

SEP. 24 2002

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200/320
CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
University Transfer
September 2002 - April 2003

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Office hours: (fall term):

Room:
Time:

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 able to understand better how the Canadian political system works (and fails to work), and how it might be improved. You should also have greater insights into some significant political issues. You should be more 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 postsecondary level.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation	10%
First exam.....	10%
Other exams (3 X 15%)	45%
First term report	10%
First essay	10%
Second essay	15%

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, 4th edition, Scarborough, Ont.: Nelson, 1998.
2. Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 3rd edition, Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson, 2000.

NOTE: These two books are being sold as a package in the

bookstore.

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. Institutions..

- A. Formal Executive. The Queen and Governor General.
- 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. Western Alienation.
- E. Senate. Abolish or reform?
- F. Politicians' pay and perks.
- G. Women in Canadian Politics
- H. Mirror representation and affirmative action.
- I. The Courts.
- J. The Charter of Rights.

III. 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.

IV. 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. Social programs. Welfare and workfare.
- D. Regional development and equalization. Atlantic Canada.

IV. 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.

VI. Canada and the World.

- A. Global warming and Environmental Policy.
- B. The softwood lumber issue.
- C. The military and Defence. The Canadian military. Peacekeeping. Combat role. Canada and the U.S. NATO and NORAD.
- D. Foreign ownership and trade agreements. NAFTA. WTO.
- E. 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 1, "Is the political culture of Canada becoming Americanized?" pp. 2-37 BUT go from page 7 "... prominent at the time." to p. 11 "The Problem of Americanization"

II. Institutions..

A. The Formal Executive.

- Dyck, Chapter 20, pp. 475-81

B. Political Executive and bureaucracy. Prime Minister and Cabinet. Ministerial responsibility (e.g. Jane Stewart). Budget process. Auditor General, Debt and deficits.

- Dyck, Chapter 20, pp. 481-509, and Chapter 21
- C&B, Issue 9, "Is the Prime Minister too powerful?" pp. 186-220

C. 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 10, "Should party discipline be relaxed?" pp. 221-234

D. Western alienation.

- Allan Tupper, "Toward a New Beginning? The Chretien Liberals and Western Canada," pp. 88-101.
- J.M.S. Careless, "The Myth of the Downtrodden West" pp. 31-4, 36

- David Elton, "The West Wants In," pp. 346-62

E. Senate. Abolish or reform?

Dyck, Chapter 22, pages 569-79

D. Politicians' pay and perks.

- TBA

E. Women in Canadian Politics

- Dyck, Chapter 7

- Sandra Burt, "Looking Backward and Thinking Ahead: Toward a Gendered Analysis of Canadian Politics," pp. 303-26

F. Mirror representation and affirmative action.

- C&B, Issue 12, "Should representation in Parliament mirror Canada's social diversity?" pp. 252-281

F. The Courts.

- Dyck, Chapter 23

G. The Charter of Rights.

- Dyck, Chapter 18

- C&B, Issue 5, "Is the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms anti-democratic?" pp. 96-108

- C&B, Issue 11, "Do the Courts Engage in a Dialogue with the Legislatures?" pp. 235-49

V. Forming and influencing governments.

A. Political socialization and participation.

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

B. Interest groups.

- Dyck, Chapter 15

C. Political parties.

- Dyck, Chapter 13

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

- Dyck, Chapters 14, 12 and 11, pp. 245-8

- Nelson Wiseman, "The Use, Misuse and Abuse of the National Election Studies," pp. 280-95

- C&B, Issue 19, "Should Canada adopt proportional representation?" pp. 290-315

- C&B, Issue 13, "Should voting be made mandatory?" pp. 282-9

E. News Media.

- Dyck, Chapter 11, pp. 234-44.

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

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

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 Gratzler, Code Blue, pp. 167-86, 192-4
- C&B, Issue 17, "Does the United States have a better health care system than Canada?" pp. 358-371

C. Social programs. Welfare and workfare.

- Dyck, Chapter 8
- Tindal, "The Unravelling Social Safety Net," pp. 275-308

D. 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 8, "Is the Clarity Act good for Canada?" pp. 162-184.

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. 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," in 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
- Y. Abu-Laban & D. Stasiulis, "Ethnic Pluralism Under Siege," pp. 365-81
- Andrew Coyne & G.E. Dirks, "Should States Pursue an Open Border

Policy toward Migrants?" pp. 453-78

VI. Canada and the World.

A. Global warming and Environmental Policy.

- Debora Vannijnatten, "Getting Greener in the Third Mandate? Renewable Energy, Innovation, & the Liberals' Sustainable Development Agenda," pp. 216-33.
- ψ - Lee-Anne Broadhead, "Canada as a rogue state: its shameful performance on climate change." International Journal Summer 2001, pp. 461-80.

B. The softwood lumber issue.

- TBA

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

- Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 173-75
- Senate of Canada, "Meeting New Challenges: Canada's Response to a New Generation of Peacekeeping," pp. 667-80

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

- Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 167-73, 175-82, 181

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

- Dyck, Chapter 9, pages 184-90
- TBA