

SEP. 11 2001

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200/320
CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
University Transfer
September 2001 - April 2002

Instructor: Tom Enders
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Office hours: (fall term)

Room:
Time: Mon. 11:30-12:50
Fri. 10:00-11:20

Mon., Thurs. 2:00-3:30

College Calendar Course Description:

This course will acquaint you with the structure and operations of Canadian national government and politics. Topics covered include the constitution, the structure and role of the federal government and the political process in Canada, including the activities and roles of interest groups, political parties, voting behaviour, elites, pressure groups and Canadian-American relations. Current issues of importance such as "western alienation", the Quebec question, federal-provincial relations and free trade and environmental policy are also examined.

Course Objectives:

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:

Attendance and participation	10%
Four exams (4 X 15%)	60%
First essay	10%
Second essay	15%
Second term report	5%

PLEASE NOTE: The details of this course outline are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

Required texts:

1. Mark Charlton & Paul Barker, editors, Contemporary Political Issues, 3rd edition. Scarborough, Ont.: Nelson, 1998.
2. Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 3rd edition. Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson, 2000.
3. Course Package for Political Science 2200/320.

Topics

- I. **Introduction.**
 - A. What is Political Science. Approaches to study of Politics. Related job opportunities.
 - B. Overview of Canadian Political System. How governments are formed. Amounts and distribution of government revenues, spending.
 - C. Canadian Political Culture. Political values. Democracy. National unity. Canadian identity.
- II. **Federalism and related issues.**
 - A. Federalism and the division of powers. Shared-cost programs and block funding.
 - B. Health care and federalism. Public vs. private.
 - C. Post-secondary education and federalism. Role of private sector.
 - D. Social programs. Welfare and workfare.
 - E. Regional development and equalization. Atlantic Canada.
- III. **The Canadian Constitution, Ethnic Groups and Politics.**
 - A. Quebec and English-French relations. Quebec Referendums of 1980 and 1995.
 - B. Major developments since Confederation: 1982, Meech Lake, Charlottetown Accord. Distinct Society. Centralization and Decentralization.
 - C. Aboriginal Peoples. Self-government. Land claims.
 - D. Ethnic minorities. Immigration, multiculturalism.
- IV. **Institutions..**
 - A. Formal Executive.
 - B. Political Executive. Prime Minister and Cabinet. Political Executive and bureaucracy. Ministerial responsibility (e.g. Jane Stewart). Budget process. Auditor General. Debt and deficits.
 - C. Parliament. "Responsible government" and party discipline. Functions of Parliament/Legislative Branch. Question Period. Role of MPs.
 - D. Senate. Abolish or reform? Western Alienation.
 - E. Politicians' pay and perks.
 - F. Women in Canadian Politics, mirror representation and affirmative action.
 - G. The Courts. The Charter of Rights.
- V. **Forming and influencing governments..**
 - A. Political socialization and participation.
 - B. Interest groups.
 - C. Political parties.
 - D. Elections. Polling. Electoral Systems. Proportional Representation.
 - E. News Media.

VI. Canada and the World.

- A. The military and Defence. The Canadian military. Peacekeeping. Combat role. Canada and the U.S. NATO and NORAD.
- B. Foreign ownership and trade agreements. NAFTA. WTO.
- C. Environmental Policy.
- D. Cultural issues. Split-run magazines. Television. Film.

Readings

I. Introduction.

- A. What is Political Science. Approaches to study of Politics. Related job opportunities.
 - Dyck, Chapter 1
- B. Overview of Canadian Political System. How governments are formed. Amounts and distribution of government revenues, spending.
 - Dyck, Chapter 2
- C. 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.

- A. Federalism and the division of powers. Shared-cost programs and block funding.
 - Dyck, Chapter 17
 - A. Coyne, "The Case for Strengthening Federal Powers" AE 15-19
 - C&B, Issue 7, "Must national standards be federal [government] standards?" pp. 134-59
- B. Health care and federalism. Public vs. private.
 - C. Richard Tindal, "The Unravelling Social Safety Net," pp. 284-92.
 - Kevin Taft, "The Special Case of Health Care," pp. 93-105
 - Dr. David Gatzner, Code Blue, pp. 167-86, 192-4
- C. Post-secondary education and federalism. Role of private sector.
 - C&B, Issue 21, "Should Canada's universities be privatized?" pp. 464-85
- D. Social programs. Welfare and workfare.
 - Dyck, Chapter 8
 - C&B, Issue 22, "Is workfare sound public policy?" pp. 486-517
 - Tindal, "The Unravelling Social Safety Net," pp. 275-308

- E. Regional development and equalization. Atlantic Canada
- Dyck, Chapter 3
 - C&B, first edition, Issue 23, "Is the Market the Solution to Regional Disparities?" pp. 414-29

III. The Canadian Constitution, Ethnic Groups and Politics.

- A. Quebec and English-French relations. Quebec Referendums of 1980 and 1995.
- Dyck, Chapter 5
 - C&B, Issue 10, "Is it time for Canada and Quebec to part?" pp. 201-18
- B. Major developments since Confederation: 1982, Meech Lake, Charlottetown Accord. Distinct Society. Centralization and Decentralization.
- Dyck, Chapter 16
 - Graham Fraser, "How Meech Changed History," AE, pp. 12-14
 - C&B, Issue 6, "Is constitutional reform necessary?" pp. 109-33
 - Kenneth McNaught, "The National Outlook of English-speaking Canadians," pp. 179-83
 - C&B, Issue 8, "Should Quebec be recognized as a distinct society in the constitution?" pp. 160-73
- C. Aboriginal Peoples. Self-government. Land claims.
- Dyck, Chapter 4
 - C&B, Issue 1, "Can native sovereignty coexist with Canadian sovereignty," pp. 2-18
 - Paul Marshall, "The Importance of Group Rights," C&B, pp. 62-8
 - Georges Erasmus & Joe Sanders, "Canadian History: An Aboriginal Perspective," pp. 365-70
- D. Ethnic minorities. Immigration, multiculturalism.
- Dyck, Chapter 6
 - Katherine Fierlbeck, "Multiculturalism and the Right to Recognition," pp. 77-94
 - Y. Abu-Laban & D. Stasiulis, "Ethnic Pluralism Under Siege," pp. 365-81

IV. Institutions.

- A. The Executive Branch. Formal Executive. Political Executive and bureaucracy. Prime Minister and Cabinet. Ministerial responsibility (e.g. Jane Stewart). Budget process. Auditor General. Debt and deficits.
- Dyck, Chapter 20 and 21
 - C&B, Issue 11, "Is the doctrine of individual ministerial responsibility workable?" pp. 220-41
- B. Parliament. "Responsible government" and party discipline. Functions of Parliament/Legislative Branch. Question Period.

Role of MPs.

- Dyck, Chapter 22, pages 545-69
- C.E.S. Franks, "Free Votes in the House of Commons," pp 35-9
- C&B, Issue 13, "Should party discipline be relaxed?" pp. 278-91

C. Senate. Abolish or reform? Western Alienation.

Dyck, Chapter 22, pages 569-79

- J.M.S. Careless, "The Myth of the Downtrodden West"
- David Elton, "The West Wants In"

D. Politicians' pay and perks.

- TBA

E. Women in Canadian Politics, mirror representation and affirmative action.

- Dyck, Chapter 7
- 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

F. The Courts. The Charter of Rights.

- Dyck, Chapter 23 and 18
- 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.

A. Political socialization and participation. News media.

Dyck, Chapter 10, pages 216-21; Chapter 11, pp. 230-4

B. Interest groups.

- Dyck, Chapter 15

C. Political parties.

- Dyck, Chapter 13
- C&B, Issue 16 "Are political parties necessary?" pp. 338-76

D. Elections. Polling. Electoral Systems. Proportional Representation.

- Dyck, Chapters 14 and 12
- Nelson Wiseman, "The Use, Misuse and Abuse of the National Election Studies," pp. 280-95
- C&B, Issue 19, "Should Canada adopt P.R.?" pp. 428-51

E. News Media.

- Robert Hackett, "The News Media & Civic Equality: Watch Dogs, Mad Dogs, or Lap Dogs?" pp. 197-212

VI. Canada and the World:

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

- Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 173-75
- Chris Brown, "Africa in Canadian Foreign Policy 2000: The Human Security Agenda," pp. 192-212
- Senate of Canada, "Meeting New Challenges: Canada's Response to a New Generation of Peacekeeping," pp. 667-80

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

- Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 167-73, 175-82, 183
- TBA

C. Environmental Policy

- TBA

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

- Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 184-90
- C&B Issue 20, "Does Canada need the CBC?" pp. 454-63
- TBA