

Student Service

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 390  
(3 (3-0) UT (3))

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR

Winter 1990-91  
T. R 1102-1230  
O.N. TBA

S. McAlpine  
D382  
539-2962

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 focuses 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. PREREQUISITES

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

III. REQUIREMENTS

Component	Weight	Tentative Date
First Term test	20%	January 29, 1991
Second Term test	25%	March 7, 1991
Term Paper	25%	March 21, 1991
Final Examination	30%	In Exam Week

IV. TEXT AND READINGS

The required text for this course is:

Cardi Barker-Berry and Robert Rosenwin, Psychological Perspectives on Politics, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1980.

This text will be used throughout the course although the first two sections of the course also make substantial use of reserve readings available from the circulation desk in the Learning Resources Centre (Library). Reserve readings are numbered for your convenience.

V. A NOTE ON TERM PAPERS:

Term papers in this course are normally in the 15-25 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 approved by the instructor by January 25.

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 1: THE BEHAVIORAL PERSPECTIVE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE  
(January 3 - 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

Readings:

- \*BBR chapters 1, 2
- \*D. Easton, "The Current Meaning of 'Behaviouralism'" (Reserve # 1)
- H. Elcocks, Political Behaviour, Part I, "Concepts and Theories" (Reserve # 2)
- H. Eulau, "Segments of Political Science Most Susceptible to Behaviouristic Treatment" (Reserve # 3)
- H. Sibley, "The Limitations of Behaviouralism" (Reserve # 4)
- \*C. May "Politics and Pseudopolitics" (Reserve # 5)
- \*S. Bachewkin, "Critical Perspectives on Canadian Political Behaviour" (Reserve # 6)

SECTION III: ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND PARTICIPATION  
(January 31 - March 7)

Topics:

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

Readings:

- \*BBR chapters 2, 3 appendix b
- \*W. Mishler, Political Participation in Canada, Chapter 1 (Reserve # 7)
- Kornberg Mishler and Clarke, Representative Democracy in the Canadian Provinces, Chapter 1 (Reserve # 8)
- \*V. Rosenbaum, Political Culture, Chapter 1 (Reserve # 9)
- V. Rosenbaum, Political Culture, Chapter 2 (Reserve # 10)
- \*Richard Siemer and David Ekins, "Provincial Political Cultures in Canada" (Reserve # 11)
- R. Merelman, "Revitalizing Political Socialization" (Reserve # 12)
- H. Ingelhart, The Silent Revolution, chapters 1, 10 (Reserve # 13)
- \*R. Ingelhart, "Post-Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (Reserve # 14)
- Lambert et. al., "In Search of Left/Right Beliefs in the Canadian Electorate" (Reserve # 15)
- \*Niemi and Wesberg, "The Study of Voting and Elections" (Reserve # 16)
- \*K. Archer, "The Meaning and Demarcation of National Election Studies" (Reserve # 17)
- Clark et. al., Absent Mandate, chapters 3, 6 (Reserve Book)
- V. Mishler, Political Participation in Canada, Chapters 4 and 5 (Reserve # 18)

SECTION III. INDIVIDUALLY BASED ACTIVITIES:  
(March 11 - April 11)

Topics:

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

Readings:

- \*BBR chapters 3,6,7,8,9,20, Epilog, Appendix A
- M. Hermann, "Ingredients of Leadership" (Reserve # 19)
- \*Tard and Fal, "The Changing Faces of Political Power in Canada" (Reserve # 20)
- \*Taran and Weyant, "Drivers of the Day: A Guide to Roles, Character and Performance in the Political Stage" (Reserve # 21)
- McAlpine and Drabek, "Decision-Making Coalitions on Non-Partisan Councils: A Small City/Large City Comparison" (Reserve # 22)
- D. Kinder and S. Fleke, "Presidents in the Public Mind" (Reserve # 23)
- H. Deutsch and S. Shichnan, "Conflict: A Social Psychological Perspective" (Reserve # 24)
- J. Tarrant, "The Response of Canadian Governments to Violence" (Reserve # 25)
- R. Simeon and D. Elkin, "Regional Variations in Public Policy" (Reserve Reading # 26)