

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200 [UT (6)]
PO320 (Athabasca University)

OCT 22 1993

CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1998/99

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O.H.: TBA

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is concerned with the structures and operation of the government of Canada as well as with contemporary political processes and issues confronting the Canadian state. Building on the social and economic setting to Canadian political life, the course considers such topics as regionalism, the Quebec question, free trade, party leadership, the constitution, and regional representation as well as some contemporary issues including the environment and rights of First Nations peoples.

As the core course in the Canadian politics and government field, the objectives of this course are to give the student a broad conceptual understanding of the field as well as specific knowledge relating to the institutions, processes, and issues which shape the Canadian political experience.

Completely revised for 1998-99, the course assumes no prior knowledge of Canadian politics apart from a healthy interest in the subject. Three essential concepts anchor the course. These are democracy, conflict, and the question of the government versus the people. Indeed, given the contemporary conflicts between the state and the public in such cases as Oka, the GST, and, in many ways, the Quebec issue, it is this latter question which will inform much of the discussion.

PREREQUISITE

None.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is primarily a lecture course although given the instable character of the Canadian political system (at present), there will be ample opportunity for class discussion. Students are expected to keep up to date in the readings as well as to be reasonably informed about significant current Canadian political events. This can be achieved by reading a quality Canadian newspaper on a daily basis coupled with paying attention to a quality television news broadcast.

While no grade is formally assigned to class discussion and participation, given that many of the examination questions are drawn from lectures and class discussion, attendance should not be regarded as optional. Moreover, since the course will make use of multi-media technology (computer graphics, video tapes, and, hopefully, 2-way video guest speakers), attendance is most strongly recommended.

Students are encouraged (not required) to make use of e-mail and the internet for the purposes of this course. Training will be provided on the basics of this technology. The point here is to attempt to facilitate between students and between

students and the instructor. More will be said about this in class. In addition, students are encouraged to make use of the considerable local, regional, and national data bases which are housed on the College computer. Again, training will be provided for interested students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. knowledge and understanding of current structures and processes of Canadian government
2. ability to assess and employ alternative theoretical paradigms regarding Canadian government processes and structures
3. critical analysis of Canadian government and processes

Objective:

1. Knowledge
2. Application
3. Critical analysis

Key Strategies:

Lecture and Readings
 Term Papers
 Term Papers and discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be recorded on a percentage basis, averaged across components, and converted to the College standard 9 point scale (sta-nine) scale at the end of the course. the 9 point scale for each component. For Athabasca University Students, grades will be submitted in both sta-nine and percentages.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Objective</u>
Library Assignment 1	5%	Oct. 2, 1998	Knowledge/Analysis
Fall Term Paper	15%	Nov. 18, 1998	Knowledge, Application, Analysis
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week	Knowledge, Analysis, Application
Library Assignment 2	5%	Feb. 10, 1999	Analysis
Winter Term Paper	20%	Mar. 17, 1999	Knowledge, Application, Analysis
Final Examination	25%	Exam week	Knowledge, Analysis, Application
10 Quizzes (Approx.)	10%	Dates TBA	Knowledge

A NOTE ON TERM PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments and term papers are due at the start of class on the date due. Possible term paper topics will be distributed in class. In addition, students may make use of data from the 1984 and/or 1988 National Election Studies as well as locally collected data 1993 and 1997 data may become available within the duration of the course. A special session will be scheduled for computer training to access this. Normally, term papers for this course are in the 12 - 15 page range (typed, double spaced). Appropriate academic style is required. Late papers will be accepted without penalty in exceptional circumstances. Otherwise, late papers will be assessed a reduced grade of 5% per day (24 hour period or portion thereof including weekends and holidays).

TEXTS

The following texts are required for this course and are available from the College bookstore. Previous editions of these texts are not to be purchased.

Michael S. Whittington and Richard J. Van Loon, Canadian Government and Politics: Institutions and Processes. (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1996). (VLW on the readings list)

Paul W. Fox and Graham White (eds.), Politics: Canada. (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Primis, 1995). (FW on the readings list)

K. Taft, Shredding the Public Interest.

LECTURE OUTLINE AND READINGS LIST

Students are responsible for lecture material and all required readings (marked with an asterisk(*)). Recommended readings provide greater depth of coverage and should be consulted although not necessarily read in depth. Reserve readings are available from the Library. From time to time, additional and/or replacement readings may be assigned as events dictate and as materials become available. Lecture dates are approximate and units may be shifted to accommodate the political agenda. In particular, the emerging Quebec situation - particularly in January/February 1998 - will necessitate some shifts in the outline. Other events can also be expected to either delay or advance progress in the course.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION AND CONTENT

1 week

- i) Overview of Concepts in Political Science
 - ii) Overview of Canadian Political Institutions
- VLW preface, pp. 1-11.
*FW pp. 4-10

UNIT II: CONTENDING APPROACHES TO CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE

2 weeks

- i) Institutional Approach
- ii) Behavioural Approaches
- iii) Liberal Pluralism
- iv) Political Economy
- v) "Marxist" Approaches
- vi) Public Choice

VLW pp. 11-22

*Baskevkin, Canadian Political Behaviour pp. 3-6
(Reserve #3)Dahl, Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy pp. 4-7, 31-54
(skim pp. 31-54)(Reserve #4)*Crozier, et.al., The Crisis of Democracy, pp. 1-9
(Reserve #5)UNIT III: THE POLICY PROCESS: OVERVIEW

1 week

*VLW ch. 2.

UNIT IV: ENVIRONMENT

3 weeks

A) The Social and Economic Setting

- i) Historical Overview
 - ii) Ideological Perspectives
- *VLW ch. 3

Bell and Tepperman, The Roots of Disunity, pp. 40-64
(Reserve #11)

* Inglehart, "Post Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve #12)

*FW pp. 40-47

B) Regional Cleavages

- *VLW ch 4
- Rioux, "Toward a Free Quebec" (Reserve #13)
- *FW pp. 10-14
- *FW pp. 154-190, 205-208
- C) Ethnic Cleavages
 - *FW pp. 22-39
 - *FW pp. 15-21
- D) Class Cleavages
- E) Other Cleavages

UNIT V: THE CONSTITUTION AND FEDERALISM

5 weeks

- A) The continuing Saga of Quebec in Confederation
 - *FW pp. 197-221.
 - *Parti Quebecois. "Quebec in a New World" (Reserve # 5a > skim)
- B) Overview of Institutions
 - *FW pp. 66-73
 - *VLW ch. 5
- C) Patriation, Amendment, and the Charter
 - * Banting & Simeon, "Federalism, Democracy, and the Constitution" (Reserve #6)
 - *VLW ch. 6, 7
 - *FW pp. 100-103
- D) Canadian "Constitutional Culture"
 - * Trudeau, "Federalism, Nationalism and Reason" (Reserve #7)
 - *VLW ch. 8
 - *FW pp. 104-110
- E) Quebec, Special Status, and Constitutional Reform
 - * Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech Lake" (Reserve #8)
 - * Remillard, "Quebec's Quest for Survival ..." (Reserve #9)
 - *VLW ch. 9
 - *FW pp. 131-140
 - Other Readings TBA
- F) Executive Federalism
 - Meekison, "First Ministers' Conferences..." (Reserve # 10)
 - *VLW ch. 10
 - *McAlpine, (Reserve 10a)

- G) Fiscal Federalism
 - *Blaikie and McAlpine, Reserve #9a
 - *VLW ch 11
 - *FW pp. 141-147
 - *Other Readings TBA
- H) The Courts and the Constitution
 - *FW pp. 74-99, 111-123
- I) The Post-Meech Environment: The Future of Canadian Federalism

UNIT VI: POLITICAL ECONOMY

2 weeks

- A) The Role and Size of Government
 - Readings TBA
 - *FW pp. 48-54
 - * Taft, Shredding the Public Interest
 - *FW pp. 564-576
- B) Continentalism, the U.S. and the (NA) FTA
 - Readings TBA

UNIT VII: OPINION FORMATION, AND PARTICIPATION

3 weeks

- A) Overview
- B) The Mass Media
 - Bashevkin, "The Development of Public Opinion"
 - (Reserve #14)
 - **FW pp. 231-237, 262-266
- C) Political Participation
 - Mishler, "Participation and Democracy" (Reserve #15)
 - *FW pp. 335-359.

UNIT VIII: POLITICAL PARTIES

2 weeks

- A) Overview of Political Parties in Canadian Politics
 - *VLW ch. 12
 - *FW pp 282-286, 272-281
- B) Party Origins and Ideology
 - *VLW, ch 13
 - Preece, "The Anglo-Saxon Conservative Tradition"
 - (Reserve #16)
 - *FW pp. 290-324
- C) Party Leadership
 - * Blake, "Division and Cohesion" (Reserve #17)
 - Johnston, "The Final Choice" (Reserve #18)

- D) Parties in Decline (?)
 McAllister, "Do Parties Make a Difference?"
 (Reserve #19)
 McAlpine, Dewitt and Good, "Reform Party..."
 (Reserve #20)
 *FW pp. 286-289

UNIT IX: ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR

1 week

- *VLW ch 15
 * Clarke et.al. Absent Mandate, (Reserve #21)
 Pammett, "The 1988 Vote" (Reserve #22)
 *FW pp. 360-398

UNIT X: INTEREST GROUPS

1 week

- i) Overview
 ii) Determinants of Power
 iii) New Social Movements
 *VLW ch. 16, 17
 *FW pp. 238-261

UNIT XI: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH and POLICY PROCESSES

2 weeks

- *VLW ch. 18, 20, 21
 FW pp. 418-456

UNIT XII: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1 week

- * VLW ch. 19
 *FW pp 489-523
 FW pp. 459-482

UNIT XIV: BUREAUCRACY

1 week

- * VLW ch 22, 23
 * FW pp. 526-534
 FW pp. 535- 563

UNIT XII: THE JUDICIARY

1 week

- *VLW ch. 24
 *FW pp. 508-606

UNIT XIV: CONCLUSION AND OVERVIEW

1 weeks