

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3200 [07 (6)]

CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1992 - 1993  
MW 10:00-10:50  
Instructor: Scott McAlpine  
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O.N. T.B.A.

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is concerned with the structures and operation of the government of Canada as well as with contemporary political processes and issues confronting the Canadian state. Building on the social and economic setting to Canadian political life, the course considers such topics as regionalism, the Quebec question, free trade, party leadership, the constitution, and regional representation as well as some contemporary issues including the environment and native rights.

As a core course in the Canadian politics and government field, the objectives of this course are to give the student a broad conceptual understanding of the field as well as specific knowledge relating to the institutions processes, and issues which shape the Canadian political experience.

PREREQUISITE

2nd year standing is desirable.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is primarily a lecture course although given the somewhat instable character of the Canadian political system (at present), there will be ample opportunity for class discussion. Students are expected to keep up to date in the readings as well as to be reasonably informed about significant current Canadian political events. This can be achieved by reading a quality Canadian newspaper on a daily basis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be recorded on the 5 point scale for each component.

Library Assignment 1	5%	Due October 7, 1992
Fall Term Paper	15%	Due November 15, 1992
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week
Library Assignment 2	5%	Due February 5, 1993
Winter Term Paper	20%	Due March 8, 1993
Final Examination	20%	Exam week
10 Quizzes	10%	Various dates TBA

A. NOTE ON TERM PAPERS

Some possible topics will be distributed in class. In addition, students may make use of data from the 1984 and/or 1988 National Election Studies. A special session will be scheduled for computer training to access this data. Normally, papers are in the 12 - 15 page range for this course (typed, double spaced). Appropriate academic style is required. A guide on writing term papers will be distributed in class. Late papers MAY be accepted with a reduced grade (% grade point per 24 hour period).

TEXTS

All texts are required. Used copies may be available but students should ensure that the correct edition is purchased.  
Fox and White, Politics: Canada (7th edition), 1991. (Fox on the reading list)

Van Loan and Whittington, The Canadian Political System, 1987 (VLM on the reading list)

Whittington and Williams, Canadian Politics in the 1990's (3rd edition), 1990. (WM on the reading list)

Charlton and Barker, Contemporary Political Issues, 1991. (Charlton on the Readings List)

Gagnon and Bickerton, Canadian Politics: An Introduction to the Discipline, 1990 (Gagnon on the Readings List)

LECTURE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

Students are responsible for lecture material and all required readings (marked with an asterisk(\*)). Recommended readings provide greater depth of coverage and should be consulted although not necessarily read in depth. Reserve readings are available from the Learning Resources Centre (Library). From time to time, additional and/or replacement readings may be assigned as events dictate and as materials become available. Lecture dates are approximate.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION

1 week

- i) Review of Concepts in Political Science
  - ii) Overview of Canadian Political Institutions
- VLM, Chapter 1 (skim)  
 Mills, Wagenberg and Nelson, "A Brief Outline ..."  
 (Reserve #1)  
 Forssey, How Canadians Govern Themselves (Reserve #2)

UNIT II: CONTENDING THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE

2 weeks

- i) Institutional Approach
  - ii) Behavioural Approaches
  - iii) Liberal Pluralism
  - iv) Political Economy
  - v) "Marxian" Approaches
  - vi) Public Choice
- \* Gagnon Chapters 1, 2 & 7  
 \* Mackenzie, Canadian Political Behaviour pp. 3-6 (Reserve #3)  
 \* Dahl, Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy pp. 4-7, 11-54 (skim pp. 31-54) (Reserve #4)  
 \* Crosier, et.al., The Crisis of Democracy, pp. 1-9 (Reserve #5)  
 \* Fox, pp 23-25

UNIT III: THE CONSTITUTION AND FEDERALISM

5 weeks

- A) Overview of Institutions
- \* Fox, pp. 49-56  
 \* VLM, Chapters 6, 7, 8  
 \* MW, chapters 16, 19

B) Patriation, Amendment, and the Charter

- \* Banting & Simpson, "Federalism, Democracy, and the Constitution" (Reserve #6)
- \* Fox, pp. 79-83
- \* Charlton, Chapter 4

C) Canadian "Constitutional Culture"

- \* Gagnon, Chapters 3, 10, 5, 26, 27
- \* Trudeau, "Federalism, Nationalism and Reason" (Reserve #7)
- \* Charlton, Chapters 1, 2

D) Quebec, Special Status, and Meach Lake

- \* Fox, pp. 101-134
- \* Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meach Lake" (Reserve #8)
- \* Hamillard, "Quebec's Quest for Survival ..."  
 (Reserve #9)  
 Other Readings TBA

E) Fiscal Federalism

- \* VLM, Chapter 9

F) Executive Federalism

- \* Meekison, "First Ministers' Conferences..."  
 (Reserve #10)
- \* FOX, pp. 125-135
- \* Gagnon, Chapter 8

G) The Courts and the Constitution

- \* Gagnon, Chapter 9
- \* Fox, pp. 59-78
- \* Charlton, Chapter 5

H) The Post-Meech Environment: The Future of Canadian Federalism

- \* Charlton, Chapters 7, 8, 12
- \* Fox, pp. 136-144
- Other Readings TBA

UNIT IV: REGIONALISM

9

4 weeks

- A) The Social and Economic Setting
  - i) Historical Overview
  - ii) Ideological Perspectives
  - \* Gagnon, Chapter 13
  - \* VLM, chapters 2, 3
  - \* WM, Chapter 8
  - Bell and Tepperman, The Roots of Disunity, pp. 40-64 (Reserve #11)
  - \* Inglehart, "Post Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve #12)
  - \* Fox, pp. 151-162
- B) Atlantic Canada
  - \* WM, chapter 7
  - \* Fox, pp. 163-177
  - \* Gagnon, Chapter 15
- C) Ontario
  - \* WM, chapter 5
  - \* Gagnon, Chapter 17
- D) The West
  - \* WM, chapter 4
  - \* WM, chapter 3
  - \* Fox, pp. 178-191
  - \* Charlton, Chapter 2
- E) Quebec
  - \* WM, chapter 6
  - \* Fox, pp. 197-204, 205-212
  - \* OW, chapter 19
  - Rioux, "Toward a Free Quebec" (Reserve #13)
  - \* Fox, pp. 213-219
  - \* Charlton, Chapter 1
- F) The 'North'
  - \* WM, chapter 2
  - \* Gagnon, Chapter 25

UNIT V: POLITICAL ECONOMY

6

2 weeks

- A) The Role and Size of Government
  - \* WM, chapter 21
  - \* Gagnon, Chapters 18, 19, 22
- B) Continentalism, the U.S. and the (NA) FTA
  - \* WM, chapter 1
  - \* Fox, pp. 29-34
  - \* Charlton, Chapter 3
- C) Labour
  - \* Gagnon, Chapters 30, 31

UNIT VI: SOCIALIZATION, OPINION FORMATION, AND PARTICIPATION

3 weeks

- A) Overview
  - \* VLM, chapters 4, 5
- B) The Mass Media
  - \* WM, chapter 12
  - \* Fox, pp. 227-240, 254-259
  - Bachewkin, "The Development of Public Opinion" (Reserve #14)
  - \* Charlton, Chapters 16, 17
- C) Political Participation
  - \* WM, chapter 9
  - Mishlay, "Participation and Democracy" (Reserve #15)
- D) Gender and Participation
  - \* WM, chapter 11
  - \* Fox, pp. 9-14
  - \* Gagnon, Chapter 24
- E) Political Power
  - \* Fox pp 15-23
  - \* VLM, chapter 14
  - \* WM, chapter 10
  - \* Gagnon, Chapter 26 (re-read)

UNIT VII: INTEREST GROUPS

1 week

- i) Overview
- ii) Determinants of Power
- iii) New Social Movements
- \* Charlton, Chapter 15
- \* VLM, Chapter 13
- \* MW, Chapter 15
- \* Fox, pp. 244-254
- \* Gagnon, Chapter 23

UNIT VIII: POLITICAL PARTIES

3 weeks

A) Overview of Political Parties in Canadian Politics

- \* VLM, chapters 10, 11, 12
- \* MW, chapter 13
- \* Fox, pp 265-285

B) Party Origins and Ideology

- \* Fox, pp. 286-306
- Preece, "The Anglo-Saxon Conservative Tradition" (Reserve #16)
- \* Gagnon, Chapter 5

C) Party Leadership

- \* Stake, "Division and Cohesion" (Reserve #17)
- Johnston, "The Final Choice" (Reserve #18)

D) Parties in Decline (?)

- \* Charlton, Chapter 14
- McAllister, "Do Parties Make a Difference?" (Reserve #19)
- \* McAlpina, Dewitt and Good, "Keforms Party..." (Reserve #20)

UNIT IX: ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR

1 week

- \* MW, chapter 14
- \* Fox, pp. 429-433, 308-316, 398-412
- \* Clarke et al. Absent Mandate, pp. 150-156 (Reserve #21)
- Pannett, "The 1988 Vote" (Reserve #22)

UNIT X: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1 week

- \* VLM, chapter 15
- \* Fox, pp. 390-394
- \* MW, chapter 18
- \* Fox, pp. 373-389, 395-404
- \* Charlton, Chapter 9

UNIT XI: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1 week

- \* VLM, chapter 19
- \* MW, chapter 17
- \* Fox, pp. 407-425, 435-461
- \* Fox, pp. 426-430
- \* Charlton, Chapter 11

UNIT XII: THE JUDICIARY

1 week

- \* VLM, chapter 7 (re-read)
- \* Fox, pp. 509-534
- \* Charlton, Chapter 13

UNIT XIII: BUREAUCRACY

- \* VLM, chapters 17, 18
- \* MW, chapter 22
- \* Fox, pp. 475-496
- \* Fox, pp. 465-474
- \* MW, chapter 23

UNIT XIV: CONCLUSION AND OVERVIEW

2 weeks

Readings TBA