

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 3900  
(3 (3-0) UT (3))

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR

Winter 1992-93  
T, R 1100-1230  
O.H. TBA

S. McAlpine  
C426  
539-2982

I. BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the behavioural approach to the study of politics and its application in selected substantive research areas frequently addressed by this approach within the context of modern democracies with particular, although not exclusive, emphasis on Canada.

The course is organized into three broad sections. The first section addresses the behavioural approach, its history, methodology and limitations. The second section focusses on the political 'environment' and environmental factors which shape the political behaviour (chiefly conventional forms of political participation) of the mass public. The third section offers an examination of several more specific individually based activities central to the conduct of politics. Such matters as leadership, persuasion, negotiation, conflict, decision making, and performance and policy evaluation will be dealt with here as applied to decision making elites as well as to the mass public.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an understanding of the behavioural approach as applied to political science
2. To be able to identify and evaluate the major sources and mechanisms of value stability and change

III. PREREQUISITE:

There is no formal prerequisite to this course although some social science background would be helpful (political science, sociology, psychology).

#### IV. REQUIREMENTS:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Tentative Date</u>
First Term test	20%	February 2, 1993
Term Paper Outline		January 29, 1993
Second Term test	25%	March 9 1993
Term Paper	25%	March 16 1993
Final Examination	30%	In Exam Week

#### V. TEXTS AND READINGS:

The required texts for this course are:

Sylvia B. Bashevkin (ed.), Canadian Political Behaviour: Introductory Readings. (Toronto: Methuen, 1985).

Michael A. Milburn, Persuasion and Politics: The Social Psychology of Public Opinion. (Pacific Grove, Calif: Brooks/Cole, 1991).

In addition, several readings will be taken from the following text, copies of which are available on reserve in the library.

Carol Barner-Berry and Robert Rosenwein, Psychological Perspectives on Politics. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1985).

The required texts will be used throughout the course. Substantial use is also made of reserve readings (available from the circulation desk in the Learning Resources Centre (Library)). Reserve readings are numbered for your convenience.

#### VI. A NOTE ON TERM PAPERS:

Term papers in this course are normally in the 15-20 page range (typed, double spaced) and represent a significant research effort. Papers must be in proper research paper form. Late papers will be accepted but at a reduced grade. Normally, one half grade point per day will be deducted. A guide on writing term papers in political science as well as suggested term paper topics will be distributed in class.

Note: Topics must be selected and an outline submitted for approval by the instructor on or before January 29. Failure to submit an outline will result in the paper **NOT BEING READ**.

READINGS LIST/LECTURE OUTLINE

Students are responsible for all **required** readings (marked with an asterisk (\*)) **as well as** for all material presented in lectures. Readings not marked with an asterisk are recommended but not required. Dates are tentative. From time to time, additional and/or replacement readings may be assigned depending on student need and availability. Reserve readings are available from the circulation desk in the library.

SECTION I: THE BEHAVIOURAL PERSPECTIVE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE  
(January 5 - 29)

**Topics:**

- Course Introduction and Assignments
- Defining Political Behaviour
- Theory, Method, Approach, and Fields of Study
- Background to the Behavioural 'Revolution'
- Scope and Limitations of the Behavioural Approach
- Foundations of Political Behaviour
- the post-behavioural paradigm

**Readings:**

- \*Bashevkin, chapter 1, chapter 8, chapter 2 (particularly pp. 47-59)
- \*Milburn, chapters 1, 2
- BBR chapters 1, 2 (reserve book)
- \*D. Easton, "The Current Meaning of 'Behaviouralism'" (Reserve # 1)
- H. Elcock, Political Behaviour, Part I, "Concepts and Theories" (Reserve # 2)
- H. Eulau, "Segments of Political Science Most Susceptible to Behaviouristic Treatment" (Reserve # 3)
- \*M. Sibley, "The Limitations of Behaviouralism" (Reserve # 4a)
- \*G. Almond, "Separate Tables: Schools and Sects in Political Science" (reserve # 4b)
- \*G. Almond, "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics" (reserve # 4c) (selectively)

SECTION II: POLITICAL CULTURE, PUBLIC OPINION AND PARTICIPATION  
(February 2 - March 5)

**Topics:**

- Theories of the Political Process
- Political Culture
- Political Beliefs and Attitudes
- Political Socialization
- Mass Political Participation
- Electoral Behaviour

**Readings:**

- \*Bashevkin, chapter 7, readings 12, 7, 9, 14, 13, 16, 10, 11
- Bashevkin, readings 5, 6, 8
- \*Milburn chapters 3, 8, 9
- BBR chapters 3, 4, appendix b (reserve book)
- \*R. Inglehart, The Silent Revolution. chapters 1, 10 (Reserve # 5)
- \*R. Inglehart, "Post-Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve # 6)
- \*N. Nevitte and R. Gibbins, New Elites in Old States. pp. chapter 7 (chapter 1 also as introduction) (Reserve book)
- \*Lambert et. al., "In Search of Left/Right Beliefs in the Canadian Electorate" (Reserve # 7)
- \*W. Mishler, Political Participation in Canada. Chapter 1 (Reserve # 8)
- Kornberg Mishler and Clarke, Representative Democracy in the Canadian Provinces. Chapter 1 (Reserve # 9)
- W. Rosenbaum, Political Culture. Chapter 1 (Reserve # 10)
- \*W. Rosenbaum, Political Culture. Chapter 2 (Reserve # 11)
- W. Mishler, Political Participation in Canada. Chapters 4 and 5 (Reserve # 12)
- R. Merelmann, "Revitalizing Political Socialization" (Reserve # 13)
- Niemi and Weisberg, "The Study of Voting and Elections" (Reserve # 14)
- K. Archer, "The Meaning and Demeaning of National Election Studies" (Reserve # 15)
- Clark et. al., Absent Mandate. chapter 8 (Reserve # 16)

SECTION III: THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS:

(March 9 - April 14)

**Topics:**

- Leadership
- Persuasion
- Bargaining
- Conflict
- Decision Making
- Performance and Policy Evaluation

**Readings:**

- \*Milburn, chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 10
- \*Bashevkin, readings 17, 18, 19, 21
- BBR chapters 5,6,7,8,9 Epilog, Appendix A (RESERVE BOOK)
- \*BBR chapter 10 (reserve book)
- M. Hermann, "Ingredients of Leadership" (Reserve # 17)
- \*Taras and Pal, "The Changing Faces of Political Power in Canada" (Reserve # 18)
- \*Taras and Weyant, "Dreamers of the Day: A Guide to Roles, Character and Performance on the Political Stage" (Reserve # 19)
- McAlpine and Drabek, "Decision-Making Coalitions on Non-Partisan Councils: A Small City/Large City Comparasion" (Reserve # 20)
- D. Kinder and S. Fiske, "Presidents in the Public Mind" (Reserve # 21)
- M. Deutsch and S. Shichman, "Conflict: A Social Psychological Perspective" (Reserve # 22)
- J. Torrance, "The Response of Canadian Governments to Violence" (Reserve # 23)
- R. Simeon and D. Elkins, "Regional Variations in Public Policy" (Reserve Reading # 24)