

SEP 25 2000

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200/320
CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

September 2000 - April 2001

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Course Description:

Should the federal government contribute more to post-secondary education and health care? Should the private business sector play a greater role in the delivery of education and health care services? Will the Quebec issue ever be resolved? Should aboriginal peoples have greater powers of self-government? Should Canada accept more immigrants and refugees? Are politicians paid enough? What difference will the outcome of the next federal election make? These are some of the political questions facing Canadians and their governments that we will examine in this course.

We will look at the institutions and processes of Canadian politics and government used to make decisions about national (and some provincial) issues. We will also consider the relative influence and importance of a number of political actors. And we will place our investigations in their geographic, social and cultural contexts.

Course Objectives:

The first objective is to help you to think about the subject matter in an informed and reflective manner. At the end of this course, you should be better able to understand how the Canadian political system works (and fails to work), and how it might be improved. You should also have greater insights into particular political issues. You should be better able to think through and support whatever political positions you may adopt.

This course should also prepare you for further studies in Canadian politics at the college or university level.

Course requirements (for entire course):

Attendance and participation	10%
Article review (first term)	5%
First exam	10%
Christmas, 2 nd midterm, and April exam	45% (3 X 15%)
Short essay	10%
Second essay	15%
Second term report	5%

Required texts:

- Mark Charlton & Paul Barker, editors, Contemporary Political Issues, 3rd edition. Scarborough, Ont.: Nelson, 1998.
- Rand Dyck. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches. 3rd edition. Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson, 2000.
- Gregory Mahler & Roman March, editors, Annual Editions: Canadian Politics, 5th edition. Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2000.

Topics

I. Introduction.

1. What is Political Science. Approaches to study of Politics. Related job opportunities.
2. Overview of Canadian Political System. How governments are formed. Amounts and distribution of government revenues, spending.
3. Canadian Political Culture. Political values. Democracy. National unity. Canadian identity.

II. Federalism and related issues.

1. Federalism and the division of powers. Shared-cost programs and block funding.
2. Health care and federalism. Public vs. private.
3. Post-secondary education and federalism. Student subsidization. Role of private sector.
4. Social programs. Welfare and workfare. Unemployment Insurance.
5. Childcare.
6. Gun control.
7. Regional development and equalization. Atlantic Canada.

III. The Canadian Constitution, Ethnic Groups and Politics.

1. Quebec and English-French relations. Quebec Referendums of 1980 and 1995.
2. Major developments since Confederation: 1982, Meech Lake, Charlottetown Accord. Distinct Society. Centralization and Decentralization.
3. Aboriginal Peoples. Self-government. Land claims. Native peoples and imprisonment. Nunavut.
4. Ethnic minorities. Immigration, multiculturalism.

IV. Institutions.

1. Formal Executive. Prime Minister and Cabinet. Political Executive and bureaucracy. Security issues (RCMP, CSIS, CSE). Ministerial responsibility (e.g. Jane Stewart). Budget process. Auditor General. Debt and deficits.
2. Parliament. "Responsible government" and party discipline. Functions of Parliament/Legislative Branch. Question Period. Role of MPs.
3. Senate. Abolish or reform? Western Alienation.
4. Politicians' pay and perks.
5. Women in Canadian Politics, mirror representation and

affirmative action.

6. The Courts. The Charter of Rights.

V. Forming and influencing governments.

1. Political socialization and participation. News media.

2. Interest groups.

3. Political parties.

4. Elections. News media. Polling. Electoral Systems. Proportional Representation.

VI. Canada and the World.

1. The Canadian military. Peacekeeping. Combat role. Canada and the U.S. NATO and NORAD.

2. Foreign ownership and trade agreements. NAFTA. WTO.

3. Cultural issues. Split-run magazines. Television. Film.

Readings

I. Introduction.

1. What is Political Science. Approaches to study of Politics. Related job opportunities.

Dyck, Chapter 1

2. Overview of Canadian Political System. Amounts and distribution of government revenues, spending.

Dyck, Chapter 2

3. Canadian Political Culture. Political values. Democracy. National unity. Canadian identity

Dyck, Chapter 10, pp. 199-216

C&B, Issue 2, "Is the political culture of Canada becoming Americanized?" pp. 19-54 BUT go from page 24 "... prominent at the time." to p. 28 "The Problem of Americanization"

II. Federalism and related issues.

1. Federalism and the division of powers. Shared-cost programs and block funding.

Dyck, Chapter 17

Thomas Courchene, "In Praise of Provincial Ascendancy," AE 98-102

Thomas Courchene, "Fair-Shares Federalism..." AE pp. 103-10

"The Social Union Framework," AE pp. 111-13

Andrew Coyne, "The Case for Strengthening Federal Powers" AE 15-19

C&B, Issue 7, "Must national standards be federal [government] standards?" pp. 134-59

2. Health care and federalism. Public vs. private.

Readings TBA

3. Post-secondary education and federalism. Student subsidization. Role of private sector.

C&B, Issue 21, "Should Canada's universities be privatized?" pp. 464-85

4. Social programs. Welfare and workfare. Unemployment Insurance. Dyck, Chapter 8

C&B, Issue 22, "Is workfare sound public policy?" pp. 486-517

C. R. Tindal, "The Unravelling Social Safety Net," pp. 275-308

5. Childcare.

Readings TBA

6. Gun control. (Women and; Political parties and; Rural vs. urban)

Readings TBA

7. Regional development and equalization. Atlantic Canada

Dyck, Chapter 3

III. The Canadian Constitution, Ethnic Groups and Politics.

1. Quebec and English-French relations. Quebec Referendums of 1980 and 1995.

Dyck, Chapter 5

Peter Russell, "The Supreme Court Ruling," AE pp. 20-3

Dan Usher, "The New Constitutional Duty to Negotiate," AE pp. 24-7

Roger Gibbins, "Models for a Canada-Quebec Partnership," AE 72-5

Keith Norrie & Michael Percy, "Economic Dimensions of a Canada-Quebec Partnership," AE pp. 76-81

Richard Mackie, "50% Plus 1 Too Little..." AE pp. 85-6

David T. Jones, "Quebec's Election as Seen from the US," AE 87-91

J-P Derriennic, "Users' Guide to a Clear Majority," AE pp. 124-9

C&B, Issue 10, "Is it time for Canada and Quebec to part?" 201-18

2. Major developments since Confederation: 1982, Meech Lake, Charlottetown Accord. Distinct Society. Centralization and Decentralization.

Dyck, Chapter 16

Gerald Beaudoin, "A Constitutional Solution," AE pp. 8-11

Graham Fraser, "How Meech Changed History," AE, pp. 12-14

C&B, Issue 6, "Is constitutional reform necessary?" pp. 109-33

C&B, Issue 8, "Should Quebec be recognized as a distinct society in the constitution?" pp. 160-73

3. Aboriginal Peoples. Self-government. Land claims. Native peoples and imprisonment. Nunavut. (Also: Political parties &)

Dyck, Chapter 4

C&B, Issue 1, "Can native sovereignty coexist with Canadian sovereignty," pp. 2-18

Annual Editions, Unit 8 - which includes:

Tony Hall, "Royal Omission," pp. 162-3

Rudy Platiel, "The Writing on the Wall," pp. 164-6

Kirk Makin, "Top Court Appalled as Natives Fill...Jails," pp.167-8

Thomas Walkom, "The Big Power Shift," pp. 169-71

Thomas Walkom, "Our Land," pp. 172-7
David Crary, "Nunavut: New Canadian Territory..." pp. 178-9
Paul Marshall, "The Importance of Group Rights," in C&B, pp. 62-8

4. Ethnic minorities. Immigration, multiculturalism.
Dyck, Chapter 6

IV. Institutions.

1. The Executive Branch. Formal Executive. Political Executive and bureaucracy. Prime Minister and Cabinet. Security issues (RCMP, CSIS, CSE). Ministerial responsibility (e.g. Jane Stewart). Budget process. Auditor General. Debt and deficits.
Dyck, Chapter 20 and 21
Bruce Wallace, "For the Love of Power..." AE pp. 47-51
C&B, Issue 11, "Is the doctrine of individual ministerial responsibility workable?" pp. 220-41

2. Parliament. "Responsible government" and party discipline. Functions of Parliament/Legislative Branch. Question Period. Role of MPs.
Dyck, Chapter 22, pages 545-69
Christopher Garner, "Reforming the House of Commons," AE pp 30-4
C.E.S. Franks, "Free Votes in the House of Commons," AE pp 35-9
C&B, Issue 13, "Should party discipline be relaxed?" pp. 278-91

3. Senate. Abolish or reform? Western Alienation.
Dyck, Chapter 22, pages 569-79
Normand Grimard, "Is Senate Reform a Dead Issue?" AE pp. 44-6

4. Politicians' pay and perks.

5. Women in Canadian Politics, mirror representation and affirmative action.
Dyck, Chapter 7
Norma Gould, "Women In Canadian Legislatures 1978-98," AE 40-3
C&B, Issue 17, "Should representation in Parliament mirror Canada's social diversity?" pp. 377-406
C&B, Issue 23, "Is employment equity fair & necessary?" 518-43

6. The Courts. The Charter of Rights.
Dyck, Chapter 23 and 18
Annual Editions, Unit 3, which includes:
Philip Kaye, "Parliament and the Courts..." pp. 54-8
Jeffrey Simpson, "Needed: A Better Way to Make... Appointments" 59
Bertha Wilson, "We Didn't Volunteer," pp. 60-3
Peter Russell, "Reform's Judicial Agenda," pp. 64-6; Preston Manning, "A 'B' for Prof. Russell," pp. 67-8; Peter Russell, "Prof. Russell Replies," pp. 68-9
C&B, Issue 5, "Is the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms anti-democratic?" pp. 96-108
C&B, Issue 14, "Do the courts practise judicial self-restraint?" pp. 292-317

C&B, Issue 15, "Should Parliament review Supreme Court nominees?"
pp. 318-35

V. Forming and influencing governments.

1. Political socialization and participation. News media.
Dyck, Chapter 10, pages 216-21; Chapter 11

2. Interest groups.
Dyck, Chapter 15

3. Political parties.
Dyck, Chapter 13

Brian Laghi, "Manning Wins, Barely," AE pp. 130-2

Edward Greenspon & Jeff Sallot, "Pragmatic McDonough..." AE 133-5

Rae Murphy, "Red Alert!" AE pp. 136-39

4. Elections. News media. Polling. Electoral Systems.
Proportional Representation.

Dyck, Chapters 14 and 12

Lisa Young, "Electoral Systems & Representative Leg.s" AE pp. 116-8

"Round Table on Proportional Representation," AE pp. 119-23

C&B, Issue 19, "Should Canada adopt P.R.?" pp. 428-51

VI. Canada and the World.

1. The Canadian military. Peacekeeping. Combat role. Canada and
the U.S. NATO and NORAD.

Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 167-75

Louis Nastro & Kim Nossal, "Commitment-Capability Gap" AE 208-12

Bill Graham & Frank Gaffney, "No First Use for NATO?" AE pp.213-17

Joe Clark, "What Has Happened to Canada's... Leadership?" AE 223-4

Kathleen Kenna, "Lecturer to the Americans," AE pp. 220-2

2. Foreign ownership and trade agreements. NAFTA. WTO.

Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 175-84

D. Veniez & R. Brenner, and Maude Barlow, "Free Trade 10 Years
On..." AE pp. 187-9

Mark MacKinnon, "Foreign Ownership is on the Rise," AE pp. 194-5

Joan Grant-Cummings, "The Global Capitalist Economic Agenda:
Impact on Women's Human Rights," AE pp. 202-5

3. Cultural issues. Split-run magazines. Television. Film.

Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 184-90

Annual Editions, Unit 7, which includes:

Susan Riley, "Seven Myths about Canadian Culture," pp. 142-4

Dennis Browne, "Canada's Culture/Trade Quandary..." pp. 145-50

updated - D. Browne, "Our Flawed New Magazine Policy," pp. 151-7

Brian Milner & Graham Fraser, "US Magazines Poised..." pp. 158-9

C&B, Issue 20, "Does Canada need the CBC?" pp. 454-63