

Political Studies 337.3 (M02)
Special Topics in Political Thought: Canadian Political Thought
St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, Winter 2008

Instructor: Dr. David McGrane

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00pm – 2:20pm

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Course Description

While some have questioned whether Canadian political thought even exists, this course will illustrate that a distinctive tradition of Canadian political thought reaches back to the late 19th century. The first part of the course examines what could be referred to as Canadian political ideas by studying Canadian politicians and Canadian political parties as political thinkers. The second part of the course explores Canadian political philosophy which was written by Canadian academics and political philosophers. Through reading these works of Canadian political thought, a number of the most important issues in Canadian politics and many integral concepts of political theory will be investigated such as the place of Québec in Canada, English Canadian nationalism, equality, freedom, human rights, multiculturalism, the situation of Canada's Aboriginal people, and the role of gender in politics.

Course Requirements for Winter Term

- 1.) 10%- Attendance and participation. At the beginning of the semester each student will be assigned to bring two to three questions to two specific classes. The completion of this assignment will contribute towards your participation mark. It is necessary to complete this assignment in order to pass the course.
- 2.) 50%- 20 page paper on a topic distributed by the instructor. **Due on Thursday, March 27th, 2008.**
- 3.) 40%- 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.”

Required Texts

Course Pack Assembled by Instructor.

Katherine Fierlbeck (editor), *The Development of Political Thought in Canada: An Anthology* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2005).

Reading Schedule

All readings are required.

Week 1: Thursday, January 3rd, Introduction

Week 2: *The Foundations of Canada*

Tuesday, January 8th: Lord Durham, “Report on the Affairs of British North America (1839)” in Fierlbeck

Thursday, January 10th: Harold Innis, “Transportation as a Factor in Canadian Economic History (1933)”

Week 3: Canadian Toryism and Conservatism

Tuesday, January 15th: Excerpts from John A. MacDonald and Thomas D’Arcy McGee in *Canada’s Founding Debates* (1865) in CP, Adolphe-Basile Routhier and François Trudel, “The Programme Catholique: The Next Elections (1871)”, “Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of Quebec of the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec (1875)” in CP, George Parkin, “Re-organization of the British Empire (1888)” in CP.

Thursday, January 17th: W.L. Morton, “Canadian Conservatism Now (1959)” in CP, Preston Manning, Excerpts from *The New Canada* (1991) in CP, Conservative Party of Canada, “Founding Principles” (2004) and “Stand Up for Canada” (2006) on PAWS.

Week 4: Canadian Liberalism

Tuesday, January 22nd: Sir Wilfrid Laurier “Political Liberalism (1877)” in CP, Lester B. Pearson, “Where do we go from here? (1957)” in Fierlbeck.

Thursday, January 24th: Pierre Elliott Trudeau “Federalism, Nationalism and Reason (1964)” in Fierlbeck, Brooke Jeffrey, “Social Cohesion and Nation-Building: The Role of Liberal Values in Connecting Canadians (2002)” in CP, Stéphane Dion, “Québec and Liberalism in the 21st Century (2007)” on PAWS.

Week 5: Canadian Social Democracy

Tuesday, January 29th: J.S. Woodsworth, “Organizing Democracy in Canada (1918)” in Fierlbeck, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, “Regina Manifesto (1933)” on PAWS, Gad Horowitz, “Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism in Canada: An Interpretation (1966)” in Fierlbeck.

Thursday, January 31st: Tommy Douglas, “Medicare: Time to Take a Stand (1961)” in Fierlbeck, New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan “New Deal for People (1971)” on PAWS, Ed Broadbent “Social Democracy or Liberalism in the New Millennium (1999)” in CP, New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan, “Election Platform (2007)” on PAWS.

Week 6: Québécois Nationalism

Tuesday, February 5th: Louis-Joesph Papineau, “Constitutional Reform (1833)” in CP, Henri Bourassa, “The Spectre of Annexation (1912)” in Fierlbeck, Abbé Lionel Groulx “Tomorrow’s Tasks (1936)” in CP.

Thursday, February 7th: René Lévesque “An Option for Quebec (1968)” in Fierlbeck, Parti Québécois “Election Platform (1994)” on PAWS, Parti Québécois “Rebuilding Our Quebec” (2006) on PAWS.

Week 7: George Grant

Tuesday, February 12th: “English-Speaking Justice (1974)” in Fierlbeck.

Thursday, February 14th: *Lament for a Nation* (1965), Chapter 6 in CP.

Week 8: Tuesday, February 19th & Thursday, February 21st, **SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS****Week 9: Charles Taylor**

Tuesday, February 26th: “Cross-Purposes: The Liberal-Communitarian Debate (1989)” in CP.

Thursday, February 28th: “Malaise of Modernity (1991)” in Fierlbeck.

Week 10: Charles Taylor

Tuesday, March 4th: “The Politics of Recognition (1992)” in CP.

Thursday, March 6th: “Shared and Divergent Values (1991)” in CP.

Week 10: Charles Taylor and Will Kymlicka

Tuesday, March 11th: “Liberal Politics and the Public Sphere (1995)” in CP.

Thursday, March 13th: Will Kymlicka, “The Good, the Bad, and the Intolerable: Minority Group Rights (1996)” in Fierlbeck.

Week 11: Michael Ignatieff and First Wave Canadian Feminist Political Thought

Tuesday, March 18th: Michael Ignatieff “The Rights Revolution (2000)” in Fierlbeck.

Thursday, March 20th: Nellie McClung, “Hardy Perennials (1912)” in Fierlbeck, Beverly Gray, “Housewives are a sorry lot (1950) in CP, Dr. Marion Hilliard, “Stop being just a housewife (1956)” in CP, Mollie Gillen, “The Royal Commission on the Status of Women: Will it do any good? (1968)” in CP.

Week 12: Second Wave Canadian Feminist Political Thought and Canadian First Nations Political Thought

Tuesday, March 25th: Jill Vickers, “Memoirs of an Ontological Exile: The Methodological Rebellions of Feminist Research (1982)” in CP, Jill Vickers, “A Framework for a Feminist Political Science (1997)” in CP.

Thursday, March 27th: James Tully, "A Strange Multiplicity" in Fierlbeck. **Final Paper Due.**

Week 13: *Canadian First Nations Political Thought and Review of Class*

Tuesday, April 1st: Gerald (Taiaiake) Alfred, Excerpts from *Heading the Voices of our Ancestors* (1995) in CP.

Thursday, April 3rd: Review of Class.