

POLI 202 – The Government of Canada

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Office: A225, Arts Building

Office Hours: Thursday, 3-5 PM

Teaching Assistant:

TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to Canadian politics. It offers essential knowledge of topics such as the Canadian Constitution, Canadian political institutions, the electoral environment in Canada, interest groups, and ongoing debates that animate Canadian public life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the term, students will:

1. Develop an understanding of the institutions that structure and influence Canadian politics;
2. Develop an understanding of the debates surrounding Canada's Constitution and how they affect Canadian politics today;
3. Develop an understanding of the actors and features of electoral competition in Canada.

ONLINE LEARNING

This class takes place online. More specifically, this class takes place asynchronously. This means that the class will not be live. Class content will be released on the Monday mornings at 8:00 AM, and students can consult the content during the week whenever this is convenient. This strategy is adopted to give students more flexibility in attending the class according to their needs and availability. This is especially important given the large number of students in the class and the fact that many students are attending remotely and may live in different timezones.

One exception to this rule consists of the midterm and the final exam, which will take place during dedicated time periods.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

James Bickerton and Alain-G. Gagnon. 2020. *Canadian Politics, Seventh Edition*. University of Toronto Press. 527 pages.

CANVAS

CANVAS will be used extensively during this class. The lectures will be posted on a weekly basis. Announcements pertaining to class will also be posted on CANVAS. Weekly quizzes, exams, and office hours will also rely on Canvas. In fact, most of the class will interact with Canvas in one way or another. You are thus encouraged to consult the learning portal on a regular basis. Doing so is your responsibility.

READINGS AND ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Required readings constitute an essential component of the learning process. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that the readings are completed before the corresponding class. The textbook and other readings can be found in the university bookstore.

Recommended readings can help students learn more about the literature on Canadian politics if they are so interested. However, they are not required to do well in the class.

Additional online content will also be provided via CANVAS to supplement student learning via videos, documentaries, and other online sources.

GRADING SCHEME	%	DATE
Midterm 1	45	October 25 th , 2021
Final Exam	45	As scheduled by UBC
Quizzes	10	On a weekly basis

EXAMS

The midterm will be scheduled on the Monday from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM on October 25th, 2021. Midterms submitted past the deadline will be penalized at the rate of **1 point of percentage per minute of lateness**.

The midterm and final exam will be open book. However, students should be warned that they will have limited time to complete the exam. Consequently, studying beforehand and preparing efficient notes is highly recommended. The midterm will cover the course material that immediately precedes them. The final exam will cover the content learned since the previous midterm.

Alternate sittings of the midterm and final exam will not be arranged, except as required by UBC-Okanagan regulations. If you miss the mid-terms and/or final exam, a make-up arrangement will be provided only with documented extenuating circumstances provided within 2 weeks of the missed exam. Missing an exam for any other reason – oversleeping; work; traffic; plane ticket booked for extended reading break; mistaking the exam's time, date, or location; etc. – will not be accepted as legitimate excuses. In such cases, a make-up will not be offered, and a grade of zero for the exam will be assigned. If you come late to an exam, you will be given only the time remaining in the exam. Students must understand that many students may need a make-up arrangement at the same time and must be flexible with their schedule to accommodate the exam invigilator as well as other students.

QUIZZES

Each week, a quiz will be released on CANVAS. The quiz will review notions covered in the class material. The average of all quizzes will count for a total of 10 points overall. Each quiz will have to be completed before the next Sunday at midnight.

Just like in the case of exams, missing quizzes for reasons such as oversleeping; work; traffic; booked plane ticket; etc.; will not be accepted as legitimate excuses.

EXTRA CREDIT

There is no opportunity for extra credit or remedial assignments in this class.

CONTACT

Office hours will take place on the Thursday, from 3 to 5 PM. You are required to schedule office hours via the CANVAS system. Registration will close at midnight on the previous day, so you are advised to register ahead of time.

Otherwise, the best way to contact me is by email. You should indicate the course code in the topic line in order to facilitate a timely response.

Instructions on booking appointments on CANVAS:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-sign-up-for-a-Scheduler-appointment-in-the-Calendar/ta-p/536>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at

<http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.

CIVILITY

Political issues frequently confront our deepest values, emotions and convictions. How we think about and approach politics reflects our individual characteristics, whether they are socioeconomic, class, gender or cultural backgrounds. Studying political science requires some self-reflection and you will sometimes need to face your personal biases. Also, discussions concerning value-based topics such as some of the political issues we will be discussing can bring up heated debates and differences of opinions, stereotyping, emotional heat, and animosity. In this class, we seek understanding by way of measured, critical engagement. Such a search precludes: preaching, proselytizing, moralizing, pontificating, propagandizing, or campaigning, no matter what perspectives or commitments foster these activities. While the class will require you to be critical, it also obliges you to respect the views of others, with particular attention to the integrity of their intellect as well as your own. A search is an orderly activity that requires rules of engagement. If you do not believe you can follow the ones outlined here, you are best advised to seek a different course to fulfil your credit requirements.

Please also be aware of UBC's student code of conduct :

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,54,1030,0>

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN ABOUT ONLINE TEACHING AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

UBC OKANAGAN DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities, injuries or illness. If you are disabled, have an injury or illness and require academic accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact Earllene Roberts, the Diversity Advisor for the Disability Resource Centre located in Commons Corner in the University Centre building (UNC 227).

UNC 227A 250.807.9263 email

earllene.roberts@ubc.ca

Web: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/drc

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

This syllabus is tentative. Changes may be made during the semester. If this occurs, students will be informed ahead of time.

Course Plan

Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview (Week of September 13th)

SECTION 1: The Institutions of Canadian Politics (Legislative, Executive, Judiciary)

Week 2: The Legislature (Week of September 20th)

Required:

- Textbook, chapters 4 and 5.

Recommended:

- David C. Docherty. 2011. *Legislatures*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. Chapter 1.
- Christopher Kam. 2009. *Party Discipline and Parliamentary Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press Chapter 1.

- Jennifer Smith. 2003. "Debating the Reform of Canada's Parliament," in F. Leslie Seidle and David C. Docherty, eds., *Reforming Parliamentary Democracy*. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP, 150-167.
- Jonathan Malloy. 2002. "The 'Responsible Government Approach' and its Effect on Canadian Legislative Studies," *Parliamentary Perspectives*, No 5.
- Peter H. Russell. 2008. *Two cheers for minority government: the evolution of Canadian parliamentary democracy*. Emond Montgomery Publication.
- Sharon Sutherland. 1991. "Responsible Government and Ministerial Responsibility: Every Reform is its own Problem." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 24 (1): 91-120.
- Stuart Soroka, Erin Penner and Kelly Blidook. 2009. "Constituency Influence in Parliament." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 42 (3): 563-91.

Week 3: Cabinet and the Centralization of Power (Week of September 27th)

Required:

- Textbook, chapter 3

Recommended:

- Donald Savoie. 1999. *Governing from the Centre: The Concentration of Power in Canadian Politics*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, chapter 10.
- Donald Savoie, 2008. *Court Government and the Collapse of Accountability in Canada and the United Kingdom*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, chapter 10.
- Graham White. 2005. *Cabinets and First Ministers*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, chapters 2 and 3.
- H.D. Munroe. 2011. "Style within the centre: Pierre Trudeau, the War Measures Act, and the nature of prime ministerial power." *Canadian Public Administration* 54 (4): 531-49.

Week 4: The Courts and the Charter (Week of October 4th)

Required:

- Textbook, chapter 9

Recommended:

- Lori Hausegger, Matthew Hennigar and Try Riddell. 2009. *Canadian Courts: Law, Politics and Process*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 11.
- James B. Kelly and Christopher P. Manfredi. 2009. *Contested Constitutionalism: Reflections on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia.
- Miriam Smith. 2002. "Ghosts of the judicial committee of the privy council: Group politics and charter litigation in Canadian political science." *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique* 35 (1): 3-29.
- Rainer Knopff and Frederick L. Morton. 2000. *The Charter Revolution and the Court Party*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, Chapters 3 and 4.
- Donald Songer. 2008. *The Transformation of the Supreme Court of Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Chapter 1.

October 11th: Class cancelled due to Thanksgiving.

Week 5: Public administration (October 18th)

Required:

- Textbook, Chapter 9

Recommended:

- Aucoin, Peter. 1995. *The New Public Management: Canada in a Comparative Perspective*. Montreal: Institute for research on Public Policy.
- Dunn, Christopher. Ed. 2020. *The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.
- Lindquist, Evert. 2009. *There's More to Policy than Alignment*. Ottawa: Canadian Policy research Networks.
- Niskanen, William A. 1994. *Bureaucracy and Representative Government*. Chicago: Aldine-Atherton.
- Thomas, Paul G. 1997. "Ministerial responsibility and Administrative Accountability." In *New Public Management and Public Administration in Canada*, eds. M. Charih and Arthur Daniels, 141-164. Toronto: Institute of Public Administration in Canada.
- Thomas, Paul G. 2009. "Trust, Leadership and Accountability in Canada's Public Sector." In *Evolving Physiology of Government: Canadian Public Administration in Transition*, eds. O.P. Dwivedi, T. Mau, and B. Sheldrick, 215-48. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press.
- Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*. New York: Basic Books.

Week 6: Midterm 1 (Week of October 25th)

The midterm will take place on February 11th, from 9:30-11:00 AM. You will have the rest of the week to study and prepare for the exam.

SECTION 2: Managing Regional Differences: Federalism, Nationalism, and Political Culture

Week 7: Federalism (Week of November 1st)

Required:

- Textbook, chapter 8

Recommended:

- Dara Lithwick. 2015. "À pas de deux: The Division of Federal and Provincial Legislative Powers in Sections 91 and 92 of the Constitution Act, 1867." Parliamentary Library.
- Broschek, Jörg, 2014. "Pathways of federal reform: Australia, Canada, Germany, and Switzerland". *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, 45:51-76
- Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad. 2008. *Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness and Legitimacy 2nd ed.* Toronto: Oxford University Press., chapter 18.

- Samuel V. LaSelva. 1996. *The Moral Foundations of Canadian Federalism*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press, chapter 10.

BREAK: Week of November 8th

Week 8: Constitutional Politics and Quebec (Week of November 15th)

Required:

- Textbook, chapters 2 and 10

Recommended:

- Kenneth McRoberts. 1997. *Misconceiving Canada: The struggle for national unity*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.
- Peter Russell. 2004. *Constitutional Odyssey: Can Canadians Become a Sovereign people? 3rd ed.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Chapter 12.
- Daniel Bédard and André Lecours. 2006. "Sub-state Nationalism and the Welfare State: Quebec and Canadian Federalism." *Nations and Nationalism* 12(1): 77-96.
- Jocelyn Maclure. 2004. "Narratives and Counter-Narratives of Identity in Quebec." in Alain- G. Gagnon, *Quebec: State and Society, 3rd ed.* Peterborough: Broadview Press, pp: 33- 50.
- Richard Simeon. 2009. "Debating Secession Peacefully and Democratically: The Case of Canada." in Alfred Stepan, ed. *Democracies in Danger*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Supreme Court of Canada, *Reference re the Secession of Quebec*. [1998] 2 S.C. R. 217
- François Rocher and Nadia Verrrelli. 2003. "Questioning constitutional democracy in Canada: From the Canadian Supreme Court reference on Quebec secession to the Clarity Act." In Alain-G. Gagnon, Montserrat Guibernau, and François Rocher, editors, *The Conditions of Diversity in Multinational Democracies*, pages 1-14. Montreal: The Institute for Research on Public Policy.
- Ian Greene. 2004. "Constitutional Amendment in Canada and the United States," in Stephen L. Newman, ed. *Constitutional Politics in Canada and the United States*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Janet Ajzenstat, Paul Romney, Ian Gentles, and William D. Gairdner. 1999. *Canada's Founding Debates*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Conclusion.
- Kenneth McRoberts. 1993. "Disagreeing on Fundamentals: English Canada and Quebec." in McRoberts and Patrick Monahan, eds, *The Charlottetown Accord, The Referendum and the Future of Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press: 249-63.

Week 9: Regional Political Culture (Week of November 22nd)

Required:

- Textbook, chapter 11
- Nelson Wiseman. 2007. *In Search of Canadian Political Culture*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. Chapter 1.

Recommended:

- Ailsa Henderson. 2004. "Regional Political Cultures in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 37 (3): 595-615.
- Christopher Cochrane and Andrea Perrella. 2012. "Regions, Regionalism and Regional Differences in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 45(4): 829-853.
- Gad Horowitz. 1966. "Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism in Canada." In *Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science* 32 (2): 143-71.
- Ian Stewart. 2002. "Vanishing Points: Three Paradoxes of Political Culture Research." in Joanna Everitt and Brenda O'Neill, eds., *Citizen Politics: Research and Theory in Canadian Political Behaviour*. Toronto: Oxford University Press: 21-39.
- Neil Nevitte. 1996. *The Decline of Deference: Canadian Value Change in Cross-national Perspective*. Peterborough: Broadview, Chapter 9.
- Richard Simeon and David Elkins. 1974. "Regional Political Cultures in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 7 (3): 397-437.
- Richard Simeon and David Elkins. 1980. "Provincial Political Cultures in Canada", in David Elkins and Richard Simeon (eds.) *Small Worlds: Provinces and Parties in Canadian Political Life*. Toronto: Taylor & Francis, pp. 31-76.
- Richard Simeon and Donald D. Blake. 1980. "Regional Preferences: Citizens' Views of Public Policy." in David Elkins and Richard Simeon (eds.) *Small Worlds: Provinces and Parties in Canadian Political Life*. Toronto: Methuen Toronto. pp. 77-105.
- Richard Simeon. 1975. "Regionalism and Canadian Political Institutions", *Queen's Quarterly* 82 (4): 499-511.
- Wesley, Jared J. 2011. *Code politics: Campaigns and cultures on the Canadian prairies*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

SECTION 3: Political Representation

Week 11: Political Parties and Voting Behaviour in Canada (Week of November 29th)

Required:

- Textbook, chapter 13

Recommended:

- Kenneth Carty, William Cross and Lisa Young. 2000. *Rebuilding Canadian Party Politics*. Vancouver: UBC Press. Chapter 10.
- Elisabeth Gidengil, Neil Nevitte, André Blais, Joanna Everitt, and Patrick Fournier. *Dominance and decline: Making sense of recent Canadian elections*. University of Toronto Press, 2012. Chapter 11.
- James Bickerton. 2014. "Competing for Power: Parties and Elections in Canada," in *Canadian Politics*. James Bickerton and Alain-G. Gagnon (eds.) Toronto: University of Toronto Press. pp. 249-279.
- Lisa Young. 1998. "Party, State and Political Competition in Canada: The Cartel Model Reconsidered." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 31 (2): 339-58.
- Richard Johnston, André Blais, Henry Brady, and Jean Crête. 1992. *Letting the People Decide*. Montreal: MQUP. Chapter 2.

- Antoine Bilodeau and Mebs Kanji. 2010. "The New Immigrant Voter, 1965-2004: The Emergence of a New Liberal Partisan?" in *Voting Behaviour in Canada*. Cameron D. Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson. (eds.) Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press
- Bartels, Larry M. 2010. "The study of electoral behavior." *The Oxford handbook of American elections and political behavior* pp. 239–261.
- Blais, André. 2005. Accounting for the Electoral Success of the Liberal Party in Canada: Presidential Address to the Canadian Political Science Association, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, Vol.38, pp. 821-840.
- Cameron D. Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson. 2010. "Reflecting on Lessons from the Canadian Voter." In *Voting Behaviour in Canada*. Cameron D. Anderson and Laura B. Stephenson. (eds.) Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. Chapter 11.
- Johnston, Richard. 2006. "Party identification: Unmoved mover or sum of preferences?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 329-351.

Week 12: The electoral system (Week of December 6th)

Required:

- Textbook, chapter 14
- André Blais and Louis Massicotte. 2002. "Electoral Systems", in *Comparing Democracies 2: New Challenges in the Study of Elections and Voting*, Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris (eds.), London, Sage. (p. 40-69)

Recommended:

- Andre Barnes, Dara Lithwick and Erin Virgint. 2016. Electoral Systems and Electoral Reform in Canada and Elsewhere: An Overview. *Library of Parliament*.
- Alan C. Cairns. 1968. "The Electoral System and the Party System in Canada, 1921-1965." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 1 (1): 55–80.
- Karina Gould. 2017. Government Response to the committee. House of Commons.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1994. "Democracies: Forms, performance, and constitutional engineering." *European Journal of Political Research* 25:1-17
- Special Committee on Electoral Reform. 2016. *Strengthening Democracy in Canada: Principles, Process and Public Engagement for Electoral Reform*. House of Commons.

Final Examination (As scheduled by UBC)