

Political Science 2230E Canadian Government & Politics
Brescia University College, Western University
2015-16

Instructor: Dr. Paul Barker
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Class: Mon. 12:30-2:30 & Wed. 1:30-2:30, Room 18
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. Special attention is given to the federal election.

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify the basic institutions and processes which make up the Canadian political system.
- Understand and assess the debates and controversies relating to federalism, the charter, minority governments, and other matters
- Formulate solutions to problems which afflict political life in Canada.

Texts

Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy, 8th ed.* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015)

Grading

Reports on Readings (October 14, Nov. 16)*	20%
Essay (Mar. 14)#	20%
Test (exam period Dec.)	20%
Participation@	10%
Final Exam (exam period Apr.)	30%

*short analyses of a designated readings

#2500 word paper on selected topic

@participation based on attendance, contribution to class, and debate presentation

More details on grading to follow in class.

Weekly Outline

Week 1

Sept. 14, 16: Introduction

Forthcoming federal election ... *and does Justin have good judgement?*

Week 2

Sept. 21, 23: 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* May 16, 2011

Week 3

Sept. 28, 30: the party leaders ... Harper, Mulcair, Trudeau

Reading 4: Ronald Graham, 'Born in the Burbs,' *The Walrus* September 2013

Reading 5: John Ibbitson, "Stephen Harper: The Making of a Prime Minister," *Globe and Mail* July 31, 2015

Reading 6: Mark Kennedy, "The Making of Tom Mulcair," *National Post* 24 July 2015

Reading 7: Richard Gwyn, "The Contender," *Walrus*, July/August 2013.

**Harper worthy? Readings*

Week 4

Oct. 5, 7: Voting

Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy 8th ed.* (Toronto: OUP, 2015), 337-50, 357-370

Reading 8: C. Anderson and L. Stephenson, eds., *Voting Behavior in Canada* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010), ch. 1.

Reading 9: Karen Kleiss, "Analysis: How the Alberta Progressive Conservative Dynasty Fell," *Edmonton Journal* May 6, 2015.

**NDP win election? Readings*

Week 5

Oct. 14: Canadian Political Culture ...

Stephen Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 2

Reading 10: Gad Horowitz, "Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism in Canada," in R.S. Blair & J. McLeod, eds., *The Canadian Political Tradition 2nd ed.*

Week 6

Oct. 19, 21: Canadian Constitution

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 6

Reading 11: Peter Russell, Constitution, J. Courtney and D. Smith eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics* (Toronto: OUP, 2010)

Weeks 7-8

Oct. 26, 28; Nov. 2, 4: Charter & Cases

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 7

Reading 12: Charlton & Barker, *Crosscurrents*, 5th ed.

Reading 13: *Charter Cases: Queen v. Oakes, 1986 & Law v. Canada, 1999*

**Charter anti-democratic? Charlton & Barker, Crosscurrents, Issue 4*

Weeks 9-10

Nov. 9, 11, 16, 18: Federalism & Cases

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 232-239

Reading 14: Peter Russell, "The Anti-Inflation Case: Anatomy of a Constitutional Decision," *Canadian Public Administration* 1977

Reading 15: Patrick Monahan & Byron Shaw, *Constitutional Law*, 4th (Toronto: Irwin Law, 2013), ch. 9.

Week 11

Nov. 23, 25: Federalism

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 223-51

Reading 16: Richard Simeon, Ian Robinson and Jennifer Wallner, 'The Dynamics of Canadian Federalism,' in J. Bickerton & A-G Gagnon, eds., *Canadian Politics* 6th ed. (Toronto: UTP, 2014)

**Feds play leading role in health care? Charlton & Barker, eds., Crosscurrents, Issue 5*

Weeks 12-13

Nov. 30; Dec. 2, 7, 9

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 251-54

Reading 17: *Federal-Provincial Fiscal Transfers*

Reading 18: Department of Finance, Ottawa *Personal Income Tax Coordination: The Federal-Provincial Tax Collection Agreements*, June 1991, 1-17.

Weeks 14-15

Jan. 4, 6, 11, 13: Executive

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 262-281

Reading 19: Lawrence Martin, *Harperland: The Politics of Control* (Toronto: Viking, 2010), ch. 7

Reading 20: Donald Savoie, "First Ministers, Cabinet, and the Public Service," in Courtney and Smith, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics*

**Prime minister too powerful? Charlton & Barker, eds., Issue 6*

Weeks 16-17

Jan. 18, 20, 25, 27: Legislature & Courts

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, 281-93 & 293-302

Reading 21: Andrew Coyne, "Repairing the House," *Walrus*, October 2013 (see Michael Chong private member's bill)

Reading 22: James Kelly and Christopher Manfredi, 'Courts,' in Courtney and Smith, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics*

Reading 23: Sean Fine, "Stephen Harper's Courts," *Globe and Mail* July 24, 2015

**Majority governments preferable? Charlton and Barker, eds., Issue 7 or Fate of Senate?*

Week 18

Feb. 1, 3: Administration

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 10

Reading 24: David Johnson, *Thinking Government: Public Administration and Politics in Canada 3rd ed.* (Toronto: UTP, 2011), 131-154

**what to do with VLA Rail? VLA Rail Canada and the Future of Passenger Rail in Canada*

Week 19

Feb. 8, 10: Administration (cont'd)

Reading 25: J.D. Love, *The Deputy Minister Day* (Toronto: IPAC)

Reading 26: Writing in the Public Service: How to Write Briefing Notes, How to Write Ministerial Correspondence, Memo to Cabinet, and other papers

Week 20

Feb. 22, 24: Budget

Reading 27: *Federal & Ontario budget papers*

Week 21

Feb. 29; Mar. 2: Political Parties & Elections

Reading 28: James Bickerton, “Competing for Power: Parties and Elections in Canada,” in J. Bickerton and A-G. Gagnon, eds., *Canadian Politics*

**Introduce proportional representation? Charlton & Barker, eds., Crosscurrents, Issue 8*

Week 22

Mar. 7, 9: Elections and Campaigning

Reading 29: Tom Flanagan, *Winning Power: Canadian Campaigning in the Twenty-First Century* (McGill-Queen’s University, 2014), ch. 1, Part II

Week 23

Mar. 14, 16: Interests Groups

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 12

Reading 30: Eric Montepetit, “Are Interest Groups Useful or Harmful?,” in J. Bickerton and A-G. Gagnon, eds., *Canadian Politics*

Reading 31: *Case Study of Spectrum*

Week 24

Mar. 21, 23: Media ..

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 13

**Media have liberal bias? Charlton & Barker, eds., Crosscurrents, Issue 14,*

Week 25

Mar. 28, 30: Women in Politics

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 15

Week 26

Apr. 4, 6: Aboriginal Politics & Review

Brooks, *Canadian Democracy*, ch. 16

**Self-government for aboriginal peoples? Charlton & Barker, eds., Crosscurrents Issue 2*

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/2015/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

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

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://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.html>. 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