

PSCI 4006A / 5006S
Legislatures and Representation in Canada
Mondays 11.35-14.25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office Hours:

Mondays 2:30-3:30

Or by e-mail or appointment

This course studies legislatures as vehicles of political representation in Canada. We ask what roles legislatures play and whether they perform them well, looking at them in the context of the Canadian political system and other modes of democratic representation and policy-making.

Texts:

Peter Russell, *Two Cheers for Minority Government* (Emond Montgomery, 2008) (@ \$20)

Online Readings and Reserve Readings – There is no prepared coursepack because they are increasingly expensive. I have tried to use as many online readings as possible. Some readings are only available in paper, and are on library reserve or can be borrowed from me.

Recommended:

David Docherty, *Legislatures* (UBC Press, 2004) (@ \$22)

Both books are available at either the Carleton University bookstore or Raven Books.

Grading:

Book Review	20%	Due October 20
Research Paper	40%	Due December 1
Presentation	20%	
Participation	20%	

Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., from B+ to B), including weekends. See further details below for each assignment.

Book Review

Write a critical review of *Two Cheers for Minority Government* by Peter Russell. The review should be at least 1500 words long and should:

- Briefly summarize the main argument of the book (no more than a third of the review)
- Analyze the arguments and give your own reactions to them
- Compare and contrast Russell's views with the course readings covered so far
- Say whether Russell's support of minority government and his criticism of "false majorities" is

- right or wrong, and why
- Discuss whether the latest developments in 2008 might change Russell's views in any way

Reviews are due at the beginning of class on **October 20**. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. If necessary, reviews can be left in the political science essay drop box outside Loeb B640, but the drop box is only opened at 4 PM every day, papers received after 4pm will be dated for the following day. Late reviews will lose one-third of a letter grade every day, each "day" starting at 11:35 AM (e.g., a review received at 4 PM on Tuesday October 21 will lose two-thirds of a letter grade).

Reviews will be returned on October 27, barring extenuating circumstances, and the day's class will be devoted to discussing the book.

Research Paper

Choose a topic and write a research paper exploring an aspect of Canadian legislatures.

By **Friday, November 14**, all students must e-mail a one-page summary of their topic and ideas to the instructor

On **Monday, November 17**, all students will give a short presentation to the class about their topic

- X The paper must argue a clear thesis, not simply describe some aspect of legislatures.
- X The paper must be primarily about legislatures and representation, not just "politics."
- X It can look at federal, provincial or territorial legislatures. Non-Canadian comparisons are also welcome as long as there is significant Canadian content.
- X Undergraduate papers should be 3000-4000 words long.
- X Graduate papers should be 4000-6000 words long and utilize some primary sources, such as Hansard, parliamentary and legislator websites and other documents
- X Any standard citation format (MLA, APA, footnotes, endnotes) may be used. Be particularly careful to give full Internet citations. For further guidance see: <http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdoin/citing.html>

Papers are due on **Monday December 1** at the beginning of class, 11:35 AM. E-mail submissions will not be accepted; paper copies are required. If necessary, papers can be left in the political science essay drop box outside Loeb B640, but the drop box is only opened at 4 PM every day, papers dropped off after 4pm will be stamp dated for the following day. Late papers will lose one-third of a letter grade every day, each "day" starting at 11:35 AM (e.g., a paper received at 4 PM on Tuesday December 2 will lose two-thirds of a letter grade).

Presentations

Every student will sign up to give a presentation on one class's readings. Usually there will be two or three students per class and you will need to work together. Presentations should be at least 30 minutes long but can go for the entire class.

Presenters should submit a written text, slide deck or similar summaries of their presentation to the instructor, primarily for his own records.

Simply summarizing the readings will earn a grade of zero. Presentations should engage with the arguments and the overall theme of the class. Answer questions including:

- X What are the authors' arguments and how effective are they? Do you agree or disagree with them? Which are the strongest and weakest readings from an analytical point of view?
- X How do the different readings fit together? Do they complement or counter each other? How do they fit with earlier readings in the course?
- X What type of methodology and research is used in each article? Were the author=s choices appropriate?

Take ownership of the topic and be innovative, using technology to enhance the experience. Games, roleplaying, class surveys, online resources, videos (including self-made ones) can all be interesting and useful.

Participation

Participation grades are awarded based on both **quantity** and **quality** of participation throughout the term. Students are expected to be familiar with the readings and contribute regularly in class.

Schedule

Mon Sept 8 Introduction

Mon Sept 15 Parliament and Parliamentary Reform

*Franks, *The Parliament of Canada* (University of Toronto Press: 1987)
Chapter 1, "Parliament in an Age of Reform"
Chapter Two, "Approaches to Parliamentary Government"

*David Smith, *The People's House of Commons* (University of Toronto Press, 2007)
Chapter One "The State of the Commons"
(text is also available online at books.google.com)

Mon Sept 22 Government and Citizens

*F. Leslie Seidle, *Citizens Speaking for Themselves: New Avenues for Public Involvement* in Michelmann, Story and Steeves, eds., *Political Leadership and Representation in Canada: Essays in Honour of John C. Courtney* (University of Toronto Press, 2006) (text is also available online at books.google.com)

*Donald Savoie, *Court Government and the Collapse of Accountability in Canada and the United Kingdom* (University of Toronto Press, 2008) - Chapter 12 – "Power: Locating It and Holding It To Account" (text is also available online at books.google.com)

Mon Sept 29 MPs

Cameron D. Anderson and Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant "Conceptions of Political Representation in Canada: An Explanation of Public Opinion" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38:4 (December 2005) [journal available online through library catalogue]

Barry Campbell, "Politics as Unusual: A Legend is Born" *The Walrus*, March 2008 and "Darkness Visible: The continuing saga of Barry Campbell, MP" April 2008
<http://www.walrusmagazine.com/articles/2008.03-politics-canada-election-barry-campbell/>
<http://www.walrusmagazine.com/articles/2008.04-politics-canada-election-ottawa-backbench-mp-barry-campbell/>

Stillborn, Jack, "The Roles of the Member of Parliament in Canada: Are They Changing?" Ottawa: Parliamentary Research Branch, Library of Parliament. (2002)
[\[http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/library/PRBpubs/prb0204-e.pdf\]](http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/library/PRBpubs/prb0204-e.pdf).

Mon Oct 6 Parties**Mon Oct 13 Thanksgiving No Classes**

Christopher Garner and Natalia Letki, "Party Structure and Backbench Dissent in the Parliament of Canada" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38:2 (June 2005)) [journal available online via library catalogue].

Jonathan Malloy, "High Discipline, Low Cohesion? The Uncertain Patterns of Canadian Parliamentary Party Groups," *Journal of Legislative Studies* 9:4 (Winter 2003) [journal available online via library catalogue].

R. Kenneth Carty, "The Politics of Tecumseh Corners: Canadian Political Parties as Franchise Organizations", *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 35:4 (2002) 723-746. [journal available online via library catalogue].

Mon Oct 20 The Senate**Book Reviews Due**

Read these two short papers (below) from a recent UBC conference on Senate reform. Also review the conference website at <http://democracy.ubc.ca/index.php?id=10651>

-David E Smith '[Why Redesign the Senate? The Goals of Reformers Since 1867](http://democracy.ubc.ca/fileadmin/template/main/images/departments/CSDI/conferences/DavidSmithUBCSenateConferencePaper.pdf)'
<http://democracy.ubc.ca/fileadmin/template/main/images/departments/CSDI/conferences/DavidSmithUBCSenateConferencePaper.pdf>

-Graham White '[A Powerful Canadian Senate: Implications for Parliamentary Government](http://democracy.ubc.ca/fileadmin/template/main/images/departments/CSDI/conferences/GrahamWhiteUBCSenateConferencePaper.pdf)'
<http://democracy.ubc.ca/fileadmin/template/main/images/departments/CSDI/conferences/GrahamWhiteUBCSenateConferencePaper.pdf>

Mon Oct 27 Discussion of *Two Cheers for Minority Government***Mon Nov 3 - Representation and Diversity**

Manon Tremblay and Linda Trimble, "Still Different After All These Years? A Comparison of Female and Male Canadian MPs in the Twentieth Century." *Journal of Legislative Studies*. 10:1 (2004). [journal available online via library catalogue].

Manon Tremblay, "Do Female MPs Substantively Represent Women? A Study of Legislative Behaviour in Canada's 35th Parliament" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* XXX1:3 (September 1998) [journal available online via library catalogue].

Jerome H. Black, "Ethnoracial Minorities in the House of Commons" *Canadian Parliamentary Review* 25:1 (Spring 2002) <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Infoparl/english/issue.htm?param=82&art=247>

Jerome H. Black and Bruce M. Hicks, "Visible Minority Candidates in the 2004 Federal Election" *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. 29:2 (2006).
http://www.parl.gc.ca/Infoparl/29/2/29n2_06e_Black.pdf

Mon Nov 10 Technology

*Kernaghan, Kenneth "Making Political Connections: IT and Legislative Life," in Sanford Borins et al., eds., *Digital State at the Leading Edge*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007).

Tamara A. Small, "Equal Access, Unequal Success: Major & Minor Canadian Parties on the Net" *Party Politics* 14:1 (March 2008) [journal available via library catalogue]

Philip Norton "Four Models of Political Representation: British MPs and the Use of ICT" *Journal of Legislative Studies* 13:3 (September 2007) [journal available via library catalogue]

Friday, Nov 14 –

Attend Canadian Study of Parliament Group panel on "Parliamentary Reform" on Parliament Hill – details to follow

Mon Nov 17 –

Presentation of Essay Topics

Mon Nov 24 - Territorial and Provincial Legislatures

Graham White, "Traditional Aboriginal Values in a Westminster Parliament: The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut" *Journal of Legislative Studies* 12:1 (March 2006) [journal available via library catalogue]

David Pond "Imposing a Neo-Liberal Theory of Representation on the Westminster Model: A Canadian Case" *Journal of Legislative Studies* 11:2 (Summer 2005)) [journal available via library catalogue]

Recommended:

*Graham White, "Evaluating Provincial and Territorial Legislatures," in Christopher Dunn (ed.), *Provinces: Canadian Provincial Politics*. Second Edition. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2006

Mon Dec 1 - The Future

Essays Due

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 letter of 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 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

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: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. 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: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.