

POLM 5022

Prime Ministerial Leadership in Canada

This course applies a political management perspective to the exercise of prime ministerial power in Canada. Using several theories and case studies, it seeks to uncover which styles of leadership are most successful in a variety of political contexts.

Evaluation

Case Study Proposal	10%
Case Study	30%
In-Class Contribution	30%
Take-Home Exam	30%

In-Class Contribution

The grade is based on the frequency and quality of your contribution. The more substantive your comments, the higher your grade will be. You should foster an open and cooperative group environment while showing that you have read and reflected upon the lectures and readings. You should refer explicitly to the readings during the course of the discussion.

You will be expected to engage guest speakers on the issue of political leadership. Solicit their views on key issues, ask for clarification if you did not understand part of a presentation, politely challenge any interpretations with which you disagree. Your questions should be relevant, focussing on issues of leadership, not peripheral matters.

Each student will introduce or thank one of our guest speakers. (If you have a preference, please let me know as soon as possible.)

Our guests are speaking to us on condition that we follow the Chatham House rule: “When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.” Guests will be open with us, so long as we agree not to repeat their comments outside the classroom. You may quote our guests in your written assignments, but please add CONFIDENTIAL to the title page and each page that quotes a guest speaker and do not share your work with others outside the course.

On certain weeks, each student will be assigned a different reading. You will be expected to

report back to class on what you discovered. Do not summarize your reading. Your task is to explain how reading addresses the main questions we are examining in the course and the light it sheds on the prime minister we are studying that week.

Case Study Proposal

Each student will submit a case study proposal. The proposal will consist of these elements:

- A description of the case study topic.
- The central question (and any sub-questions) that the case study will aim to answer.
- A discussion of the primary and secondary sources that would help answer the question.
- A bibliography formatted according to an accepted scholarly style (i.e., Chicago, MLA, or APA).

The proposal (not including bibliography) should be one to four pages in length and is due by 11:59 p.m. on 11 February.

Case Study

Each student will submit a written case study on a topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. As it often takes considerable time to locate sources, you should choose a topic as soon as possible. The assignment may assess one aspect of a prime minister's leadership, compare two or more prime ministers, or examine how a prime minister handled a particular issue.

Remember that you are not writing about policy but about a process (leadership).

The case study should be 10–20 pages in length, double-spaced, and should be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on the last day of term, 8 April.

The case study will be marked according to the following criteria:

- Research – The case study should be based on substantial research. Adequate evidence should be presented throughout to support the argument. The assignment should include a bibliography.
- Presentation – The case study should be well organized and should have a logical paragraph structure. It must be clearly and concisely written, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. It should be written for an educated layperson, not for a university professor. It should follow the guidelines in this course outline.
- Analysis and Argument – From the outset, the case study must have a clear argument supported by evidence and should not consist merely of narrative. The assignment should show good judgement, strong analytical skills, and a solid understanding of the course subject matter.

When preparing your case study, please follow these guidelines:

- The style and formatting of your work should be designed to assist the reader, not express your individuality. Case studies should be clearly written and should have a logical flow.
- Case studies must not read as though they are first drafts. There is an oft-repeated phrase

among writers: “Writing is revising.” Going back over your own work (preferably days, or at least several hours, after you wrote the first draft) allows you to see problems that were not visible before, including typographical and grammatical errors, unclear passages, wordy phrases, and other problems of composition. By the time you submit your work, it should be pristine.

- The text should be double-spaced in an easy-to-read, serif typeface. (The research shows that Times New Roman, Bell Gothic, and Sabon are among the easiest to read.) Do not use Arial or any other sans-serif typeface.
- Pages should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals (i.e., 1, 2, 3, etc.) in the top right corner. The first page of text is page 1 but need not be numbered. No title page is necessary.
- You must use quotation marks when you are reproducing someone else’s words. The only exception is a quotation longer than three lines, which should be single-spaced and indented to set it off from the rest of the text. Indented quotations should be in the same size typeface as the rest of the text. Direct quotations must be introduced in the text (e.g., According to historian Norman Hillmer, “Lester B. Pearson’s years as prime minister ... were a contradiction.”).
- Use quotation marks only for quotations and the titles of book chapters or articles. The reader is intelligent enough to understand figurative language and irony; if not, the quotation marks will not help. Clichés and cute phrases should be deleted, not put in quotation marks. Italics, not quotation marks, are the best way of emphasizing a word or phrase.
- Spell words according to the most common form in Canadian usage. Note the endings of the following words: colour, centre, harmonize, organization, defence. It will help if you change the language in Microsoft Word to “English (Canada).”
- Follow George Orwell’s six rules for effective writing:
 - i. Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
 - ii. Never use a long word where a short one will do.
 - iii. If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
 - iv. Never use the passive where you can use the active.
 - v. Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
 - vi. Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.
- Consistently follow one of the common styles for references and bibliography: Chicago, MLA, or APA. You may cite comments made by guest speakers in class. (The reference should include the speaker’s name, the name and number of the course, the name of the university, and the date.) If you are citing comments made in class, please do not share your papers with anyone outside the class and clearly mark as CONFIDENTIAL the title page and any pages that include material from guest speakers.

Take-Home Exam

Each student will write a take-home exam of 2000 to 3000 words in length, not including footnotes or bibliography.

Students will be expected to identify their sources if they are using direct quotations or using interpretations originally advanced by others. Footnotes and bibliography are optional. You may simply acknowledge sources in your text (“As Bill Fox told our class As Paul Wells pointed out in his book *Right Side Up*, ...”).

Students would be wise to organize their thoughts and gather information as the course proceeds. The exam should be submitted on Brightspace before 11:59 p.m. on 26 April.