

	POLITICAL SCIENCE 2800: INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT
	DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY WINTER 2012

Instructor: James Baker E-mail: jbaker@mun.ca (please use PS2800 in the subject line) Office Location: SN-2047	Class Times: M 7:00-9:30PM Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-5:30PM Classroom: ED1014
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TEXTBOOKS:

Dyck, R. (2011). *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* (6th ed). Toronto: Nelson Education (\$102.95 in the MUN bookstore – Used copies **may** be available). **N.B.: DO NOT purchase the concise edition.**

OTHER READINGS AVAILABLE ON D2L: <https://online.mun.ca>

<u>EVALUATION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
MIDTERM EXAM	20%	February 27, 2012
ESSAY	30%	February 13, 2012
PARTICIPATION	10%	Ongoing throughout the semester
FINAL EXAM	40%	TBD by Registrar's Office
*SECOND CHANCE		April 2, 2012 - for students receiving less than 60% in the essay.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a basic introduction to the structure and operations of the Canadian political system. It covers both the institutional aspects (Constitution, federalism, the executive, Parliament, judiciary, etc) as well as sociological aspects (minorities, gender, class, Francophone communities, Aboriginal groups, etc).

COURSE OVERVIEW:

January 9	<p style="text-align: center;">COURSE OVERVIEW</p> <p>Chapter 1: The Study of Politics</p> <p>Gerhard Göhler (2009) "Power to' and Power over'" in Stewart R. Clegg and Mark Haugaard, eds., <i>The SAGE Handbook of Power</i>. Thousand Oaks: Sage. pps. 27-32.</p> <p>Chapter 2: Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State (pps. 27-32)</p> <p>VIDEO: John A: Birth of a Country (First Half)</p>
January 16	<p>VIDEO: John A: Birth of a Country (Second Half)</p> <p>Chapter 2: Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State (pps. 37-44)</p> <p>Pierson, Christopher. (2004) <i>The Modern State</i>. Second Edition. New York: Routledge. pps 5-26</p> <p>Chapter 3: Regionalism (pps. 62-72)</p> <p>Feehan, James and Melvin Baker. 2010. "The Churchill Falls contract and why Newfoundlanders can't get over it." <i>Policy Options</i>. Vol. 31, No. 8: 65-70.</p> <p>Chapter 18: The Provinces and the Federal System (pps. 473-483)</p>
January 23	<p>Chapter 4: Aboriginal Peoples</p> <p>Olthuis, John, Roger Townshend, and Thomas Flanagan. 2006. "Can Native sovereignty coexist with Canadian sovereignty?" in Charlton, Mark and Paul Barker (Eds) <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i>. Fifth Edition. Toronto: Thomson-Nelson. pps. 38-54.</p> <p>Chapter 5: French Canada and the Quebec Question</p>
January 30	<p style="text-align: center;">DIVERSITY PRESENTATION (7-7:50)</p> <p>Chapter 6: Ethnocultural Minorities</p> <p>Mazurek, Kas. 1992. "Defusing a radical social policy: The undermining of multiculturalism" In Hryniuk, Stella (Ed) <i>Twenty years of multiculturalism: Successes and failures</i>. Winnipeg: St. John's College Press. pps. 17-28.</p>
February 6	<p>Chapter 7: Gender</p> <p>Trimble, Linda and Jane Arscott. 2003. <i>Still Counting: Women in Politics Across Canada</i>. Peterborough: Broadview Press. pps. 42-68.</p> <p>Chapter 8: Class</p>

February 13	Chapter 11: The Canadian Political Culture Chapter 10: Canada's External Environment (pps. 237-241) Nesbitt-Larking, Paul. 2002. "Canadian Political Culture: The Problem of Americanization" in Mark Charlton and Paul Barker, eds., <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i> . Fourth Edition. Toronto: Thomson-Nelson. ESSAY DUE THIS WEEK
February 20	MIDTERM BREAK
February 27	MIDTERM EXAM THIS WEEK (7-8:15) Chapter 12: Political Socialization, the Mass Media and Public Opinion Polls (pps. 281-297)
March 5	Chapter 13: Elections and the Electoral System Chapter 14: Political Parties and the Party System (pps. 337-351)
March 12	Chapter 18: The Provinces and the Federal System (pps. 461-473) Chapter 17: The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change Chapter 19: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms Dunn, Christopher. 1996. <i>Canadian Political Debates</i> . Toronto: Oxford University Press. pps. 68-110.
March 19	Chapter 20: The Policymaking Process and Policy Instruments Adelman, Howard. 1991. <i>Refugee Policy: Canada and the United States</i> . Toronto: York University Press. pps. 172-223. Chapter 21: The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet
March 26	Chapter 22: The Bureaucracy MacDonald, Flora (1994) "The Minister and the Mandarins" in Mark Charlton and Paul Barker, eds., <i>Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues</i> . Second Edition. Toronto: Thomson-Nelson. Chapter 23: Parliament
April 2	Chapter 24: The Judiciary Chapter 10: Canada's External Environment (pps 217-236) FINAL REVIEW

MIDTERM EXAM

The midterm exam is slated to be held on Monday, February 27. If the university is closed due to inclement weather, the midterm will be held on the next regularly scheduled class. The midterm will consist of three sections (A, B, & C) and will be graded out of 50 points. Section A will consist of 20 Multiple-choice (M/C) worth 1 mark each while section B will consist of 4 short answer each worth 5 marks each. Owing to different learning styles, students will have the opportunity to complete either section A or B – **BUT NOT BOTH**. If a student completes both sections, only section A (M/C section) will be graded. All students will complete Section C, which will consist of two (2) long answer questions each

worth 15 marks. The class prior to the exam, you will be provided with a list of six questions. Two of those questions will appear on the midterm.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar’s office. It will cover material after the midterm, so it will not be a comprehensive exam. The final exam will follow a similar format as the midterm. At the last class, you will be provided with a list of nine questions of which three will appear on the final. You will answer 2 out of the 3 questions. The final exam will have three sections (A: Multiple Choice; B: Short-Answer; C: Questions Post Midterm). You are to complete A OR B and C. If you complete both A and B, only section A will be graded.

However, if you so choose, you may write a comprehensive final exam. If you choose to write this exam, your final exam grade will be the grade I submit to the Department. I will provide an additional 4 questions (in addition to the 9) that will be chosen prior to the midterm exam. Two of those questions will appear on the final and you must write one of them. The comprehensive final exam will have four sections (A: Multiple Choice; B: Short-Answer; C: Questions Post- Midterm; D: Questions Pre-Midterm). You are to complete A OR B and C and D. If you complete both A and B, only section A will be graded.

PARTICIPATION:

You will note that class participation accounts for 10% of your grade in this course. Participation consists of more than attendance. Listed below are examples of things you can do that will *lower* and *raise* your class participation grade. This list is illustrative, not exhaustive. A student who attends class on time and regularly but does no more will earn a maximum 5/10 for class participation.

BEHAVIOURS THAT WILL LOWER YOUR PARTICIPATION MARK (5 or less)	BEHAVIOURS THAT WILL RAISE YOUR PARTICIPATION MARK (6 or higher)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has excessive unexcused absences (attendance is taken, and any unexcused absence is excessive) • Enters class late, leaves early, or gets up and leaves during the class session • Does <i>not</i> pay attention, works on other material, daydreams, talks to neighbors, or other disruptive behavior • Talks without giving any thought or deliberation to what others are going to say • Is unprepared for class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to answer questions asked of the class (answers need not be correct, and genuine and serious attempts to answer questions are rewarded) • Asks questions about the material being discussed • Shares with the class relevant information found outside of class • Contributes positively to the class discussion • Has read the material and is prepared to discuss it

I will maintain a record of your participation. You are welcome to see me at any time to ask about your participation grade.

GRADES:

While all attempts will be made to have your exams/papers back by the next class, this may not always be possible. Grades will also be available for viewing on D2L (except your final exam grade).

ESSAY:

You will be required to write a 2000-2500 word (dbl spaced, 12 font)* essay based on a contemporary debate in political science. You will have a choice among fifteen topics. **REMEMBER:** An argumentative essay is one that makes a clear argument. Strong arguments are based on *claims*, and supported by *evidence*. **PLEASE INCLUDE THE WORD COUNT AT THE END OF YOUR PAPER.**

*Please note that you will be penalized if you do not fall within the parameters of the word count. The penalty will be a 5 point reduction in your grade for every 25 words under/over the min/max word count to a maximum of 100 words (or 20 points) after which a grade of zero may be entered.

Your essay should be based on a thoughtful review of materials from journals, newspapers, reports of government, interest group statements, etc., in addition to papers that constitute the research evidence bearing on the issue. At a minimum, you should have 10 references (5 **must** come from peer reviewed journals) and those references should be referred to directly and substantively in your essay. Dictionary definitions, class lecture notes, textbooks, and encyclopedia references DO NOT count towards the minimum number of research sources. You should always retain an electronic or hard copy of your assignment. Papers must be submitted before class begins and a copy sent to me via email. Unless students have a legitimate reason for doing so, I reserve the right to not accept a paper that has been only emailed to me.

Some key points:

- You are **required** to make at least one appointment with me to discuss your paper. Ideally, you should come speak to me **once** you have a draft completed. If you bring me a draft at least two weeks before the due date, I commit to providing feedback but I will not comment on the entire document. Students must also make at least one appointment to visit the writing center and agree to have the writing centre advise me that such a meeting has taken place. However, I will grant an exemption to those who have completed (or are currently enrolled in) POSC2010. While you are not required (though it is still strongly encouraged) to meet with me or to visit the writing center, you will not be eligible for the second chance (unless you decide to at least meet with me about your paper). **You must advise me via email no later than January 30, 2012 that you will be taking the exemption.**
- All papers must be word processed or typed, be double spaced, page numbered, contain minimal (less than 5 per paper) typographical and spelling errors, and follow basic grammatical rules as well as format and length limitations.
- Include a complete **title page** (name, student number, date, title of assignment, instructor's name, and course/section number) with each assignment.

If you do not observe these key points, I reserve the right not to accept your paper. As a result, you may be given a zero in the essay.

I consider good grammar to be the cornerstone of a well-educated individual. I will get annoyed if a paper you submit is poorly written, has numerous grammatical or spelling errors, or does not live up to the expectation of a quality effort. As a second year political science student, you should not submit a paper that has any of the above mentioned issues.

SECOND CHANCE

This is an opportunity for you to replace a poorly done paper. However, there are some conditions:

1. Only those who received less than 60% in the essay will have this opportunity.
2. You have seen me to discuss your paper AND you have visited the Writing Centre. Those who have completed or are currently enrolled in POSC2010 must at least meet with me about their paper – you need not visit the writing center (though it is still strongly encouraged).
3. If you fail to submit the paper during the term or submitted it late, there will be no second chance.
4. If your grade is lower on the second chance, you will not be penalized with the lower mark.
5. The topic will be my choice and will be one not previously seen or discussed in class.
6. It is due April 2 – extensions will only be given for **legitimate** circumstances.
7. No second chance on the second chance!

TOPICS

Choose one of the following topics. Indicate on the title page which topic you have chosen

1. Do Canadian interest (pressure) groups exercise an unhealthy influence in Canadian politics? Make an argument for or against.
2. Is Canadian multiculturalism still relevant? Make an argument for or against.
3. Does the Prime Minister have too much power? Make an argument for or against.
4. Should Canada adopt a proportional electoral system? Make an argument for or against.
5. Should representation in Parliament mirror Canada's social diversity? Make an argument for or against.
6. Should Parliament review Supreme Court appointments? Make an argument for or against.
7. Is a majority government better in protecting the "public good" than a minority government?
8. Are Canadian provinces reconciled to the federal government? Make an argument for or against.
9. Is Question Period useful or merely an unmitigated waste of time? What is its purpose in a parliamentary system of government and how could it best fulfill that purpose?
10. Should there be strict party discipline or should MPs be allowed to vote as they wish and/or as their constituents wish? What are the benefits and drawbacks of each?
11. Should Canada hold more referendums to allow more citizen input into decision-making? Make an argument for or against.
12. The Canadian Senate has been described as the chamber of 'sober second thought'. Has the Senate drifted from its original mandate? Why or why not?
13. Is increasing immigration levels 'good' or 'bad' for Canada? Make sure to consider all immigration categories.
14. Compare and contrast the parliamentary system with the presidential system. Which system of government would best suit Canada in the 21st century?
15. Should the monarchy be abolished? Make an argument for or against.

If you wish to write on a different topic, you must advise me via email no later than January 30, 2012. Your email must include the proposed topic. Please do not begin working on the paper unless I have advised you via email that I have accepted your proposed topic.

PLAGIARISM

(Adapted from the Department of Political Science's website)

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own, either consciously or inadvertently. Whatever its form and extent, plagiarism constitutes two kinds of failure: 1) Failure to perform the basic tasks expected in any paper -- original mental effort and expression; 2) Potentially, the moral failure of academic dishonesty. For more information on the Department's policy on plagiarism, I strongly recommend you visit: <http://www.mun.ca/posc/undergraduate/planning/plagiarism.php>

Students with Disabilities

Students who require physical or academic accommodations are encouraged to speak to me privately so that appropriate accommodations can be made in order that you may participate fully in the course. All conversations will remain confidential. Assistance may be available through the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (www.mun.ca/blundon) which serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning disabilities, chronic illness, or mental health. Support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries.

Late Arrivals:

Given the unpredictable Newfoundland weather as well as the erratic Metrobus schedule, the likelihood of a few classmates showing up late is likely. As such, I ask that the front row remain empty so that students arriving late do not need to look around for a seat, thereby disrupting class.

Perfume and Cologne:

It is possible that some students will have an acute sensitivity to perfumes or colognes. As such, I would like the classroom to be as scent-free as possible – please keep this in mind when preparing for class.

Respective Discussions:

While politics generally breeds a spirited debate, it should not be in a hurtful manner. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, and has the right to express their opinion without fear of reprisal. It is possible that some discussions will get quite animated, but I want everyone to remember to be respectful. If you start shouting, or make any personal attacks, I will ask you to leave the room. Furthermore, I have a **zero tolerance** for any racist, sexist, or homophobic remarks – any such comments will be reported to the Head of the Political Science Department for future action.

Furthermore, you are enrolled in this class to learn so it is counterproductive to talk at inappropriate times, use the Internet and/or use your cell phone. Students distracted by any such behavior should bring this to my attention privately.

- **Please ensure that your cell phone, PDA, iPod, MP3 Player, or any other electronic device is turned off or muted during class.**
- **Laptops may be used as long as they are for note taking purposes only.**
- **Students are not permitted to audio-record any lecture unless the request is supported by the Glen Roy Blundon Centre.**

I need not remind you that these electronic devices are not to be used during any examination. If you are found to be using them during an examination, your exam will be confiscated and you will receive a zero in the exam.

Course Evaluation

At some point during the term (usually the second last week of classes), you will be asked to complete a course evaluation form. These forms are anonymous and **I will only receive copies of the forms well after grades have been submitted.** As an undergraduate and graduate student, I had been involved with the committee since its inception and I consider the course evaluation process to be a key part of my growth as an instructor as well as an indicator of my success in teaching Political Science. I encourage everyone to provide me with constructive feedback on my teaching style, the course syllabus, the exams, the papers or anything you feel appropriate that will improve the course.

Missed Classes: Lecture Notes

Students who miss class are responsible for determining what material was covered. PowerPoint slides will be posted 24 hrs following class on D2L; they will not be made available prior to the start of the week. However, the slides only provide a brief overview – the material will be delivered via lecture so you should take copious notes.

GOOD LUCK AND ENJOY THE COURSE!