

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2200/320 CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS University Transfer September 2003 - April 2004

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD

Room: E302

Office: C303

Time: T/Th 8:30-9:50

Telephone: 539-2996

e-mail: enders@gprc.ab.ca

Office hours (fall term): Mon. 1-2 p.m.; Thurs. 10-11 a.m.; or by appointment

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.

You should also be prepared for further studies in Canadian politics at the postsecondary level by the end of the year.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation	10%
First exam	10%
Last three exams (3 X 15%)	45%
Report	10%
First essay	10%
Second essay	15%

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Required texts:

1. Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 4th edition. Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson, 2004.
2. Course Package for Political Science 2200/320.

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

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 and 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.
- F. Politicians' pay and perks.
- G. Women in Canadian Politics
- H. The Courts.
- I. 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.

V. 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. Other roles. 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

Note that Policy Options articles from 1997 and after are available at www.irpp.org

I. Introduction.

- A. What is Political Science. Approaches to study of Politics. Related job opportunities.
 - Dyck, Chapter 1: "Approaching the Study of Politics"
- B. Overview of Canadian Political System. How governments are formed. Amounts and distribution of government revenues, spending.
 - Dyck, Chapter 2: "Institutional Foundations"
- C. Canadian Political Culture. Political values. Democracy. National unity. Canadian identity.
 - Dyck, Chapter 10, pp. 209-27 (3rd edition pp. 199-216)
 - Janine Brodie, "On Being Canadian," pp. 18-30
 - Anthony Peacock, "Socialism as Nationalism," pp. 22-35
 - David Montgomery, "Whoa, Canada," Washington Post, reprinted in the Edmonton Journal, 12 July 2003 (ProQuest database)

II. Institutions.

- A. The Formal Executive or Crown.
 - Dyck, Chapter 20, pp. 495-501 (3rd edition, pp. 475-81)
 - See also ch. 2, "The Road to Canadian Sovereignty," pp. 34-6 (3rd edition, pp. 32-4)
 - Michael Valpy, "Don't Mess With Success," Policy Options, May 1999, pp. 25-8.
 - David E. Smith, "Republican Tendencies," Policy Options, May 1999, pp. 8-11.
 - Reg Whitaker, "The Monarchy: Gone With the Wind?" Policy Options, May 1999, pp. 12-15.
- B. Political Executive and bureaucracy.
 - B(I). Prime Minister and Cabinet.
 - B(II) Ministerial responsibility (e.g. Jane Stewart).
 - B(III) Budget process. Auditor General. Debt and deficits.
 - Dyck, Chapter 20, pp. 501-24 (3rd ed. 481-509) and Chapter 21

- Sharon Sutherland, "Ministerial responsibility (for beginners)," Ottawa Citizen, 12 February 2000 (ProQuest database)

C. Parliament. "Responsible government" and party discipline. Functions of Parliament/Legislative Branch. Question Period. Role of MPs.

- Dyck, Chapter 22, "Parliament," pp. 571-96 (3rd ed. 545-69)
- C.E.S. Franks, "Free Votes in the House of Commons," pp 35-9
- David Kilgour, J. Kirsner, K. McConnell, "Discipline vs. Democracy: Party Discipline in Canadian Politics," pp. 223-8
- Canada and the World Backgrounder, "Toeing the line," September 1997, CPIQ database (accessed through Infotrac)

D. Western alienation.

- Dyck, ch. 3, esp. pp. 53-62, "Regional Economic Differences" & "Regional Economic Conflicts" (3rd edition, pp. 47-56)
- 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. 30-4, 36
- David Elton, "Federalism & the Canadian West," pp. 346-62
- handout

E. Senate. Abolish or reform?

- Dyck, Chapter 22, pp 596-604 (3rd ed. pp. 569-79)
- Roger Gibbins & Sonia Arrison, "The Quest for a Solution," pp. 85-114

F. Politicians' pay and perks.

- Liane George, "How much? A survey of salaries," Report on Business Magazine, March 2002, pp. 33-42, CPIQ database (accessed through Infotrac)

- not required, but also of interest, Veronica Cusack, "Who earns what: from underpaid millionaires to overpaid wives, unemployed environmentalists to accident-prone stuntmen," Toronto Life, July 2002, pp. 64-71 CPIQ database (accessed through Infotrac)

G. Women in Canadian Politics

- Dyck, Chapter 7
- Sandra Burt, "Looking Backward & Thinking Ahead: Toward a Gendered Analysis of Canadian Politics," pp. 303-26

H. The Courts.

- Dyck, Chapter 23, "The Judiciary"

I. The Charter of Rights.

- Dyck, Chapter 18
- "Is the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms antidemocratic?" pp. 96-108, including Charlton & P. Barker, Introduction and Postscript; Robert Martin, "The Canadian

- Charter... is Antidemocratic and Un-Canadian," pp. 96-102; and Philip Bryden, "... An Opposing Point of View," pp. 103-107
- Rainer Knopff, "A Delicate Dance: The Courts & the Chretien Government," pp. 277-303, especially pp. 277-83, 290-303

III. Forming and influencing governments.

A. Political socialization and participation.

- Dyck, Chapter 10, pp. 227-31 (3rd edition pp. 216-21); Chapter 11, pp. 239-43 (3rd edition pp. 230-4)

B. Interest groups.

- Dyck, Chapter 15, "Pressure Groups & lobbying"

C. Political parties.

- Dyck, Chapter 13, "Political Parties & the party system"

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

- Dyck, Chapters 14, "Parties, Voting, and the Election Campaign," 12, "Elections and the Electoral System," and 11, pp. 255-9, "Public Opinion Polls" (3rd edition, pp. 245-8)
- Nelson Wiseman, "The Use, Misuse and Abuse of the National Election Studies," pp. 280-95
- Roger Gibbins & Loleen Youngman Berdahl, "The Institutional Expression of Multiple Identities: The Electoral Reform Debate," pp. 176-86
- John Hiemstra & Harold Jansen, "Getting What You Vote For," pp. 292-303
- Paul Barker, "Voting for Trouble," pp. 304-12

E. News Media.

- Dyck, Chapter 11, pp. 244-55 (3rd edition, pp. 234-44)
- Robert Hackett, "The News Media & Civic Equality: Watch Dogs, Mad Dogs, or Lap Dogs?" pp. 197-212
- Tom Kent, "Concentration with Convergence - Goodbye Freedom of the Press," Policy Options, October 2002, pp. 26-8, available at www.irpp.org
- TBA

IV. Federalism and related issues.

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

- Dyck, Chapter 17, "The Provinces and the Federal System"
- A. Coyne, "The Case for Strengthening Federal Powers," pp. 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. Social programs. Welfare and workfare.

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

D. Regional development and equalization. Atlantic Canada

- Dyck, Chapter 3, "Regional Economic Cleavages"
- C&B, first edition, Issue 23, "Is the Market the Solution to Regional Disparities?" pp. 414-29

V. The Canadian Constitution, Ethnic Groups and Politics.

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

- Dyck, Chapter 5, "The French-English Cleavage and the Quebec Question"
- Rainer Knopff, "A Delicate Dance: The Courts & the Chretien Government," pp. 284-90
- David Bercuson, "Why Quebec & Canada Must Part," pp. 203-9
- David Koysis, "Why Political Divorce Must Be Averted," pp. 211-17

Recommended:

- Paul de Villers, "Why We Must Entrench Quebec's Francophone Heritage," Canadian Speeches, April 1997, pp. 7-8 and
- Line Maheux, "Why the Distinct Society Idea is Tearing Canada Apart," Canadian Speeches, April 1997, pp. 3-7

(access Canadian Speeches through CBCA database)

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

- Dyck, Chapter 16, "The Canadian Constitution & Constitutional Change"
- Graham Fraser, "How Meech Changed History," pp. 12-14
- Kenneth McNaught, "The National Outlook of English-speaking Canadians," pp. 179-83

C. Aboriginal Peoples. Self-government. Land claims.

- Dyck, Chapter 4, "Canada's Aboriginal Peoples"
- Georges Erasmus & Joe Sanders, "Canadian History: An Aboriginal Perspective," pp. 365-70
- Frank Cassidy, "First Nations' Governance Act," Policy Options, April 2003, pp. 46-50
- Tom Flanagan, "The Inherent Problems of Aboriginal Self-Government" at www.conservativeforum.org/EssaysForm.asp?ID=6113
- John Olthius & Roger Townshend, "The Case for Native Sovereignty," pp. 81-4
- Alex McClean, "Review Essay: Aboriginal Peoples and Democracy in Canada" (especially re: Alan Cairn's book, Citizens Plus) at www.usask.ca/native_studies/NSR/Frames/Book%20Reviews/13-2/13-2REMcLean.html

D. Ethnic minorities. Immigration, multiculturalism.

- Dyck, Chapter 6
- Y. Abu-Laban & D. Stasiulis, "Ethnic Pluralism Under Siege," pp. 365-81

- Y. Abu-Laban & Christina Gabriel, "Security, Immigration & Post-September 11 Canada," pp. 290-305
- Elizabeth Mclsaac, "Immigrants in Canadian Cities: Census 2001" in Policy Options, May 2003, pp. 58-63

VI. Canada and the World.

A. Global warming and Environmental Policy.

- Elizabeth May, "From Montreal to Kyoto," Policy Options, Dec. 2002/Jan. 2003, pp. 14-18
- Thomas d'Aquino, "A Business Case for Responsible Climate Change," Policy Options, Dec. 2002/Jan. 2003, pp. 50-2
- Debora Vannijatten & Douglas Macdonald, "Reconciling Energy & Climate Change Policies: How Ottawa Blends," pp. 72-88

Recommended:

- Lee-Anne Broadhead, "Canada as a rogue state: its shameful performance on climate change." International Journal Summer 2001, pp. 461-80. (Access through CBCA database.)

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
- J.L. Granatstein, "Canada's Army: A Profession Built in the Wars of One Century, Neglected for the Challenges of the Next," Policy Options, February 2003, pp. 80-85
- 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, 183
- TBA

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

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