

Political Parties – 3316F  
Fall 2014 Course Outline

Course Instructor and Location:

Instructor: Rob Leone  
Office Hours: Thursday – 14h00 to 15h00 (please e-mail for an appointment)  
Telephone: 519-661-2111 ext. 84929  
E-Mail: [rleone@uwo.ca](mailto:rleone@uwo.ca)  
Web site: [www.robleone.com](http://www.robleone.com)

Lectures: Wednesday 12h30 to 2h20  
Classroom: SSC 4105

Course Overview & Learning Objectives:

Political parties are often considered the engines of modern democracies. They are the organizing agents of our political system as they help aggregate public opinion, select candidates for office, choose leaders, and allow for a smooth functioning of legislatures. Despite their significant institutional importance, people are losing faith in political parties, and some even argue that political parties are in decline. These negative sentiments about political parties present a major concern for democracy: if political parties are nearing the end of their period of prominence, what might replace them as organizing agents of our political system?

By the end of the course, students will meet the following learning objectives:

1. Have an understanding of what are the essential characteristics of capitalism and democracy.
2. Be exposed to the core theoretical approaches examining the relationship between them.
3. Explore critical thinking skills in light of living in a thriving capitalist democracy.
4. Consider whether alternatives to capitalism/democracy are better than what currently exists.

Course Format

- A. The instructor will lead the first half of the seminar discussion by giving the context for the day's topics.
- B. Students will lead the second half of the seminar discussion by using the assigned readings as a guideline.

Assessment of Learning

Participation:	10%
Discussion Lead:	20%
Political Choices Essay:	30%
Exam:	40%

## Expectations:

Students are expected to attend lectures, read the required readings, and complete all of their assignments to the best of their ability, on time, and honestly. The principles of Western's policy on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students should be aware of what constitutes a breach of academic honesty, and they should also be aware of other aspects of appropriate student conduct. It is expected that students attend every seminar, preferably on time.

Students who cannot complete any of the course requirements due to medical illness or bereavement are expected to follow university policies as early as possible. Students should be aware of the rules for acceptable practices in this regard.

## Participation:

Regular attendance is critical for achieving success in the class and ensuring an overall valuable experience in the course. Students are expected to be prepared for the class and to have completed their required readings before arriving to class. The students will also have opportunities to engage in discussions of a given week's topic. Course lectures and reading materials are designed to complement one another. Regular attendance of classes is essential for a successful completion of the course. This component is worth 10% of the final course grade.

## Discussion Lead:

As this is a seminar course, students will be asked to lead part of the seminar discussion by reviewing the readings assigned for the week. The goal for students is not to simply summarize the material and present it to the class. In fact, summarizing the readings should only be a small part of what you will do when you lead the discussion.

An inquiry method is what is being sought. You should read the material and come up with a set of questions associated with the material. The questions should be probing and allow both the presenter and the rest of the class to critically assess the material. Excellent seminar discussions are ones where there is a high degree of interaction between the discussion lead and the rest of class whereby each participant internalizes what the speaker is saying and offers his/her contributions. Students will select their week during the second week of class. This component is worth 20% of the final course grade.

## Political Choices Essay:

A common complaint about political parties today is that they are too similar to each other, and the fact that they are similar means that voters do not have true political choices. This has been identified as one reason why voter participation rates have been on the decline for the past several decades. However, is it true that political parties are too similar?

Students will examine whether this is in fact true. Using a variety of research methods, students will examine this question. Students can refer to texts, published public opinion polls, content analysis of political party platforms, a review of media stories, interviews and so on. The way you answer the question will be as important as the answer you give. Be creative!

The essay is **due on Wednesday, November 19, 2014**. Papers will be accepted late with a 3% per day penalty including weekends. Papers will not be accepted beyond Wednesday, December 3, 2014. They should be submitted online via OWL. Papers should be approximately 2500 to 3000 words, or 10 pages (excluding title page and bibliography), long and be written with an acceptable 11 or 12 point font with standard margins. A supplementary essay information sheet will be distributed to the class. Please check OWL and/or the instructor's web site for more information. The essay is worth 30% of the final grade.

### Final Exam:

Final exam will be scheduled for the Fall exam period. The exam will cover the entire course. Students will be provided guidance on how to prepare for the final exam during the last day of class.

### Required Textbooks:

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

Books for seminars placed on library reserve.

- o William Cross, *Political Parties* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004).
- o R. Kenneth Carty, William Cross, and Lisa Young, *Rebuilding Canadian Party Politics* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2000). [Hereafter referred to as Carty].
- o Jon H. Pammet and Christopher Dornan (eds.), *The Canadian General Election of 2008* (Toronto: The Dundurn Group, 2009).
- o Lisa Young and Keith Archer, eds., *Regionalism and Party Politics in Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- o William Cross, ed., *Political Parties, Representation, and Electoral Democracy in Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- o James Bickerton, Alain-G. Gagnon, and Patrick J. Smith, *Ties That Bind: Parties and Voters in Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1999).
- o Nelson Wiseman, *In Search of Canadian Political Culture* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007).
- o Hugh G. Thorburn and Alan Whitehorn, eds., *Party Politics in Canada* 8th ed. (Toronto: Prentice Hall, 2001).

### Schedule of Lectures:

#### **Week 1 – September 10**

*Introduction to the Course*

#### **Week 2 – September 17**

*Origins of Canada's Parties*

- o GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapter 1
- o THORBORN AND WHITEHORN, Chapters 1 and 2.

### **Week 3 – September 24**

#### *Context of the Party System*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chap. 3;
- CARTY, Chapter. 2
- CROSS, ed. Chap. 2
- BICKERTON, GAGNON, AND SMITH, pp. 8-13)

### **Week 4 – October 1**

#### *Ideology and Parties*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapter 2 and 12

### **Week 5 – October 8**

#### *Party Leaders, Members, Candidates, and Supporters*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chap. 9
- CARTY, Chapter 8 and pp. 121-9
- CROSS, ed., Chapters 3 and 4

### **Week 6 – October 15**

#### *Media and Marketing Parties*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapters 16 and 17
- PAMMET AND DORAN, Chapters 6 and 7
- CARTY, Chapter 10
- CROSS, ed., Chapter 14
- BICKERTON, GAGNON, AND SMITH, Chapter 7

### **Week 7 – October 22**

#### *The Electoral System and Parties*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapters 13 and 14
- CROSS, ed., Chapter 8

### **Week 8 – October 29**

#### *Polling and Voting*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapters 7 and 21
- PAMMET AND DORAN, Chapters 8 and 9;
- BICKERTON, GAGNON, AND SMITH, Chapter 1
- CROSS, ed., Chapter 5

### **Week 9 – November 5**

#### *Money and Parties*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapter 15
- CARTY, Chapter 7
- CROSS, ed., Chapter 9
- CROSS, Chapter 7

### **Week 10 – November 12**

#### *Interests, Representation, and Parties*

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapters 8, 10, 18
- CARTY, Chapter 5
- CROSS, ed., Chapter 12

**Week 11 – November 19**

## Regionalism and Parties

- GAGNON AND TANGUAY, Chapter 19
- YOUNG AND ARCHER, Chapters 3, 6 and 11
- BICKERTON, GAGNON, AND SMITH, pp. 15-20;
- CROSS, Chapter 13

**Week 12 – November 26***Ontario Party Politics*

- THORBORN AND WHITEHORN, Chapter 24
- YOUNG AND ARCHER, Chapter 8
- CROSS, ed., Chapter 10
- WISEMAN, Chapter 8

**Week 13 – December 3***Concluding Thoughts and Exam Review*

## **APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

### **Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

### **Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

### **Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- o the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- o the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** refer to current Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>)

"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

### **Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

### **Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

### **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> ."

## Submission of Course Requirements

**ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.**

**THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

*Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>*

**Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.**

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

*Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>*

## **PLAGARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

### **B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History  
August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.