

GRANDS PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 310 [UT (6)]

CANADIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1991 - 1992  
MWF 10:00-10:50  
Instructor: Scott McAlpine  
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O.H. S.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 institutional 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 9 point scale for each component.

Library Assignment 1 5%  
Fall Term Paper 15%  
Christmas Examination 20%  
Library Assignment 2 5%  
Winter Term Paper 20%  
Final Examination 25%  
10 Quizzes 10%  
Due October 2, 1991  
Due November 19, 1991  
Exam Week  
Due January 27, 1992  
Due March 16, 1992  
Exam week  
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 (1/3 grade point per 2 1/2 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 Loon and Whittington, The Canadian Political System, 1987 (VLM on the reading list)

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

Olling and Westmcott,  Perspectives on Canadian Federation, 1988. (OW on the reading 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

2 weeks

- i) Review of Concepts in Political Science
- ii) Overview of Canadian Political Institutions
- iii) Contending Approaches to Canadian Political Science
  - Institutional Approach
  - Behavioural Approaches
  - Liberal Pluralism
  - Liberal Political Economy
  - The "New Canadian Political Economy"

VLM, Chapter 1 (skim)

White, Magenberg and Nelson, "A Brief Outline ..."

(Reserve #1)

- \* Beskevin, Canadian Political Behaviour pp. 3-6

(Reserve #2)

- \* Bahi, Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy pp. 4-7, 31-54

(skim pp. 31-54) (Reserve #3)

- \* Crozier, et al., The Crisis of Democracy, pp. 1-9

(Reserve #4)

- \* Fox, pp 23-29

Forsey, How Canadians Govern Themselves (Reserve #5)

UNIT II: POLITICAL CULTURE AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

- A) The Social and Economic Setting

1 week

- 1) Historical Overview
- ii) Ideological Perspectives

- \* VLM, chapters 2, 3

\* WW, chapter 8

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

(Reserve #6)

Inglehart, "Post Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve #7)

- B) The Role and Size of Government

1 week

- \* WW, chapter 21

- C) Continentalism and the U.S.

1 week

- \* WW, chapter 3
- Leyton-Brown, "Canadian-American Relations: The Scope of the Literature" (Reserve #8)
- OW, chapter 8
- \* Fox, pp. 29-34

- D) Regionalism

3 weeks

- i) Overview

- \* OW, chapters 7, 9
- \* Fox, pp. 151-162

- ii) Atlantic Canada

- WW, chapter 7
- Fox, pp. 163-177
- \* OW, chapter 18

- iii) Ontario

- WW, chapter 5
- \* OW, chapter 20

- iv) The West

- \* WW, chapter 4
- WW, chapter 3
- \* Fox, pp. 178-191

- v) The 'North'

- \* WW, chapter 2

- vi) Quebec

- \* WW, chapter 6
- \* Fox, pp. 197-204, 205-212
- \* OW, chapter 19
- \* Trudeau, "Federalism, Nationalism, and Reason" (Reserve #9)
- Ricoux, "Toward a Free Quebec" (Reserve #10)
- Fox, pp. 213-219 TBA

UNIT III: SOCIALIZATION, OPINION FORMATION, AND PARTICIPATION  
3 weeks

- A) Overview
- \* VLM, chapters 4, 5
- B) The Mass Media
- \* MW, chapter 12
  - \* Fox, pp. 227-240, 254-259
  - Bashvkin, "The Development of Public Opinion" (Reserve #11)
- C) Political Participation
- \* MW, chapter 9
  - \* Mishler, "Participation and Democracy" (Reserve #12)
- D) Gender and Participation
- \* MW, chapter 9
  - \* Fox, pp. 9-14
- E) Political Power
- \* VLM, chapter 14
  - \* MW, chapter 10

UNIT IV: INTEREST GROUPS

1 week

- i) Overview
- ii) Determinants of Power
- iii) New Social Movements
- \* VLM, chapter 13
  - \* MW, chapter 15
  - \* Fox, pp. 244-254
  - \* Magnusson, "Critical Social Movements" (Reserve #13)

UNIT V: 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
- Prece, "The Anglo-Saxon Conservative Tradition" (Reserve #14)
- McMenemy, "Parliamentary Parties" (Reserve #15)

C) Party Leadership

- \* Blake, "Division and Cohesion" (Reserve #16)
- Johnston, "The Final Choice" (Reserve #17)

D) Parties in Decline (?)

- \* Meisel, "The Decline of Party..." (Reserve #18)
- McAllister, "Do Parties Make a Difference?" (Reserve #19)
- \* McAlpine, Devitt and Good, "Reform Party..." (Reserve #20)

UNIT VII: ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR

1 week

- \* MW, chapter 14
- \* Fox, pp. 429-433, 308-316, 398-412
- \* Clarke et al. Absent-Minded, pp. 150-156 (Reserve #21)
- Farnett, "The 1988 Voter" (Reserve #20)

UNIT VIII: THE CONSTITUTION

1 week

A) Overview

- \* Fox, pp. 49-58
- \* VLM, chapter 6
- \* MW, chapter 16

B) Patriation, Amendment, and the Charter

1 week

- \* Banting & Sisson, "Federalism, Democracy, and the Constitution" (Reserve #22)
- \* VLM, chapter 7
- \* Fox, pp. 59-94
- OW, chapter 5

UNIT VIII: FEDERALISM

3 weeks

A) Overview

- \* VLM, chapter 8
- \* MW, chapter 19
- \* OW, chapters 1, 2
- OW, chapters 2, 4

B) Fiscal Federalism

- \* VLM, chapter 9
- \* OW, chapters 11, 12

C) Executive Federalism

Mechikison, "First Ministers' Conferences..."

- (Reserve # 23)
- \* FOX, pp. 125-135
- \* OW, chapters 13, 14, 16, 17

D) Quebec, Special Status, and Meech Lake

- \* FOX, pp. 101-124
- \* OW, chapter 25
- \* Cairns, "The Limited Constitutional Vision of Meech Lake" (Reserve #24)
- \* Remillard, "Quebec's Quest for Survival ..." (Reserve #25)
- Other Readings TBA

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

- \* FOX, pp. 136-144
- \* OW, chapter 22
- Other Readings TBA

UNIT IX: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH 1 week

- \* VLM, chapter 15
- \* FOX, pp. 390-394
- \* OW, chapter 18
- FOX, pp. 373-389, 375-404

UNIT X: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH 1 week

- \* VLM, chapter 19
- \* OW, chapter 17
- \* FOX, pp. 407-425, 435-463
- \* OW, chapter 24
- FOX, pp. 426-430

UNIT XI: THE JUDICIARY 1 week

- \* VLM, chapter 7 (re-read)
- \* FOX, pp. 509-524

UNIT XIII: BUREAUCRACY

- \* VLM, chapters 17, 18
- \* OW, chapter 23
- \* FOX, pp. 475-496
- FOX, pp. 465-474
- OW, chapter 23

UNIT XIII: ISSUES IN CANADIAN POLITICS IN THE 1990'S 2 weeks

- A) Environment
  - \* McAlpine and Gibbins "Emerging Federal Provincial Conflict..." (Reserve #26)
- B) Aboriginal Rights and Government
  - \* FOX, pp. 15-22
  - Other Readings TBA
- C) Government and Economy
  - Readings TBA