

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3200 [UT (6)]

CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

✓ 1994 - 1995
MWF 10:00-10:50

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O.H. 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 OBJECTIVES

1. knowledge and understanding of current structures and processes of Canadian government
2. ability to assess and employ alternative theoretical paradigms regarding Canadian government processes and structures
3. critical analysis of Canadian government and processes

Objective:

1. Knowledge
2. Application
3. Critical analysis

Key Strategies:

Lecture and Readings
Term Papers
Term Papers and discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be recorded on the 9 point scale for each component.

Library Assignment 1	5%	Due October 5, 1994
Fall Term Paper	15%	Due November 16, 1994
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week
Library Assignment 2	5%	Due February 1, 1995
Winter Term Paper	20%	Due March 10, 1995
Final Examination	25%	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. Late papers MAY be accepted with a reduced grade ($\frac{1}{2}$ grade point per 24 hour period) or portion thereof. Papers and assignments are due at the start of class on the date due.

TEXTS

REQUIRED:

Whittington and Williams, Canadian Politics in the 1990's (4th edition), 1995.
(WW on the reading list)

Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches (1993). (Dyck on the reading list.)

R.S. Blair & J.T. McLeod, The Canadian Political Tradition: Basic Readings (2nd ed.) 1993. (BM on the readings list).

STRONGLY SUGGESTED:

Diana Hacker, A Canadian Writer's Reference

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 and units may be shifted to accommodate the political agenda.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION AND CONTENT

1 week

- i) Review of Concepts in Political Science
- ii) Overview of Canadian Political Institutions
- * WW Chapter 18
- White, Wagenberg and Nelson, "A Brief Outline ..."
(Reserve #1)
- Forsey, How Canadians Govern Themselves (Reserve #2)

IA: THE CONTINUING SAGA OF QUEBEC IN CONFEDERATION

1 week

- *Dyck, Chapter 2. WW Chapter 5

UNIT II: CONTENDING THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE

2 weeks

- i) Institutional Approach
- ii) Behaviourial Approaches
- iii) Liberal Pluralism
- iv) Political Economy
- v) "Marxist" Approaches
- vi) Public Choice

Baskevkin, Canadian Political Behaviour pp. 3-6
(Reserve #3)

Dahl, Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy pp. 4-7, 31-54
(skim pp. 31-54)(Reserve #4)

Crozier, et.al., The Crisis of Democracy, pp. 1-9
(Reserve #5)

- * Dyck, chapter 1

UNIT III: ENVIRONMENT

4 weeks

A) The Social and Economic Setting

- i) Historical Overview
- ii) Ideological Perspectives

* BM, Chapter 12

* WW, chapter 6

Bell and Tepperman, The Roots of Disunity, pp. 40-64

(Reserve #11)

* Inglehart, "Post Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve #12)

* Dyck, chapter 7

B) Regional Cleavages

* WW, chapter 7, 5, 4, 3, 2

* BM, chapter 8

Rjoux, "Toward a Free Quebec" (Reserve #13)

C) Ethnic Cleavages

* WW, chapter 10

* Dyck, chapter 3

* BM, chapters 7, 10, 11

D) Class Cleavages

* Dyck, chapter 4

* WW, chapter 8

E) Other Cleavages

* WW, chapter 9

* Dyck, chapter 5

UNIT IV: POLITICAL ECONOMY

2 weeks

A) The Role and Size of Government

* WW, chapter 4

B) Continentalism, the U.S. and the (NA) FTA

- * WW chapter 2
- * Dyck, chapter 6
- * BM, Chapter 9

UNIT V: SOCIALIZATION, OPINION FORMATION, AND PARTICIPATION

3 weeks

A) Overview

- * Dyck, chapter 8

B) The Mass Media

- * WW, chapter 15
- * Dyck, chapter 9
- Bashevkin, "The Development of Public Opinion"
(Reserve #14)

C) Political Participation

- * WW, chapter 7
- Mishler, "Participation and Democracy" (Reserve #15)

UNIT VI: INTEREST GROUPS

1 week

- i) Overview
- ii) Determinants of Power
- iii) New Social Movements

- * Dyck, chapter 12
- * WW, chapter 13
- * BM, pp. 244-254

UNIT VII: POLITICAL PARTIES

3 weeks

A) Overview of Political Parties in Canadian Politics

- * Dyck, chapter 11
- * WW, chapter 11

- B) Party Origins and Ideology
- Preece, "The Anglo-Saxon Conservative Tradition"
(Reserve #16)
- * BM, chapter 13, 14, 16
- C) Party Leadership
- * Blake, "Division and Cohesion" (Reserve #17)
 - Johnston, "The Final Choice" (Reserve #18)
- D) Parties in Decline (?)
- * BM, chapters 15, 17
 - McAllister, "Do Parties Make a Difference?"
(Reserve #19)
 - * McAlpine, Dewitt and Good, "Reform Party..."
(Reserve #20)

UNIT VIII: ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR

1 week

- * WW, chapter 12
- * BM, Chapter 20
- * Dyck, chapter 10
- * Clarke et.al. Absent Mandate, pp. 150-156 (Reserve #21)
- Pammett, "The 1988 Vote" (Reserve #22)

UNIT IX: THE CONSTITUTION AND FEDERALISM

5 weeks

- A) Overview of Institutions
- * Dyck, chapters 13, 14
 - * WW, chapters 16
- B) Patriation, Amendment, and the Charter
- * Banting & Simeon, "Federalism, Democracy,
and the Constitution" (Reserve #6)
 - * BM, chapter 4
 - * Dyck, chapter 22

- C) Canadian "Constitutional Culture"
- * WW, chapter 1
 - * BM, chapters 1, 2, 3, 5
 - * Trudeau, "Federalism, Nationalism and Reason" (Reserve #7)
- D) Quebec, Special Status, and Meech Lake
- * Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech Lake" (Reserve #8)
 - * Remillard, "Quebec's Quest for Survival ..." (Reserve #9)
 - Other Readings TBA
- E) Executive Federalism
- Meekison, "First Ministers' Conferences..." (Reserve # 10)
 - * BM, chapter 26
 - * WW, chapter 20
- F) The Courts and the Constitution
- * BM, chapter 28
 - * WW, chapter 17
- G) The Post-Meech Environment: The Future of Canadian Federalism
- * BM, chapter 6
 - Other readings TBA

UNIT X: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH and POLICY PROCESSES

1 week

- * Dyck, chapters 15, 16, 17
- * BM, chapter 23, 24
- * WW, chapter 19

UNIT XI: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1 week

* Dyck, chapters 19, 20

* WW, chapter 17

* BM, chapter 21, 22

UNIT XII: THE JUDICIARY

1 week

* Dyck, chapter 21

UNIT XIII: BUREAUCRACY

* Dyck, chapter 18

* WW, chapter 21

* BM, chapter 25

UNIT XIV: CONCLUSION AND OVERVIEW

2 weeks

* Dyck, chapter 23

Other readings TBA