

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

POLS 9532B

Canadian Politics and Society

Winter 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Cameron D. Anderson

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OFFICE LOCATION: SSC 4140

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 2-3:30pm 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 29** (Weeks 2 and 3), **March 19** (Weeks 4 to 8) and **April 16** (Weeks 9 to 12). 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 16**.

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 8 Introduction
2. January 15 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 22 Political Culture: Recent Trends
 - Bilodeau, Antoine, Stephen White and Neil Nevitte. 2010. "The Development of Dual Loyalties: Immigrants' Integration to Canadian Regional Dynamics." Canadian Journal of Political Science 43, 3, 515-44.
 - Nevitte, N. 1996. The Decline of Deference. Peterborough: Broadview Press. (Ch. 1, 2 and 9)
 - Wiseman, N. 2007. In Search of Canadian Political Culture. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Ch. 5)
4. January 29 Political Parties: Origins and Evolution
 - Gagnon and Tanguay. 2007. Canadian Parties in Transition (3rd 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 5 Political Parties: In the contemporary period
 - Esselment, A.. 2012. "A Little Help from My Friends: The Partisan Factor and Intergovernmental Negotiations in Canada" Publius: The Journal of Federalism.
 - Gagnon and Tanguay. 2007. Canadian Parties in Transition (3rd ed). Peterborough: Broadview Press (Chapter 9)
 - Flanagan, T. 2009. Harper's Team (2nd ed.). Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. (Introduction and Chapter 8)
 - Koop, R. 2011. Grassroots Liberals: Organizing for Local and National Politics. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Introduction and Chapter 1)
6. February 12 Political Parties: Regulation and Elections
 - Gagnon and Tanguay. 2007. Canadian Parties in Transition (3rd 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 26 Elections and Voting I
 - Anderson, C. and L. Stephenson (eds.). 2010. Voting Behaviour in Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Chapters 1-5)

8. March 5 Elections and Voting II
Anderson, C. and L. Stephenson (eds.). 2010. Voting Behaviour in Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Chapters 6-11)
9. March 12 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)
10. March 19 Interest Groups
Pross, P. 1992. Group Politics and Public Policy. 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (ch. 1, 4, 5, and 6)
Pal, L. 2010. Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times. 4th ed. Toronto: Nelson (ch. 6)
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.
11. March 26 Social Movements
Smith, M. 2005. A Civil Society? Collective Actors in Canadian Political Life
Peterborough: Broadview Press. (ch. 1, 2, and 3)
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.
12. April 2 Social Media and Politics
Bennett, W. L. 2012. "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, 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-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.
13. April 9 Catch-up week (if necessary)