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*School of Arts & Science*  
*Social Sciences Department*

*Political Science 106*  
*Canadian Politics*

*Winter, 2004*

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### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to describe and explain and in some cases critically assess:

- (a) the nature of politics, government, and the state, with special reference to Canada,
- (b) the basics of the executive branch of government – the formal, political, and non-political elements, with special reference to the Prime Minister and the cabinet,
- (c) the basics of Parliament – its elements, functions, procedures, and problems,
- (d) the basics of the public service – its elements, functions, processes, and problems,
- (e) the basics of the justice system – types of law, the courts, the administration of justice, and the Charter,
- (f) the basics of political parties – their roots, ideologies, financing, leadership selection, and campaigning,
- (g) the basics of the electoral system, and possible alternatives, as well as the role of the press.

### **Required Texts**

Mark Charlton & Paul Barker

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POLITICAL SCIENCE 106 WINTER 2004

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	<i>Contemporary Political Issues</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> Edition, Thomson/Nelson, 2002
Rand Dyck	<i>Canadian Politics</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> Edition, Thomson/Nelson, 2004

## **Method of Instruction**

The course will be based on a series of lectures, followed by seminar-type discussions in which the students are urged to participate.

## **Basis of Student Assessment**

Evaluation will be based on two in-class examinations, each accounting for fifty percent of the final grade. Each examination will consist of one essay question, selected by the student from a choice of two questions chosen at the time of the exam, and will cover material from the readings, lectures, and discussions. All examinations will be graded anonymously and on the basis of their content quality and English proficiency.

In evaluating the examination papers the emphasis will be on understanding and analysis, rather than recitation of facts. Avoid memorizing sentences, in particular when it is not clear to you what the sentences mean. Papers indicating memorization will receive a grade of Zero. As for analysis, your learning strategy should be to understand the relationships among facts, not the facts alone. Another important aspect of your paper is illustration. After discussion and analysis, give examples from current or historical developments. This will show that you understand the concepts and theories and are able to apply them to the Canadian political system as tools for analysis. More specifically, the exam paper must:

1. show a full understanding of the thesis and the main arguments of the topic;
2. cover all the major components of the topic;
3. be organized and cohesive;
4. be written in clear English and communicate ideas effectively;
5. focus on the topic and avoid unrelated material from other topics or elsewhere;
6. avoid “fillers”, padding, repetitions, and vague generalities which can be used for any exam topic; and
7. illustrate the theory by giving appropriate examples, thus “applying” the theory to the Canadian political system.

## **Examination Procedures**

The date of the first examination will be chosen in consultation with students in order to minimize the chances of their having to write several examinations in the same week. The final examination will be held during the exam week. All examinations must be written in the section of the course in which the student is officially registered.

A grade of Zero will be granted for absence during examination, unless the student produces a medical certificate confirming serious illness and writes the substitute exam within one week of recovery.

The examination paper for the first examination must be claimed by the student in person during the class session in which the papers are returned or the following session.

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## Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	I = See Calendar for Details
B+ = 80 - 85%	C = 60 - 64%	AUD = Audit

*W = Official withdrawal has taken place.*

## Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- (i) giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized information during any type of examination or test;
- (ii) obtaining or providing unauthorized questions or answers relating to any examination or test prior to the time of the examination or test;
- (iii) asking or arranging for another person to take any examination or test in one's place;
- (iv) plagiarizing, that is, appropriating the work of another or parts or passages of another's writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as a product of one's own mind or manual skill.

Academic misconduct will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course. The students should note that in accordance with the college policy quoted above, mere access to unauthorized information (for example, texts or lecture notes) constitutes academic misconduct. It is not necessary for the instructor to prove that the information has been used by the student.

## Tape-Recording in the Classroom

In order to ensure free and open discussion of controversial ideas by the students, tape-recording of the proceedings is not permitted in class. Exceptions, however, will be made for students who are visually impaired or are unable to write due to physical disability.

## Procedure Changes

In order to deal with the day-to-day management of the course, new procedures or revisions to procedures may be implemented from time to time throughout the semester. Such procedures and revisions will be announced in class for two consecutive sessions before they are implemented. It is the responsibility of each student to keep informed of such developments.

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All matters that are not covered by this course outline are governed by official college policies and procedures.

## **Course Content and Study Guide**

Lectures will focus on explaining and answering the following topics and questions. These topics and questions, in turn, will constitute the source from which the examination questions will be chosen through a random selection process at the time of the exam.

1. Examine the concept of “the political system,” and explain the various approaches to the study of politics, namely the pluralist, the public choice, the class analysis, the state-centred, the globalization, and an amalgam approaches. Dyck 03-22.
2. Examine the institutional foundations and the evolution of the state with reference to early settlement and political institutions, the road to Confederation, fusing the British parliamentary system with American federalism, principles of the Canadian constitution, the road to Canadian sovereignty, and the changing role of the state. Dyck 25-40
3. Examine the traditional Canadian political culture with reference to democracy, distinguishing between Canadian and American values, and other basic values. Dyck 209-221
4. Examine Canada’s changing political culture, “limited identities,” and subcultures in Canada with reference to regional and provincial, ethnic, class, and other subcultures, and explain the nature and extent of political participation in Canadian politics—both electoral and non-electoral. Dyck 221-233
5. Discuss the question of whether the political culture of Canada is becoming Americanized. Charlton 02-37
6. Examine the process of political socialization, the agents of political socialization, and in particular the role of the mass media and public opinion polls in shaping public opinion and policy decisions. Dyck 239-261
7. Explain and evaluate the electoral system and elections in Canada with reference to drawing of the electoral map, the official election machinery, the discrepancies between seats and votes, financing elections, and in particular the role of corporations. Dyck 267-289
8. Discuss the question of whether Canada should adopt proportional representation. Charlton 290-315
9. Discuss the question of whether referendums do enrich democracy. Charlton 316-336
10. Discuss the question of whether “dirty hands” are necessary in politics. Charlton 337-356

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11. Review the historical evolution of Canadian parties, the interpretations of the Canadian party system, party organization, and party ideology. Dyck 293-323
  12. Discuss the question of whether Canadians are tory-touched liberals. Charlton 54-77
  13. Discuss the question of whether party discipline should be relaxed. Charlton 221-234
  14. Examine the process of voting and election campaign with reference to the national party campaign, election strategy and platform, advertising and media news coverage, and explain Canadian voting behaviour with reference to sociodemographic bases of party support, core values and beliefs, party identification, the issues, leadership, and strategic voting. Dyck 329-345
  15. Examine the role of pressure groups and lobbying in Canadian politics with reference to the array of Canadian and foreign interest groups, targets and methods of pressure group activity, group resources and determinants of success, and the process of lobbying and its negative impact on democracy. Dyck 349-375
  16. Examine the policymaking process and policy instruments with reference to policy initiation, priority-setting, policy formulation, legitimation, implementation, interpretation, privatization of conflict, symbolic response, exhortation, regulation, and state of emergency. Dyck 477-491
  17. Examine the role of the Executive in Canadian political system with reference to the Crown, the Governor General, sources of the Crown's powers, discretionary powers of the Crown, advantages and disadvantages of monarchy, powers of the prime minister and cabinet, the prime minister, composition and operation of the cabinet, and central agencies. Dyck 495-526
  18. Discuss the question of whether the prime minister is too powerful. Charlton 186-220
  19. Examine the functions and powers of the bureaucracy with reference to government departments, the merit principle and a representative bureaucracy, political activity, collective bargaining, departmental interaction with provinces and pressure groups, crown corporations, controlling the bureaucracy, and dysfunctions and reform of bureaucracy. Dyck 533-564
  20. Examine the functions and powers of the House of Commons and the Senate with reference to the composition of the Commons, the parliamentary timetable, party discipline, stages and kinds of legislation, organization and officers of the Commons, roles of members of parliament, the government-opposition balance, minority government, purposes and powers of the Senate, composition and operation of the Senate, and the question of Senate reform. Dyck 571-606
  21. Discuss the question of whether representation in Parliament should mirror Canada's social diversity. Charlton 252-281

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22. Examine the role of the judiciary with reference to the function of adjudication, categories of laws, structure of the courts, the Supreme Court of Canada, the appointment of judges, and removal and independence of judges. Dyck 611-631
  23. Discuss the question of whether the courts engage in a dialogue with the legislatures. Charlton 235-249
  24. Examine the question of strengthening Canadian democracy with reference to party and election finance, lobbying, ethical behaviour, patronage, access to information, party discipline in the House of Commons, the electoral system, the mass media, prime ministerial government, and the impact of globalization on democracy. Dyck 637-646

### **Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed in the Course**

Students are encouraged to utilize support services available at the Writing Centre to prepare for their essay exams.

#### **LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

#### **ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY**

There is a Student Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

[www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8)