

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4940 (UT 3)

SOCIALIZATION IN POLITICS

Instructor: Scott McAlpine
Office Hours: TBA

Spring 2001
M-R:1300 - 1600

Course Description:

With the perpetual question of Quebec's distinctiveness as well as questions regarding Alberta's continued place in the Canadian political landscape, new forms of citizen mobilization **against** the government such as in Quebec city, continued movement toward First Nations self government and a host of other matters, the need to **examine** (not simply 'navel gaze') the origins, meaning, and impact of Canadian political values is great. This course is such an examination including questions of Canadian political culture, political socialization, and political participation.

Beginning with an examination of the basic values of Canadian democracy and the nature of the Canadian identity, the course proceeds to examine the cleavages within Canadian society including a consideration of English-French relations, regionalism, class, race and gender from the perspective of basic value differences and similarities.

Proceeding from this base of political culture, the process by which Canadians learn or acquire their political orientations is examined in detail. The processes of socialization from youth to adulthood as well as the importance of family, education, and other agents of socialization in transmitting political values is detailed.

Finally, the major political consequences or behaviours associated with political culture and political socialization are addressed. Dealing primarily with political participation, this section of the course outlines both 'mainstream' participation as well as the participation differentials experience by those outside of the dominant power groupings in Canadian society using women and ethno-cultural minorities as the primary 'cases' here of new social movements. In short, the course addresses three central questions:

- a) What is the nature of the Canadian political identity?
(Political Culture - Section I)
- b) How do we obtain this identity?
(Political Socialization - Section II)
- c) What are the consequences of this identity on the political system and on individuals within the system?
(Political Participation and Exclusion - Section III).

Objectives:

The primary objectives of this course are :

- a) the learning of fundamental principles, theories, and generalizations regarding political culture, socialization and participation with specific application to the Canadian experience
- b) gaining factual knowledge (terminology, methods, classifications, and trends) relative to political culture, socialization, and participation in Canada.

Course Requirements:

| <u>Component</u> | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Unit Test 1 (Political Culture) | 25% | 31 May |
| Unit Test 2 (Socialization) | 25% | 7 June |
| Unit Test 3 (Participation and Cumulative) | 25% | 14 June |
| Research Paper/Project | 25% | June 18 |

NOTE: Students contemplating a major research project beyond the norm for a course of this nature can discuss alternative weighting schemes with the instructor early on in the semester.

Grading:

All grades will be calculated as percentages and recorded on the 9 point scale for use by GPRC. AU students may have their final grades submitted to AU in percentage form.

Texts:

The following texts are required and available in the College bookstore. While many of the readings are from these texts, a number of readings have also been placed on reserve in the library and/or will be distributed.

David Bell, The Roots of Disunity: A Study of Canadian Political Culture (revised ed.). (Toronto: Oxford, 1992).

Dawson, Prewitt, Dawson, Political Socialization. (Boston: Little Brown, 1984(?)).

A Note on Term Papers:

Normally, term papers in this course will be in the 13-17 page range (including diagrams and data where used) although no formal maximum or minimum number of words is set. Papers will be accepted for grading if and only if they are typed, double spaced, and in proper form. Late papers will receive a reduced grade. Possible topics will be distributed and students will be required to present their outlines and thesis statement in class no later than MAY 31.

A Note on Data Bases and Information Availability:

Grande Prairie Regional College houses a number of data bases which are directly relevant to this course. In particular, data is available from both national and local election studies as well as from particular studies which examine attitudes among mainstream and minority populations in the local area pertaining to power, race relations, multicultural policy and related matters. This national and local data will be used to illustrate concepts throughout the course. In addition, students are encouraged to consult with the instructor regarding the use of such data for their term papers.

A Note on Participation:

All examinations are take-home and will be distributed at the start of the unit. Each day, at least one or more of the examination questions will be addressed in some fashion. Group discussion and participation, while not formally graded, will be essential to satisfactory performance in the course. **Attendance is not optional.**

LECTURE OUTLINE AND READINGS LIST

Students are responsible for all required readings (marked with an asterisk (*)) as well as lecture materials and the occasional handout. The recommended readings provide, in all cases, more in-depth analysis than the required readings and should be consulted when more information on a specific topic is needed. Reserve readings are numbered and available from the circulation desk in the Library. Additional and/or replacement readings may, from time to time, be assigned. Lecture dates are approximate.

The lectures will generally be keyed **directly** to the required readings but deal with points of contention and examples and simply highlight the basic concepts which are covered in the readings. To make the most productive use of class time for discussion, clarification, and elaboration, it is **essential** that students complete the required readings **prior to the class in which they are covered**.

PART I: POLITICAL CULTURE

This section of the course deals with the concept of political culture and details the major elements of the political culture of Canada. In this context, major theories of political culture, the nature of the Canadian identity, and issues such as regionalism, Quebec distinctiveness, and political subcultures (non-mainstream) are dealt with.

Lecture 1: Introduction: A Conceptual Overview of the Place of Political Culture in Political Science and Canadian Politics

*Bell, Preface and Introduction

Lecture 2: Major Theories and Typologies of Political Culture:

A) Theory:

*Bell, Chapter 1

B) Typologies and Formative Events:

*Bell, Chapters 2, 3

Lecture 3: Quebec: Society, Culture, or Nation?

*Bell, Chapter 4

Lecture 4: Regional, Ethnic and Class Cleavages in Canada

*Bell, chapters 5, 6

Lecture 5: Discussion–The Interplay of Cleavages and the Rise of the Post-Modern State – Government Versus the People in Democracy

*Inglehart, "Post-Materialism in an Environment of Insecurity" (to be distributed)

SECTION II: POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

In this section, theories of political socialization are addressed in detail with particular reference to the learning of 'civic' attitudes of participation **within** the existing political system. This learning of mainstream orientations is discussed with reference to first to life cycle theories including cognitive development, social learning, social role, and psychoanalytic models as applied to a political context and later with specific reference to the various agents of socialization such as family, media, formal education, and peers. Contextual variables such as class, region, and ethnic origin are then introduced as potentially potent influences on the content of socialization.

Lecture 6: Political Culture, Socialization and Values

A) Political Values and Participation in Canada

Mishler, "Political Participation" (to be distributed)

B) The Place of Political Socialization in Political Culture and Opinion Formation

Dawson, Prewitt, and Dawson ch 1, 2, 3

Lecture 7: Theories of Political Socialization: Life Cycle Phenomenon:

NOTE: The required readings for this class are complicated. Allocate at least 5 hours to mastery of this content. These readings are ESSENTIAL. Failure to adequately prepare for this class will mean that you are absolutely lost for much of the remainder of the course !!!!!

***Orum, "Political Socialization" (To be distributed)

*Dawson, Prewitt, and Dawson, ch 4, 5, 6

Lecture 8: Agents of Socialization and Conditioning Variables

A) Agents

Dawson, Prewitt, and Dawson ch 7, 8, 10

B) Class, Strata, Gender, and Ethnicity: Impacts on Socialization

*Stacey, "Political Socialization and Social Class" (to be distributed)
Dawson, Prewitt, and Dawson ch 9

Lecture 9: Discussion- Differential Impacts and Processes of Socialization in Society: Hegemony, Dominant Ideology, and Intervention

Dawson, Prewitt, and Dawson ch 11

SECTION III: PARTICIPATION - MAINSTREAM AND 'MARGINAL'

This section examines the phenomenon of political participation first from the perspective of the majority or mainstream of society and second from the perspective of women and ethno-cultural minorities as examples of groups which, in many ways, have been or seem to have been systematically excluded from political power in Canadian society. The question here is then to what extent is the 'dominant' culture of participation and the associated political values of democracy universal across subcultures and, equally importantly, applied across 'subcultures'. Additional readings will be assigned and topics may vary depending on student interest.

Lecture 10: Participation: ~~Mainstream Citizenship~~

*Mishler, "Participation and Democracy" (to be distributed)

Lecture 11: Differentials: Explaining ~~Marginalization~~

Simard, "Visible Minorities and the Canadian Political System" (tentative)
Nevitte and Gibbins, "Gender and Feminism" (tentative)
Nevitte and Gibbins, "Minorities on the Ideological Landscape" (tentative)

Lecture 12: Challenging the System:

Stasiulis and Abu-Laban, "Party Politics and Ethnic Minority Activism" (tentative)

Lecture 13: New Elites, Old States, and the Future of the Canadian Identities

*Mishler, "The Prospects of Democratic Citizenship" (tentative) --
*Bell, Conclusion

NSM / RAD DEMOC

PARKIN, SOCIAL JUSTICE

TEMPORAL YOUTH

OVER COMING MARGINAL