay Writing*, 5th edition. Scarborough: Nelson Thomson Learning.

Final Exam

This exam will test all aspects of the course including lecture materials and required readings. The format will be a combination of short and long-answer questions. The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period

Guidelines for all writing assignments

All writing assignments must use a 12 point font, be doubled-spaced and have an one-inched margin. A title page, which includes the title of the work, name of the class, the date of assignment, your name and student number, must also be attached. All assignments should be copy-edited and be free of grammatical and spelling errors as much as possible. All assignments, including the digests, must have appropriate citations and bibliography.

How to hand in your written assignment?

Written assignments **are due by start of class** on the date which they are assigned unless prior arrangements have been made. Do not slide papers under the office door or send by email. The Political Science drop box is intended to collect late assignments only or if a student has extenuating circumstances and is unable to submit the paper at the start of class. The drop box is emptied **every weekday at 4 p.m.** and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

Late penalties/Extensions

All assignments must be submitted in order to pass the class. Late papers will receive a mandatory penalty of **the equivalent of 2% per day, excluding weekends**. Extensions will be only given under extenuating circumstances (see academic accommodations below) and must be sought prior to the due date unless the reason for being late does not also explain this lack of communication. **All assignments**, unless prior arrangements have been made, **must be submitted within 2 weeks of the due date. December 8** is the last day for handing in term assignments for fall term courses, subject to any earlier course deadline.

SCHEDULE

Sept 16 **Introduction to the course**
No tutorials this week

Part One: Building Blocks

Sept 23 **The study of politics**
From Rand Dyck textbook
Chapter 1: "Approaching the Study of Politics"

Sept 30 **Setting the context of the debate**
From Rand Dyck textbook
Chapter 2: "Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State"

From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:
Samuel LaSelva. "Understanding Canada's Origins: Federalism, Multiculturalism, and the Will to Live Together."

Part Two: Territory and Identity

Oct 7

Aboriginal politics

From Rand Dyck textbook

Chapter 4: Canada's Aboriginal Peoples

From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:

Martin Papillon. "The Re-emergence of Aboriginal Government"

First digest due

Oct 14

Quebec

From Rand Dyck textbook

Chapter 5: French Canada and the Quebec Question

From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:

Will Kymlicka. "Citizenship, Communities, and Identity."

Oct 21

Regionalism and the rural/urban divide

From Rand Dyck textbook

Chapter 3: Regionalism

Chapter 9: Other Cleavages and Identities – Urban/Rural (pp. 191-196 only)

From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:

James Bickerton and Alain G. Gagnon. "Regions and Regionalism"

Part Three: Non-territorial identity

Oct 28

Race and ethnicity

From Rand Dyck textbook

Chapter 6: Ethnocultural Minorities

From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:

Yasmeen Abu-Laban. "Diversity in Canadian Politics"

Second digest due

Nov 4

Class

From Rand Dyck textbook

Chapter 8: Class

- Nov 11 **Gender and politics**
From Rand Dyck textbook
 Chapter 7: Gender
- From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:*
 Lisa Young. "Women (Not) in Politics: Women's Electoral Participation."
- Nov 18 **Social movements and interest groups**
From Rand Dyck textbook
 Chapter 16: Advocacy Groups and Lobbying
- From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:*
 Eric Montpetit. "Are Interest Groups Useful or Harmful."
- Nov 25 **Looking outward: Canada and the world**
From Rand Dyck textbook
 Chapter 10: Canada's External Environment: The United States and the World
- From Bickerton and Gagnon edited book:*
 Mark Brawley. "Globalization and Canada."
- Persuasive essay due**
- Dec 2 **Conclusion: Intersectionality - Breaking down the false dichotomies**
- Dec 8 **Fall term ends.** Last day for handing in term assignments for fall term courses, subject to any earlier course deadline.
- December 9-22
 (including Saturdays) **Exam Period.** Final exam will be held during this time. Date and time to be announced.

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 16, 2009 for December examinations** and **March 12, 2010 for April 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.

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.

Course Requirements: Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

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.