

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

POLS 9532B

Canadian Politics and Society

Winter 2015

**INSTRUCTOR:** Cameron D. Anderson

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**OFFICE LOCATION:** SSC 4217

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday 11:30am-1pm or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will critically and comparatively assess the scholarly literature on the core sources of societal 'input' in Canadian politics. The class will emphasize topics including political culture, political parties, voting and elections, interest groups, social movements and the use of social media within Canadian politics.

**COURSE READINGS:**

Anderson, C. and L. Stephenson (eds.). 2010. Voting Behaviour in Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Selection of articles and book chapters available on OWL or online.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

25% Participation

30% Weekly Reading Summaries

45% Analytic Papers (3 x 15%) or a research paper

## **DISCUSSION OF COURSEWORK:**

**a) Class Participation** - As this is a graduate seminar course, there will be no lectures and students are expected to actively participate each week. The participation grade will be based on the quality of comment, evidence of preparation, willingness to challenge accepted ideas and concern for the views expressed by others. If unable to attend, please inform the instructor in advance. Students will be given a preliminary grade for participation in the seventh week of the course. The final participation grade may change based on whether performance improves, declines or stays the same.

**b) Reading Summaries** - All students will be required to complete reading summaries for each of weeks two through twelve. These summaries should be used as a means of preparing for each week's class and are intended to provide you with an opportunity, in advance of class, to read, interact with and comment on the readings. The summary should be composed of three parts. The first part should state, in your view, the most important two or three themes arising from that week's readings. The second part should outline two or three insights gained from these readings. This is to say, what did you learn that you didn't previously know or understand? The final part of the summary should articulate questions that were generated from the readings. The summaries should not be longer than two double-spaced pages and will be due at the beginning of each class. Students will provide a very brief oral report of their reading summary at the beginning of each class. Late summaries will not be accepted. Summaries will be graded on a 'check system'. Acceptable summaries will receive a 'v'. Unacceptable or late summaries will receive a 'v-'. On occasion, an unusually perceptive summary may receive a 'v+'. For the term, an average of 'v' will be equivalent to an 'A' grade of 80%.

**c) Analytic Papers (or a research paper)**– You are required to write 3 analytic papers: one from each of Weeks 2 and 3, Weeks 4 to 8 and Weeks 9 to 12. These papers should keep summary of the readings to a minimum and instead focus on articulating a coherent response to issues, arguments and ideas raised in the readings. You may choose to highlight how common themes are addressed throughout the readings; you might take issue with the central argument of certain authors; you might pose questions that deal with core issues of the readings or you might criticize one author based on the arguments of another and/or your own analysis. These papers will be graded on how well you interact with and develop your response to the readings. The papers should be 7-8 (double-spaced) pages long. These papers are due **January 28** (Weeks 2 and 3), **March 18** (Weeks 4 to 8) and **April 15** (Weeks 10 to 13). This paper *cannot be* written on the same week's material that you present. Alternatively, in lieu of the 3 analytic papers, you may choose to write a substantive research paper of 20-25 pages on a topic agreed in consultation with the professor. The research paper will be due on the date of the third analytic paper.

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

### ***Submission of Assignments:***

Assignments (both reading summaries and analytic papers) are due at the beginning of class. The third analytic paper and research paper will be due at **12pm on April 15**.

### ***Academic Offences:***

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

### ***Late penalty:***

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day. Assignments that are more than 1 week late will **not be accepted** for grading.

### ***Extensions:***

Extensions are not given. However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances an extension may be granted at the discretion of the professor.

## Outline of Topics and Readings

1. January 7 Introduction
2. January 14 Political Culture: Classics
  - Forbes, H. D. 1987. "Hartz-Horowitz at Twenty: Nationalism, Toryism and Socialism in Canada and the United States" Canadian Journal of Political Science 20, 2, June.
  - Leuprecht, C. 2003. "The Tory Fragment in Canada: Endangered Species?" Canadian Journal of Political Science 36, 2, June.
  - Wiseman, N. 1988. "A Note on Hartz-Horowitz at Twenty: The Case of French Canada" Canadian Journal of Political Science 21, 4, December.
  - Wiseman, N. 2007. In Search of Canadian Political Culture. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Ch. 1)
3. January 21 Political Culture: Recent Trends
  - Bilodeau, A., S. White and N. Nevitte. 2010. "The Development of Dual Loyalties: Immigrants' Integration to Canadian Regional Dynamics." Canadian Journal of Political Science 43, 3, 515-44.
  - Cochrane, Chris and Andrea Perrella. 2012. "Regions, Regionalism and Regional Differences in Canada." Canadian Journal of Political Science 45, 4, 829-53.
  - Nevitte, N. 1996. The Decline of Deference. Peterborough: Broadview Press. (Ch. 1, 3 and 9)
4. January 28 Political Parties: Origins and Evolution
  - Gagnon, A. and B. Tanguay. 2007. Canadian Parties in Transition (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Peterborough: Broadview Press. (Chapters 1-4)
  - Johnston, R. 2008. "Polarized Pluralism in the Canadian Party System: Presidential Address to the Canadian Political Science Association, June 5, 2008" Canadian Journal of Political Science 41, 4, 815-834.
5. February 4 Political Parties: In the contemporary period
  - Carty, K. 2002. "The Politics of Tecumseh Corners: Canadian Political Parties as Franchise Organizations," Canadian Journal of Political Science 35, 4.
  - Gagnon and Tanguay. 2007. Canadian Parties in Transition (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Peterborough: Broadview Press (Chapters 7 and 22)
  - Flanagan, T. 2014. Winning Power. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. (Chapters 1, 3, 10).
6. February 11 Political Parties: Regulation and Elections
  - Gagnon and Tanguay. 2007. Canadian Parties in Transition (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). Peterborough: Broadview Press (Chapter 16 and 17)
  - Young, L. and H. Jansen (eds.). 2011. Money, Politics and Democracy: Canada's Party Finance Reforms. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Chapters 2, 3 and 5)
7. February 25 Elections and Voting I
  - Anderson, C. and L. Stephenson (eds.). 2010. Voting Behaviour in Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Chapters 1,3,4,5)
  - Gidengil, E. et al. 2012. Dominance and Decline. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (Chapters 2 and 4)

8. March 4 Elections and Voting II  
Anderson, C. and L. Stephenson (eds.). 2010. Voting Behaviour in Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press.  
(Chapters 6, 8, 9,10)  
Gidengil, E. et al. 2012. Dominance and Decline. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  
(Chapters 5 and 7)
9. March 11 No class
10. March 18 Elections and Voting III: The question of turnout?  
Blais, A. 2007. "Turnout in Elections" in Dalton and Klingemann (eds.) The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
Blais, A. et al. 2004. "Where does turnout decline come from?" European Journal of Political Research. 43, 2, 221-36.  
Blais, A. and R. Young. 1999. "Why do people vote? An experiment in rationality" Public Choice 99, 39-55.  
Gidengil, E. et al. 2004. Citizens. Vancouver: UBC Press. (pp. 102-25)
11. March 25 Interest Groups  
Constantelos, J. 2010. "Playing the Field: Federalism and the Politics of Venue Shopping in the United States and Canada" Publius: The Journal of Federalism, 40:3 (2010), 460-83.  
Montpetit, E. 2014. "Are Interest Groups Useful or Harmful? Take Two" in Bickerton and Gagnon (eds.) Canadian Politics (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  
Smith, M. (ed.). 2014. Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada. (2 ed.) Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (Chapters 1 and 3)
12. April 1 Social Movements  
Smith, M. (ed.). 2014. Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada. (2 ed.) Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (selected chapters)  
Orsini, M. 2002. "The Politics of Naming, Blaming and Claiming: HIV, Hepatitis C and the Emergence of Blood Activism in Canada" Canadian Journal of Political Science. 35, 3, September, 475-98.  
Orsini, M. 2014. "of Pots and pans and Radical Handmaids: Social Movements and Civil Society" in Bickerton and Gagnon (eds.) Canadian Politics (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
13. April 8 Social Media and Politics  
Bennett, W. L. 2012. "The Personalization of Politics: Political Identity, Social Media, and Changing Patters of Participation" Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. 644 November, 20-39.  
Small, T. 2010. "Canadian Politics in 140 Characters: Party Politics in the Twittersverse" Canadian Parliamentary Review, 33, 3, Autumn, 39-45.  
Small, T. 2012. "E-ttack Politics: Negativity, the Internet, and Canadian Political Parties", in David Taras and Christopher Waddell (eds.) How Canadians Communicate IV: Media and Politics. Edmonton: Athabaska University Press.