

Political Studies 404.3
Issues in Canadian Federalism
St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. David McGrane
Time: Mondays, 2:30pm – 4:50pm
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Course Description

Understanding federalism is crucial to comprehending the dynamics of Canadian politics. This course will examine the impact of federalism on the Canadian polity through studying such subjects as the Constitution, Québec, First Nations, federal-provincial relations at the executive level, the welfare state, courts, the environment, political economy, and cities. It will be illustrated how each of these important elements of Canadian politics are dramatically affected by the operation of our federal system of governance.

Course Requirements for Winter Term

- 1.) 10%- Attendance and Participation.
- 2.) 15%- Oral presentation. It is necessary to complete this assignment in order to pass the course.
- 3.) 45%- 15 page paper on a topic distributed by the instructor or on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. **Due in class on Monday, November 23rd, 2009.**
- 4.) 30%- Final Exam, date and time to be announced.

Papers should be in hard copy format. E-mailed assignments to the instructor will not be accepted. The Political Studies Department's policy is that late assignments are penalized 10% per week. All assignments must be submitted by the day of the final exam or they will be considered incomplete. Failure to complete all required course work will result in a final grade numeric grade of 49% and the along with the grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure). All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date and late assignments must be submitted at subsequent classes or the day of the final exam at the very latest. Exceptions may be made, at the instructor's discretion, for students who contact the instructor regarding medical reasons or family emergencies before assignments are due. Documentation will be required in these cases. Please note that computer problems are not considered emergencies, so be sure that the computer you use is in good working order, and that you back up your work on a floppy disc and/or print out rough work and essay drafts.

Concerns about the marking of assignments are welcome. If the student has concerns about the mark that they received for an assignment, they are asked to submit a written memo of a half page to the instructor explaining their concern at the beginning of the class after the assignment has been handed back to the student. The instructor will then report back to the student on their concern.

Plagiarism

The St. Thomas More Faculty Council has adopted the following policy on plagiarism:

“St. Thomas More College follows the rules regarding Academic Dishonest as delineated in the University of Saskatchewan Calendar. Of those, plagiarism is a particularly serious offence that involves presenting a person’s writing, ideas, or creative work as your own. When quoting, paraphrasing, describing, presenting, summarizing, or translating the work of others, you must acknowledge the source of the information you use, which includes ensuring that the reader can differentiate between your words and the words of others. Sources may come in print, electronic, digital, visual, or oral form, and be provided by a published author, fellow student, artist, or Internet site. Purchasing papers is not permitted. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism; when in doubt, consult your professor.”

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student who is registered with the Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS), you may apply for unique services or arrangements to complete the requirements for this course. Normally, these services will be provided through the DSS office. If you have not yet registered with that office, please do so as quickly as possible.

Required Texts

François Rocher and Miriam Smith, *New Trends in Canadian Federalism, Second Edition* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2004)

Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad, *Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy, Second Edition* (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2008)

Readings on Reserve at STM Library on second floor of STM.

Reading Schedule

All readings are required.

CF = Canadian Federalism, NT = New Trends in Federalism

September 14th, 2009: Introduction and Discussion of the Division of Powers

September 21st, 2009: The Meaning of Federalism in the Context of Canada

Richard Simeon and Ian Robinson, “The Confederation Settlement” (STM Library), Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad, “Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy” in *CF*, and François Rocher and Miriam Smith, “The Four Dimensions of Canadian Federalism” in *NT*.

September 28th, 2009: Québec and Canadian Federalism

Alain-G. Gagnon and Raffaele Iacovino, “Canadian Federalism and Multinational Democracy: ‘Pressures’ from Québec on the Federation” in *CF*, Kenneth McRoberts, “Conceiving Diversity: Dualism, Multiculturalism, and Multinationalism” in *NT*, René Lévesque, “An Option for Québec” (STM Library), Pierre Trudeau interview that we will watch in class.

October 5th, 2009: The Constitution

Jennifer Smith, “The Constitutional Debate and Beyond” in *NT*, Peter Russell, “Patriation” (STM Library), and Martin Westmacott, “The Charlottetown Accord: A Retrospective Overview” (STM Library).

October 12th, 2009: Thanksgiving, No Class.

October 19th, 2009: First Nations and Canadian Federalism

Martin Papillon, “Canadian Federalism and the Emerging Mosaic of Aboriginal Multilevel Governance” in *CF*, Michael Prince and Francis Abele, “Aboriginal Governance and Canadian Federalism: A To-Do List for Canada” in *NT*, and Kiera Ladner, “Treaty Federalism: An Indigenous Vision of Canadian Federalisms” in *NT*.

October 26th, 2009: Executive Federalism

Kathy Brock, “Executive Federalism: Beggar thy Neighbour?” in *NT*, Richard Simeon and Amy Nugent, “Parliamentary Canada and Intergovernmental Canada: Exploring the Tensions” in *CF*, and Julie Simmons, “Democratizing Executive Federalism: The Role of Non-Governmental Actors in Intergovernmental Agreements” in *CF*.

November 2nd, 2009: Courts and Federalism

James B. Kelly, “The Courts, the Charter, and Federalism” in *CF*, Gerald Baier, “The Law of Federalism: Judicial Review and the Division of Powers” in *NT*, and Gerald Baier, “The Courts, the Division of Powers and Dispute Resolution” in *CF*.

November 9th, 2009: Fiscal Federalism

Douglas M. Brown, “Fiscal Federalism: Searching for Balance” in *CF*, David McGrane, “Limiting Fiscal Capacity?: The Relationship between Transfer Payments and Social Spending in Canadian Provinces from 1988 to 2002” (STM Library), Thomas Courchene, “A Short History of Equalization” on PAWS, and Graham Fox, “Harper’s Open Federalism: From the ‘Fiscal Imbalance’ to ‘Effective Collaborative Management’ of the Federation” on PAWS.

November 16th, 2009: Federalism and the Welfare State

Keith Banting, “The Three Federalisms: Social Policy and Intergovernmental Decision-Making” in *CF*, Antonia Maioni, “Health Care” in *CF*, and Gerald W. Boychuk, “Social Assistance and Canadian Federalism” in *NT*.

November 23rd, 2009: The Environment, Cities, and Canadian Federalism

Kathryn Harrison, “Passing the Environmental Buck” in *NT*, Mark Winfield and Douglas MacDonald, “The Harmonization Accord and Climate Change Policy: Two Case Studies in Federal-Provincial Environmental Policy” in *CF*, and Andrew Sancton, “The Urban Agenda” in *CF*. **Final Paper Due in Class.**

November 30th, 2009: The Impact of Federalism on the Canadian Economy

Grace Skogstad, “Canadian Federalism, International Trade, and Regional Market Integration in an Era of Complex Sovereignty” in *CF*, Rodney Haddow, “Federalism and Economic Adjustment: Skills and Economic Development in the Face of Globalization” in *CF*, and Donald J. Savoie, “Regional Development: A Policy for All Seasons and All Regions” in *NT*.

December 7th – 22nd, Final Exam: Exact date, time and location to be announced.