

Political Science 2230E Canadian Government & Politics
Brescia University College, Western University
2013-14

Instructor: Dr. Paul Barker
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Class: Tues. 12:30-2:30 & Thurs. 12:30-1:30, Room UH30
Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Description

A course which explores the rudiments of Canadian government and politics – the prime minister, the constitution, political parties, the media, and other aspects that form the basic parts of the political process in Canada. Also considered are issues which arise from the endeavor to successfully govern Canada and its many complexities.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Know the basic institutions and processes which make up the Canadian political system.
- Appreciate that many debates and controversies swirl around any consideration of politics in Canada – in other words, few things are certain in this particular area of political science.
- Be able to carry out duties associated with key responsibilities in government – writing briefing notes, composing ministerial letters, and drafting memoranda for cabinet’s consideration.
- Possess the knowledge necessary for engaging in an enlightened conversation about future prospects for politics in Canada.

Texts

Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 7th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Grading

Reports on Readings (Oct. 1, Nov. 12)	20%
Test (exam period Dec.)	20%
Essay (Mar. 18)	20%
Participation	10%
Final Exam (exam period Apr.)	30%

Details on grading components will be provided in class.

Weekly Outline

Week 1

Sept. 10, 12: Introduction

Elections results ...

Week 2

Sept. 17, 19: Conservative Permanence?

Reading 1: Darrell Bricker + John Ibbitson, *The Big Shift*, preface and ch. 2

Reading 2: Tom Flanagan, "The Emerging Conservative Coalition," *Policy Options* June-July 2011

Reading 3: Andrew Coyne, "A New Power Couple," *Maclean's* 16 May 2011 (and election results)

Week 3

Sept. 24, 26: Conservative (cont'd)

Reading 4: Richard Gwyn, "The Contender," *The Walrus*, July/August 2013

Week 4

Sept. Oct. 1, 3: Political Culture & Beliefs

Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 7th ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2012), chs. 2, 4

Reading 5: Gad Horowitz, "Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism in Canada," in R.S. Blair & J. McLeod, eds., *The Canadian Political Tradition* 2nd ed.

Weeks 5-6

Oct. 8, 10, 15, 17: Canadian Constitution

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 5

Reading 6: Peter Russell, "Constitution," J. Courtney and D. Smith eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics* (Toronto: OUP, 2010)

Weeks 7-8**Oct. 22, 24, 29, 31: Charter & Cases**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 6

Reading 7: Charlton & Barker, *Crosscurrents*, 5th ed.

Reading 8: *Charter Cases: Queen v. Oakes, 1986 & Law v. Canada, 1999*

Weeks 9-10**Nov. 5, 7, 12, 14: Federalism & Cases**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 195-211

Reading 9: Peter Russell, "The Anti-Inflation Case: Anatomy of a Constitutional Decision," *Canadian Public Administration* 1977

Reading 10: Patrick Monahan & Byron Shaw, *Constitutional Law*, 4th (Toronto: Irwin Law, 2013), ch. 9.

Week 11**Nov. 19, 21**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 210-221

Reading 11: Richard Simeon & Ian Robinson, 'The Dynamics of Canadian Federalism,' in J. Bickerton & A-G Gagnon, eds., *Canadian Politics* 5th ed. (Toronto: UTP, 2009)

Weeks 12-13**Nov. 26, 28, Dec. 3, 5**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 221-230

Reading 12: *Federal-Provincial Fiscal Transfers*

Reading 13: Department of Finance, Ottawa *Personal Income Tax Coordination: The Federal-Provincial Tax Collection Agreements*, June 1991, 1-17.

Second Term**Weeks 14-15****Jan. 7, 9, 14, 16: Executive**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 233-54

Reading 14: Lawrence Martin, *Harperland: The Politics of Control* (Toronto: Viking, 2010), ch. 7

Reading 15: Donald Savoie, "First Ministers, Cabinet, and the Public Service," in Courtney and Smith, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics*

Weeks 16-17**Jan. 21, 23, 28, 30: Legislature & Courts**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 254-272

Reading 16: Charlton & Barker, eds., *Crosscurrents*, Issue 7

Reading 17: James Kelly and Christopher Manfredi, 'Courts,' in Courtney and Smith, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics*

Week 18**Feb. 4, 6: Administration**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 9

Week 19**Feb. 11, 13: Administration (cont'd)**

Reading 18: J.D. Love, *The Deputy Minister Day* (Toronto: IPAC)

Reading 19: Writing in the Public Service: How to Write Briefing Notes, How to Write Ministerial Correspondence, Memo to Cabinet, and other papers

Week 20**Feb. 25, 27: Budget**

Reading 20: *Federal & Ontario budget papers*

Week 21**Mar. 4, 6: Parties and Elections**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 10

Week 22**Mar. 11, 13: getting out the youth vote**

Reading 21: *Papers on Youth Voting*

Week 23**Mar. 18, 20: Interest Groups**

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 11

Week 24

Mar. 25, 27: Media ..

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 12

Reading 22: Charlton and Barker, eds., *Crosscurrents 7th ed.*, Issue 14

Week 25

Apr. 1, 3: Multiculturalism

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 14

Week 26

Apr. 8: Summary

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation must be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is not adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the

Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.