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GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200/320
CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Instructor: Tom Enders
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Office hours: Thursdays 1-2 p.m.
 Fridays 11 a.m. to noon

This course is designed to provide you, the student, with a broad introduction to the context, institutions and processes of Canadian politics at the national level.

Special attention will be given to a number of recurring issues including: Western alienation and Senate reform, the Quebec question, aboriginal self-government, party discipline, politicians' remuneration and universal public health care - among others.

You will be encouraged to formulate informed and well-reasoned positions on the issues considered.

Class time will be used for lectures and discussions. These will be supplemented by the presentation of videos - and guest speakers, dependent upon availability.

Course requirements:

Participation and attendance	10%
First exam, Wednesday 13 October	15%
First essay	15%
Christmas examination	15%
Second and longer essay	20%
Final exam	25%

Required texts:

Robert and Doreen Jackson, Politics in Canada, 4th edition. Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice Hall Allyn and Bacon Canada, 1998.

Gregory Mahler and Roman March, editors, Annual Editions: Canadian Politics, 4th edition. Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 1998.

Proposed list of topics

I. Introduction

1. Issues and Challenges of Canadian Politics - JJ ch. 1
2. Approaches to the study of Canadian Politics - JJ ch. 1
3. The development of the Canadian nation - JJ ch. 2

II. Regional and ethnic cleavages - JJ ch. 3

1. Alberta and Western Canada
2. Quebec and French-English relations - JJ pp. 80-85, also JJ ch. 7; AE unit 4 and articles 38 & 39 (on bilingualism).
3. Aboriginal peoples; the North - JJ pp. 92-98, also AE unit 8
4. Ontario and Atlantic Canada - AE article 30

III. Federalism and the Constitution

1. Federalism - JJ ch. 6; AE unit 5 (articles 25-27)
2. Public vs. private health care
3. The Constitution - JJ ch. 5 (pp. 150-186); AE unit 1

IV. Institutions

1. The executive - JJ ch. 8
2. The legislature, including party discipline, the Senate and Senate reform, and the representation of women - JJ ch. 9; AE unit 2
3. Remuneration of politicians
4. The bureaucracy - JJ ch. 10
5. The courts and the Charter of Rights - JJ pp. 186-95; AE unit 3

V. Political Behaviour: Influencing and Forming Governments

1. Political socialization and participation - JJ ch. 4
2. Political parties - past and future? - JJ ch. 11
3. Elections and the electoral system - JJ ch. 12, AE unit 6
4. Interest groups - an impediment or aid to democratic politics? JJ ch 13

VI. Issues of Public Policy

- Government restraint - JJ ch 14
- cultural issues - AE unit 7; also article 61
- multiculturalism - see JJ pp. 85-90
- immigration and refugee policy
- trade issues - JJ pp. 548-63; AE unit 10
- foreign policy and the military - AE unit 9; JJ pp. 563-68
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Please note: the information on this outline is subject to changes. Any changes will be announced in class.