
School of Arts & Science
Social Sciences Department

Political Science 104
Canadian Government

Fall, 2004

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @

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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 geographical, historical, social, and international context of the Canadian political system;
- (c) the fundamental elements of the constitution, including its evolution;
- (d) federalism, including federal-provincial tensions;
- (e) the tensions between nationalism and regionalism, with special reference to Quebec and Western alienation.

Required Text

Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy: An Introduction* Fourth Edition
Oxford University Press, 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 three in-class examinations, each accounting for one-third 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 dates of the first and second examinations 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 papers for the first and second examinations must be claimed by the student in person during the class session in which the papers are returned or the following session.

Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%

B = 75 - 79%

D = 50 - 59%

A = 90 - 94%

A- = 85 - 89%

B+ = 80 - 85%

B- = 70 - 74%

C+ = 65 - 69%

C = 60 - 64%

F = 0.0 - 49%

I = See Calendar for Details

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.

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.

Introduction

00. A general introduction to political concepts, including politics, power, state, government, democracy, political identities, and political fault lines. 03-22

The Societal Context of Politics

01. Examine the ideological and institutional roots of Canadian politics with reference to ideologies, values, and institutions; collectivism versus individualism; fragment theory; formative events of Counter-Revolution and the Conquest; and the relationship between economic structures and political ideas. 27-42
02. Examine the political ideas of Canadians with reference to the concept of community, political violence, public attitudes, freedom, equality, and citizen expectations of government. 42-64
03. Examine the social and economic setting of Canadian politics with reference to material well-being, social and economic equality, quality of life, and political independence. 69-90
04. Examine the problem of regionalism within Canadian politics with reference to the persistence of regionalism, economic regions, cultural regions, regional identities and Western alienation. 95-114

The Structures of Governance

05. Examine the key features of the Canadian Constitution with reference to functions of the Constitution in assuring democratic representation, establishing and limiting the state power, and assuring the basic right of citizens to choose their government; establishment of a sense of community, identity, and national purpose; mandating the principles of federalism, democracy, the rule of law, and protection of minorities; and protecting fundamental freedoms, democratic rights, and legal, equality, and language rights. 119-130
06. Examine the key features of the Canadian Constitution in defining the role of the Parliament, establishing the principles of responsible government and ministerial responsibility, parliamentary supremacy, judicial independence and separation of powers, defining the relations between the House of Commons and the Senate, providing the formula for amending the Constitution (before and after 1982), and allowing for citizen participation in constitutional reform. 130-147

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07. Examine the controversies associated with rights and freedoms and the impact of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms on Canadian politics, with special reference to the meaning of rights and freedoms, the origins of rights, the pre-Charter era rights, the Charter and constitutional supremacy, the 'reasonable limits' on rights, the 'notwithstanding' clause, and the application of the Charter by the courts with regard to individual rights and freedoms and equality before the law. 153-177
 08. Examine the major issues associated with federalism, including the meaning of federalism, the origins, maintenance and demise of federal states, the origins of Canadian federalism, the federal division of powers, the courts and federalism, Quebec's impact on federalism, center-periphery relations, intergovernmental relations, financing federalism, and the federal spending powers and national standards. 183-213
 09. Examine the key components of the machinery of government, including the monarch and Governor-General, the Prime Minister and cabinet, central agencies, the bureaucracy, departments, public enterprise, regulatory agencies, the legislature, the influence and activities of MPs, the courts, and the question of how a law is passed. 217-257

Participation in Politics

10. Examine the characteristics and influence of political parties and elections in Canadian political life, including the origins and evolution of Canada's party system, brokerage politics, the role of minor parties, whether the party system is undergoing fundamental realignment, the electoral system and its consequences, and party finances and special interests. 263-292
11. Examine the characteristics of interest groups and the role they play in Canadian politics, including the diversity of the groups and the interests they represent, the bias of the interest group system, perspectives on interest groups, ingredients of interest group success, the impact of federalism on interest groups, strategies for influence, advocacy advertising, and the role of lobbying and lobbyists. 297-322
12. Examine the following aspects of media influence on politics: shaping the political agenda, what do the media produce, what determines the mass media product, the economic filter, the technological filter, the legal-regulatory filter, the organizational filter, the ideological filter, and the role of the media in a democratic society. 329-350

Contemporary Issues in Canadian Political Life

13. Explain why language and the status of Quebec are such prominent issues in Canada and examine the chief aspects of federal and Quebec language policies, including the demographics of language politics, the shift from French-Canadian

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- nationalism to Quebec nationalism, the Quiet Revolution and its legacy, language policy in Quebec, federal language policy, and the question of whether Quebec is a distinct society. 355-380
14. Examine the politics of diversity in Canada with special attention to the following issues: the changing ethnic character of Canadian society, the institutionalization of diversity, the political representation of ethnic groups, the extent and causes of female under-representation in politics, early and contemporary feminism, strategies of the women's movement, feminist achievements, and attitudes regarding gender. 385-416
 15. Examine Canada's place in the world, focusing on the possibilities available to, and limits on, Canada's policy-makers, and with special reference to the following: how Canadians view their place in the world, how the world sees Canada and Canadians, the meaning of globalization, the consequences of globalization, globalization and the intensification of Canadian-American relations, the asymmetrical relationship between Canada and the United States, implications of more integration with the United States, multilateralism versus the tug of continentalism, and the question of whether Canada constitutes a 'soft power' in world politics. 423-443

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