

Political Studies 405.3 (62)
Political Representation in Canada
St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, Winter 2010

Instructor: Dr. David McGrane
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Course Description

The concept of political representation is crucial to contemporary democracy. This class will examine the processes and structures of political representation in Canada by focusing on Canadian political parties and social movements. The first two months of the course is dedicated to exploring the ideology and organization of Canadian federal political parties as well as the dynamics and institutions of Canadian federal elections. The last month of the course will be dedicated to studying several different Canadian social movements such as business associations, unions, ethnocultural groups, First Nations, the women's movement, gays and lesbians, evangelical Christians, environmentalists, and health care interest groups.

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, March 29th, 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 Dishonesty as delineated in the University of Saskatchewan Calendar. Of these, plagiarism is a particularly serious offence that involves presenting another 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 may 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. For further information see www.usask.ca/honesty”

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student who is registered with the Office of Disability Services for Students, 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

Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay (editors), *Canadian Parties in Transition, Third Edition*, (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2007).

Miriam Smith (editor), *Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada*, (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2008).

Readings place on reserve at STM Library and posted on PAWS.

**** Lectures will heavily discuss the readings in the textbook but they will not summarize or replicate the readings. In class discussions, you will be expected to

critically interact with the assigned readings. Thus, it is imperative for all students to read each of the readings **and bring their textbooks and any additional readings assigned that week to class.**

Reading Schedule

All readings are required.

CPT = Canadian Parties in Transition, GPSM = Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada

January 4th: Introduction to the study of Canadian political parties and social movements

January 11th: Brokerage Politics and the Canadian Party System

Janine Brodie and Jane Jenson, "Piercing the Smokescreen: Stability and Change in Brokerage Politics", Chapter 2 in CPT, Steve Patten, "The Evolution of the Canadian Party System", Chapter 3 in CPT, and Lawrence LeDuc, "Realignment and Dealignment in Canadian Federal Politics", Chapter 7 in CPT.

January 18th: Conservative Party of Canada

Steve Patten, "'Toryism' and the Conservative Party in a Neo-Liberal Era" in *Party Politics in Canada, 8th Edition*, Excerpt from George Perlin, *The Tory Syndrome* (317-325), Faron Ellis and Peter Woolstencroft, "The Conservatives" in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2008*. All are on reserve at the STM Library. Read also Jeffrey Simpson "Harper tries to resuscitate the Mulroney coalition" and Jeffrey Simpson, "All that wooing, but will it win Quebec's heartland?" on PAWS.

January 25th: Liberal Party of Canada

Excerpt from Stephen Clarkson, *The Big Red Machine: How the Liberal Party Dominates Canadian Politics* (265-284) and Brooke Jeffrey, "The Liberals" in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2008*. Both are on reserve at the STM Library. Read also *Globe and Mail* Editorial Board, "The former natural governing party" and Jeffrey Simpson, "The Liberal Party needs more than a new leader" on PAWS.

February 1st: CCF-NDP

Alan Whitehorn, "Social Democracy and the New Democratic Party", Chapter 6 in CPT, Lynda Erickson and David Laycock, "The NDP" in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2008*. While the first article is in our textbook, the second article is on reserve at the STM Library. Read also Lawrence Martin, "Give Jack Layton his due: He knew how to connect" and Jeffrey Simpson, "Campaign endnotes: Tory gains, NDP pains" on PAWS.

February 8th: Regional Parties (Reform Party and Bloc Québécois)

Tom Flanagan, "From Reform to the Canadian Alliance" on reserve at the STM Library, Alain Gagnon and Jacques Hérivault, "The Bloc Québécois: Charting New Territories?", Chapter 5 in CPT, Éric Bélanger, "Third Parties Success in Canada" Chapter 4 in CPT (*READ ONLY PAGES 92-101*), and James Bickerton, "Between Integration and Fragmentation: Political Parties and the Representation of Regions", Chapter 19 in CPT. Read also Jeffrey Simpson, "Quebeckers' mental bloc" on PAWS.

February 15th: No class (Family Day)

February 22nd: Elections and Party Financing

John Courtney, "Canada's Electoral System" Chapter 13 in CPT, "Television Advertising by Political Parties: Can Democracy Survive It?", Chapter 15 in CPT, and Lisa Young, Anthony Sayers, and Harold Jenson, "Altering the Political Landscape: State Funding and Party Finance", Chapter 16 in CPT.

March 1st: Party Organization

Sid Noel, "Leaders' Entourages, Parties, and Patronage", Chapter 9 in CPT, Darin Barney, "The Internet and Political Communication in Canada Party Politics: The View from 2004", Chapter 17 in CPT, and Steven Wolinetz, "Cycles and Brokerage: Canadian Parties as Mobilizers of Interest", Chapter 8 in CPT.

March 8th: Whither Canadian Political Parties?

Neil Nevitte and Christopher Cochrane, "Value Change and the Dynamics of the Canadian Partisan Landscape", Chapter 12 in CPT, Grant Amyot, "The Waning of Political Parties", Chapter 22 in CPT, and A. Brian Tanguay, "The Paradoxes of Direct Democracy", Chapter 21 in CPT.

March 15th: Business and Labour

Read Smith's introduction to GPSM but the instructor will do a presentation on it. Peter Clancy, "Business Interests and Civil Society in Canada", Chapter 1 in GPSM, and David Camfield, "The Working-Class Movement in Canada: An Overview", Chapter 2 in GPSM.

March 22nd: First Nations and Ethnocultural Groups

Audrey Kobayashi, "Ethnocultural Political Mobilization, Multiculturalism, and Human Rights in Canada", Chapter 5 in GPSM and Keira Ladner, "Aysaka'paykinit: Contest the Rope Around the Nations' Neck", Chapter 9 in GPSM.

March 29th: Women's movement, Gays and Lesbians, Evangelical Christians

Alexandra Dobrowolsky, "The Women's Movement in Flux: Feminism and Framing, Passion, and Politics", Chapter 5 in GPSM, Miriam Smith, "Identity and Opportunity: The Lesbian and Gay Rights Movement", Chapter 7 in GPSM, and Trevor Harrison, "Populist and Conservative Christian Evangelical Movements: A Comparison of Canada and the United States", Chapter 8 in GPSM. **Paper Due.**

April 5th: Environmental and Health Movements

Judith McKenzie, "The Environmental Movement in Canada: Retreat or Resurgence?", Chapter 11 in GPSM and Michael Orsini, "Health Social Movements: The Next Wave in Contentious Politics?", Chapter 13 in GPSM.