

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 3200 [UT (0)]

CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1995 - 1996

M, W, F 10:00 - 10:50

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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.

Substantially revised for 1995-96, the course assumes no prior knowledge of Canadian politics apart from a healthy interest in the subject. Three essential concepts anchor the course. These are democracy, conflict, and the question of the government versus the people. Indeed, given the contemporary conflicts between the state and the public in such cases as Oka, the GST, and, in many ways, the Quebec issue, it is this latter question which will inform much of the discussion.

PREREQUISITE

None, although 2nd year standing is desirable but not strictly required.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is primarily a lecture course although given the 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 coupled with paying attention to a quality television news broadcast.

While no grade is formally assigned to class discussion and participation, given that many of the examination questions are drawn from lectures and class discussion, attendance should not be regarded as optional. Moreover, since the course will make use of multi-

media technology (computer graphics, video tapes, and, hopefully, 2-way video guest speakers), attendance is most strongly recommended.

Students are encouraged (not required) to make use of the e-mail accounts which have been established for the purposes of this course. Training will be provided on the basics of this technology. The point here is to attempt to facilitate between students and between students and the instructor. More will be said about this in class. In addition, students are encouraged to make use of the local, regional, and national data bases which are housed on the College computer. Again, training will be provided for interested students.

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

Objectives

Key Situations

1. Knowledge
2. Application
3. Critical analysis

Lecture and Readings
Term Papers
Term Papers and discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be recorded on a percentage basis, averaged across components, and converted to the College standard 9 point scale (letter-grade) scale at the end of the course. The 9 point scale for each component:

Component	Weight	Date Due	Objective
Library Assignment 1	5%	Oct. 2, 1995	Knowledge/Analysis
Fall Term Paper	15%	Nov. 17, 1995	Knowledge, Application, Analysis
Christmas Examination	20%	Exam Week	Knowledge/Analysis, Application Library
Assignment 2	5%	Feb. 5, 1996	Analysis
Winter Term Paper	20%	Mar. 11, 1996	Knowledge, Application, Analysis
Final Examination	25%	Exam week	Knowledge, Analysis, Application
10 Quizzes (Approx.)	10%	Dates TBA	Knowledge

A. NOTE ON TERM PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments and term papers are due at the start of class on the date due. Possible term paper topics will be distributed in class. In addition, students may make use of data from the 1994 and/or 1988 National Election Studies as well as locally collected data. A special session will be scheduled for computer training to access this. Normally, term papers for this course are in the 12 - 15 page range (typed, double spaced). Appropriate academic style is required. Late papers will be accepted without penalty in exceptional

circumstances. Otherwise, late papers will be assessed a reduced grade of 5% per day (24 hour period or portion thereof including weekends and holidays).

TEXTS

REQUIRED:

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

Rand Dyck, *Canadian Political 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 Experience*

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 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. In particular, the probable October referendum in Quebec will necessitate some shifts in the outline. Other events can also be expected to either delay or advance progress in the course.

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION AND CONTENT

1 week

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

UNIT II: CONTENDING APPROACHES TO CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE

2 weeks

- i) Institutional Approach
 - ii) Behavioural Approaches
 - iii) Liberal Pluralism
 - iv) Political Economy
 - v) "Marxist" Approaches
 - vi) Public Choice
- *Baikovitch, *Canadian Political Behaviour* pp. 3-6 (Reserve #3)
Dyck, *Dimensions of Pluralist Democracy* pp. 4-7, 31-5* (skin pp. 31-54)(Reserve #4)
*Crotzer, et al., *The Crisis of Democracy* pp. 1-8 (Reserve #5)
*Dyck, chapter 1

UNIT III: THE CONSTITUTION AND FEDERALISM

5 weeks

- A) The continuing Saga of Quebec in Confederation
*Dyck, Chapter 2.
*WW Chapter 5
*Part Quebecois, "Quebec in a New World" (Reserve # 5a)
- B) Overview of Institutions

UNIT IV: ENVIRONMENT 4 weeks

- A) The Social and Economic Setting
- B) Historical Overview
 - C) Ideological Perspectives
 - * BM, Chapter 12
 - * WW, chapter 6
 - Bell and Tepperman, *The Roots of Disunity*, pp. 40-64 (Reserve #11)
 - * Inghart, "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
 - Roux, "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 9
- E) Other Cleavages
- * WW, chapter 9
 - * Dyck, chapter 5

UNIT V: 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

- C) Federation, Amendment, and the Charter
- * Dyck, chapters 13, 14
 - * WW, chapters 18
- * Banting & Simons, "Federalism, Democracy, and the Constitution" (Reserve #6)
- * BM, chapter 4
 - * Dyck, chapter 22
- D) Canadian "Constitutional Culture"
- * WW, chapter 1
 - * BM, chapters 1, 2, 3, 5
 - * Trudeau, "Federalism, Nationalism and Reason" (Reserve #7)
- E) Quebec, Special Status, and Meech Lake
- * Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech Lake" (Reserve #8)
 - * Ruzic, "Quebec's Quest for Survival ..." (Reserve #9)
 - Other Readings TBA
- F) Executive Federalism
- Moodison, "First Ministers' Conferences..." (Reserve # 10)
- * BM, chapter 26
 - * WW, chapter 20
 - * Macpherson, (Reserve 10a)
- G) Fiscal Federalism
- "Blaisie and McAlpin, Reserve #9a"
- "Other Readings TBA"
- H) The Courts and the Constitution
- * BM, chapter 28
 - * WW, chapter 17
- I) The Post-Meech Environment: The Future of Canadian Federalism
- * BM, chapter 6
 - Other readings TBA

UNIT VI: SOCIALIZATION, DEMON FORMATION AND PARTICIPATION 3 weeks

- A) Overview
 - Dyck, chapter 8
- B) The Mass Media
 - WW, chapter 15
 - Dyck, chapter 9
 - Bashwin, "The Development of Public Opinion" (Reserve #14)
- C) Political Participation
 - WW, chapter 7
 - Mazur, "Participation and Democracy" (Reserve #15)

UNIT VII: INTEREST GROUPS 1 week

- a) Overview
- b) Determinants of Power
- ii) New Social Movements
- Dyck, chapter 12
- WW, chapter 13
- BM, pp. 244-254

UNIT VIII: POLITICAL PARTIES 3 weeks

- A) Overview of Political Parties in Canadian Politics
 - Dyck, chapter 11
 - WW, chapter 11
- B) Party Origins and Ideology
 - Fresco, "The Anglo-Saxon Conservative Tradition" (Reserve #16)
 - BM, chapter 13, 14, 16
- C) Party Leadership
 - Blake, "Division and Cohesion" (Reserve #17)
 - Johnston, "The First 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 IX: ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR 1 week

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

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