

Department of Political Science
The University of Western Ontario

Politics 9532b

Canadian Politics and Society

Winter 2013

Instructor: Robert Young

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SSC 4223

Office: Wednesdays 2-4 or by appointment

General:

This course will critically assess the scholarly literature on the various sources of societal input to the Canadian state. We will cover political culture, political parties, voting and elections, interest groups, social movements, and social media. The objective is to understand how social forces shape and condition what governments do.

Readings:

Most readings will be available on line through the library system or they will be made available. As well, we will read Elisabeth Gidengil et al., *Dominance & Decline: Making Sense of Recent Canadian Elections* (Toronto: UTP, 2012). This book is available in the UWO bookstore.

Grades and assignments:

15% - participation

25% - weekly reading summaries

15% - presentation and discussion leadership

45% - analytic papers or research paper

Participation:

As this is a graduate seminar, students are expected to participate actively each week. The participation grade will be based on evidence of preparation, quality of comments, capacity to analyze ideas, and concern for the views expressed by others.

If you are unable to attend the seminar, please inform the instructor in advance.

Weekly reading summaries:

All students are to prepare weekly reading summaries for weeks 2 to 12 inclusive. These are a means of preparing for each week's class, and are intended to help you analyze and comment on the readings in advance. There should be three parts to every summary. First, you should state the most important two or three themes arising from the week's readings. Second, you should describe two or three insights (not simple facts) that you learned from the readings. What did you learn that you did not previously understand? Third, you should lay out some core questions that have arisen for you from the readings.

The summaries should be no longer than 2 double-spaced pages. They are due at the beginning of each class. Late summaries will not be accepted.

Presentation and discussion:

All students will be required to give one presentation. This should not be a simple summary of the week's readings; instead, the bulk of the presentation is to contain a critical analysis of the ideas and issues arising from the readings. The presentation is to be an elaboration of the sorts of conclusions reached in the weekly reading summaries, with an emphasis on the core arguments of the authors. You are expected as well to raise issues and to pose questions for your colleagues, and to lead class discussion. A paper copy of the presentation must be provided to the instructor on the morning of the presentation.

Analytic papers or research paper:

The first option is to write three analytic papers - one on political cultures, one on parties, party systems and elections, and one on interest groups and social movements. Summary of the readings should be kept to a minimum. The focus should be on

constructing a coherent response to the issues, arguments, and ideas raised in the readings. You could, for instance, highlight how common themes are addressed in the readings; or you might criticize the central arguments of several authors; or you might develop questions about the core issues raised by the readings; or you could criticize one or more authors based on the arguments of others or on your own analysis. Overall, the objective is to make sense of a small body of scholarly literature. These papers should be about 8 pages long. They are due in class on January 30th and March 20th and April 17th.

The second option is to write a substantial research paper on a topic to be decided in consultation with the instructor. The paper should be about 20-25 double-spaced pages. There are many attractive alternatives here, and some primary research will be involved. You could focus on some aspect of a party or parties, or on particular elections, or on some interest group, or on some social movement (especially exploring social media in politics). The paper is due on April 17th.

Important policies:

All assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day.

Extensions are only granted when there are genuine, serious family or medical problems. Extensions are at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic offences:

Scholastic offences are taken very seriously. Students should read the definition of a scholastic offence (especially of plagiarism) and also the possible consequences of such offences, which can be severe: see

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

Weekly topics and readings:

1. January 9th: Introductions and discussion of the course.

2. January 16th: Political culture I.

Gad Horowitz, 'Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism in Canada: An Interpretation,' *Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, 32:2 (May 1966), 143-71.

Tom Truman, 'A Scale for Measuring a Tory Streak in Canada and the United States,' *Canadian Journal of Political Science* [hereafter *CJPS*], 10:3 (September 1977), 597-614.

Christian Leuprecht, 'The Tory Fragment in Canada: Endangered Species?,' *CJPS*, 36:2 (June 2003), 401-416.

3. January 23rd: Political culture II.

Neil Nevitte, *The Decline of Deference* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1996), ch. 1, 2.

Nelson Wiseman, *In Search of Canadian Political Culture* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007), ch. 5.

Antoine Bilodeau, Stephen White, and Neil Nevitte, 'The Development of Dual Loyalties: Immigrants' Integration to Canadian Regional Dynamics,' *CJPS*, 43:3 (September 2010), 515-44.

4. January 30th: Political parties - origins and evolution.

From Alain Gagnon and Brian Tanguay, eds., *Canadian Parties in Transition*, 3rd ed., (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2007):

Gordon T. Stewart, 'The Beginning of Politics in Canada,' pp. 17-32.

Steve Patten, 'The Evolution of the Canadian Party System,' pp. 55-81.

Janine Brodie and Jane Jenson, 'Piercing the Smokescreen: Stability and Change in Brokerage Politics,' pp. 33-53.

Eric Belanger, 'Third Party Success in Canada,' pp.83-109.

February 6th: No seminar this week.

5. February 13: Political parties - current issues.

From Gagnon and Tanguay: Sid Noel, 'Leaders' Entourages, Parties, and Patronage,' pp. 197-213.

Royce Koop, *Grassroots Liberals: Organizing for Local and National Politics* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011), Introduction and ch. 1.

Anna Esselment, 'A Little Help from My Friends: The Partisan Factor and Intergovernmental Negotiations in Canada,' *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, 2012, 1-27.

R. Kenneth Carty, 'Canada's Government Party: A Century of Four Liberal Parties,' presented to the conference on 'Duty and Choice: Participation and Preferences in Democratic Elections,' in honour of Andre Blais, Montreal, January 20-21, 2012.

6. February 27th: Elections and voting I.

Elisabeth Gidengil, Neil Nevitte, Andre Blais, Joanna Everitt, and Patrick Fournier, *Dominance and Decline: Making Sense of Recent Canadian Elections* (Toronto: UTP, 2012), ch.1-5.

7. March 6th: Elections and voting II.

Dominance and Decline, ch. 6-11.

8. March 13th: Elections and voting III.

Elizabeth Gidengil et al., *Citizens* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004), ch. 5.

Andre Blais and Robert Young, 'Why do people vote: An experiment in rationality,' *Public Choice*, 99, (1999), 39-55.

Andre Blais, Elisabeth Gidengil, Neil Nevitte, and Richard Nadeau, 'Where does turnout decline come from?' *European Journal of Political Research*, 43 (2004), 221-36.

9. March 20th. Interest groups.

Paul Pross, *Group Politics and Public Policy*, 2nd ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992), ch. 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Leslie A. Pal, *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times*, 4th ed. (Toronto: Nelson, 2010), ch. 6.

John Constantelos, '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.

10. March 27th. Social movements.

Miriam Smith, *A Civil Society? Collective Actors in Canadian Political Life* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2005), ch. 1, 2, and 3.

Michael Orsini, 'The Politics of Naming, Blaming and Claiming: HIV, Hepatitis C and the Emergence of Blood Activism in Canada,' *CJPS*, 35:3 (September 2002), 475-98.

11. April 3rd. Groups, movements and the courts.

Lisa Vanhala, 'Disability Rights Activists in the Supreme Court of Canada: Legal Mobilization Theory and Accommodating Social Movements,' *CJPS*, 42:4 (December 2009), 981-1002.

Ian Brodie, 'Interest Group Litigation and the Embedded State: Canada's Court Challenges Program,' *CJPS*, 34:2 (June 2001), 357-76.

12. April 10th. Social media and politics.

W. Lance Bennett, 'The Personalization of Politics: Political Identity, Social Media, and Changing Patterns of Participation,' *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 644 (November 2012), 20-39.

Tamara A. Small, 'Canadian Politics in 140 Characters: Party Politics in the Twitterverse,' *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 33:3 (Autumn 2010), 39-45.

Tamara A. Small, 'E-tack 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, 2012).

13. April 17th. Make-up seminar (if necessary).

(Graduate) Statement of 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/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

