

POLITICAL SCIENCE 590.03
TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: THE CANADIAN
POLITICAL SYSTEM

[Call number: 16845-1]

Winter Quarter, 2006

Instructor: Randall Ripley
2116 Derby Hall
Ripley.1@osu.edu
614-292-4392

Purpose of course: to analyze and understand the political system of Canada, often in comparison with the political system of the United States. Political systems contain institutional, socio-economic, cultural, and ideological components. The course is designed for junior/senior majors in political science who have some prior knowledge of the political system of the United States.

Class meetings: Winter Quarter, 2006, Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 3 through March 9, 2:30-4:18, Central Classrooms Building, Room 354. [Call number: 16845-1]

Appointments with Instructor: after class, by arrangement, or during office hours: 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and 11-12 a.m. on Thursdays.

Appointments with Graduate Teaching Associate [Rich Arnold]: by arrangement, or during office hours immediately after class on Tuesdays and Thursdays in 2001 Derby Hall [note that Derby Hall's outer doors are locked at 5]. His office phone is 292-9496. His e-mail address is Arnold.301@osu.edu.

Books required for purchase [all three are in paperback; all will be read in their entirety]:

Brooks, Stephen, Canadian Democracy: An Introduction, 4th edition (Oxford University Press, 2004).

Lipset, Seymour Martin, Continental Divide: The Values and Institutions of the United States and Canada (Routledge, 1990).

Whittington, Michael, and Glen Williams, editors, Canadian Politics in the 21st Century, 6th edition (Thomson Nelson, 2004).

In addition, students are required to skim The Globe and Mail, Canada's leading national newspaper, and The Toronto Star daily online for current political news. The Globe is published six days a week [never on Sunday]. The Star is published seven days a week.

The website for the Globe is <http://www.theglobeandmail.com>. When the website comes up, go to “National” to get the best summary of stories that will contain political news, both national and provincial. You will be required to register on the website the first time you use it, but registration is free and gives you access to almost the entire newspaper. Unfortunately, access to columnists is not free.

The website for the Star is <http://www.thestar.com>. When the website comes up go to the left column and click on Canada. A number of the Star columnists are also worth reading and are available free on the website.

Also worth skimming weekly for political news is Canada’s premier weekly newsmagazine, Macleans. <http://www.macleans.ca>.

Note that the book edited by Whittington and Williams has a very helpful list of additional internet resources for doing research on Canadian politics on pp. 467-68.

Other newspapers are also worth skimming for political news, both national and provincial. There will be lots of identical stories on national news, however, since a large number of papers are owned by CanWest Global Communications Corp. and they print the same national stories. Major CanWest newspapers include:

- [National Post](#)
- [Montreal Gazette](#)
- [Ottawa Citizen](#)
- [Windsor Star](#)
- [Regina Leader-Post](#)
- [Saskatoon StarPhoenix](#)
- [Calgary Herald](#)
- [Edmonton Journal](#)
- [Vancouver Sun](#)
- [Vancouver Province](#)
- [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

Also, a number of stories in many papers come from Canadian Press, the Canadian equivalent of the Associated Press in the U.S.

Some additional newspaper websites:

National Post <http://www.canada.com/national/nationalpost>

Ottawa Citizen <http://www.canada.com/Ottawa/ottawacitizen>

The Gazette <http://www.canada.com/montreal/montrealgazette>

Le Devoir <http://www.ledevoir.com> and La Presse <http://www.cyberpresse.ca/reseau/> if you read French.

There are, of course, a number of other newspapers throughout the country that can be skimmed for regional/provincial perspectives. For browsing the full array [hundreds] of Canadian newspapers with websites go to <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/canada.htm>.

Finally, radio and television websites can also be skimmed for late news and, in the case of CPAC, live coverage of Parliamentary sessions and other political events:

<http://www.cbc.ca> [both radio and television from a public corporation].

<http://www.ctv.ca> [commercial television].

<http://www.cpac.ca> [public affairs broadcasting provided by the cable industry; the Canadian equivalent of C-SPAN in the U.S.]

Structure of course:

Each week of the course will focus on one or more substantive topics. The assigned readings, lectures, and discussion will all address those topics. The second hour on Thursdays will be devoted to discussing the week's political news in Canada in the context of our exploration of the general nature of the political system. Students are responsible for all material in the required reading and presented and discussed in class.

Work in course:

Students are expected to be prepared to discuss the assigned reading as outlined below. They are also expected to be able to identify and discuss major current developments in Canadian politics at the discussions during the second hour on Thursdays.

There will be a midterm exam [20% of the final grade], a paper [40% of the final grade], and a final exam [40% of the final grade]. The final exam will cover the entire course.

The midterm [one hour] will be in class the first hour on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and will cover material—both assigned reading and material presented in class, including discussion—through Week 5. The exam will be a mix of essays and short identification items. The exact design of the exam will be discussed in class nearer Feb. 7.

The final exam [one hour & fifty minutes] is scheduled by the University for Thursday, March 16, 1:30-3:18 in the classroom. This exam will cover all of the assigned reading and material presented and discussed in class for the entire course. It will be a mix of essays and short identification items. The exact design of the exam will be discussed in class nearer the time.

The paper for the course will be an analysis of some specific topic in Canadian politics. The text of the paper should be double spaced, about 10-15 pages of standard size, with normal margins, and normal size type [10 or 11 point]. Tables, graphs, and bibliographic

material do not count against the 10-15 pages. Use of good websites is fine, but you **must** also use some materials in the library.

The paper must be fully and accurately referenced. The easiest style to use is a parenthesis in the paper itself referring to a full citation in a separate References section at the end. The page numbers, if you are quoting or making a specific reference, should be in the text parenthesis. For example: “As Lipset (1990, 130) says, “Canada has anticombines legislation, but it has been weakly enforced compared to that in the United States.” In the references section you would have:

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1990. Continental Divide: The Values and Institutions of the United States and Canada. New York: Routledge.

When in doubt, give more information rather than less.

A one to two page proposal for your paper is due on Thursday, Feb. 2 at the latest. This proposal should include a tentative title, a brief description of the topic, a rough outline of your major subheads/subtopics, the essence of how you will approach the topic, and some of the major sources [both printed and on the web] that you intend to use.

The paper is due at the last class meeting on Thursday, March 9. Late papers will be penalized one full grade. No paper will be accepted after the final exam begins.

Some possible topics follow. You are not restricted to these topics, but they give you some sense of the appropriate scope for the paper. If you want to talk with either Professor Ripley or the Graduate Teaching Associate in the course about your paper topic and ideas, please make arrangements to do so.

1. Center-Periphery Tensions in Canadian Politics: a Focus on [choose one: Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, or Atlantic Canada].
2. The Changing status of Native Peoples.
3. Relations between Provincial and Federal Political Parties [choose one: Liberal, Conservative-Progressive Conservative, New Democratic Party, Bloc Quebecois-Parti Quebecois].
4. Current political divisions and policy issues in [choose one: Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, or British Columbia].
5. The participation of women in Canadian national politics.
6. The participation of visible minorities in Canadian national politics.
7. The participation of native peoples in Canadian national politics.

8. A comparison of major national policies and programs on [insert one topic: e.g., health care, environmental protection, support for the arts] in Canada and the United States.
9. The evolution of and future national prospects for a major national party [choose Liberal or Conservative or New Democratic].
10. A comparison of current broad spending priorities on the part of the federal government of Canada with broad spending priorities on the part of the federal government of the United States.
11. Ideological and political incentives and restraints driving current budget decisions and other programmatic priorities on the part of the federal government of Canada. Among other topics, how is the balance between fiscal responsibility and the desire for policy and program initiatives being struck?
12. Assess the importance of the reference process to the Supreme Court of Canada in the overall development, both past and future, of the Canadian constitution.
13. Assess the importance of interest groups “lobbying” the Supreme Court of Canada and other national and provincial courts. What methods are used in the “lobbying”? What effect do they seem to have?
14. An analysis of one or more major issues involving relations between Canada and the United States [e.g., border security; missile defense; trade].

Schedule: topics and reading assignments:

WEEK 1: JANUARY 3 and 5

Topics: Introduction to the Course; Introduction to Canada; the Context for Canadian Political Life

Reading: Brooks, chapters 1 and 2
Lipset, chapters 1-6
Whittington/Williams, chapter 13

WEEK 2: JANUARY 10 and 12

Topics: The Context for Canadian Political Life; Constitutional Framework

Reading: Brooks, chapters 3-5
Lipset, chapters 7-12

WEEK 3: JANUARY 17 and 19

Topics: Rights and Freedoms; Federalism

Reading: Brooks, chapters 6, 7
Whittington/Williams, chapter 4

WEEK 4: JANUARY 24 and 26

Topics: Parliament; The Executive

Reading: Brooks, chapter 8
Whittington/Williams, chapters 1, 2

WEEK 5: JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 2

Topics: Bureaucracy; Courts

Reading: Brooks, chapter 8
Whittington/Williams, chapters 3, 11

WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 7 and 9

Topics: Political Parties; Elections; Interest Groups

Reading: Brooks, chapters 9, 10
Whittington/Williams, chapters 7-9

WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 14 and 16

Topics: Media; Public Opinion

Reading: Brooks, chapter 11
Whittington/Williams, chapter 17

WEEK 8: FEBRUARY 21 and 23

Topics: Quebec and Language Politics; Minorities, Aboriginals, & Women

Reading: Brooks, chapters 12, 13
Whittington/Williams, chapters 5, 14-16

WEEK 9: FEBRUARY 28 and MARCH 2

Topic: Canadian Domestic Policy

Reading: Whittington/Williams, chapter 10

WEEK 10: MARCH 7 and 9

Topics: Canada & the World; U.S. Relations ; Concluding Thoughts

Reading: Brooks, chapter 14
Whittington/Williams, chapters 6, 12

MATERIALS ON RESERVE AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

[2 hour closed reserve; no overnight]

Adams, Michael, Fire and Ice: the United States, Canada and the Myth of Converging Values (Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2004).

Bell, David V.J., The Roots of Disunity: a Study of Canadian Political Culture, rev. ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992).

Blais, Andre, et al., Anatomy of a Liberal Victory: Making Sense of the Vote in the 2000 Canadian Election (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2002).

Brooks, Stephen, and Lydia Miljan, Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction, 4th ed. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Bumsted, J.M., A History of the Canadian Peoples, 2nd ed. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Carment, David, Fen Osler Hampson, and Norman Hillmer, eds., Canada among Nations, 2004: Setting Priorities Straight (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004).

Carty, R. Kenneth, et al., Rebuilding Canadian Party Politics (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2000).

Clarkson, Stephen, Uncle Sam and Us: Globalism, Neoconservatism, and the Canadian State (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002).

Cross, William, ed., Political Parties, Representation, and Electoral Democracy in Canada (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Everitt, Joanna, and Brenda O'Neill, eds., Citizen Politics: Research and Theory in Canadian Political Behaviour (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Gagnon, Alain-G., ed., Quebec: State and Society, 3rd ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2004).

Gidengil, Elizabeth, et al., Citizens (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004).

Grabb, Edward, and James Curtis, Regions Apart: The Four Societies of Canada and the United States (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Hartz, Louis, The Founding of New Societies (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964). See chapter 7 by Kenneth McRae, "The Structure of Canadian History."

Hoberg, George, Capacity for Choice: Canada in a New North America (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002).

Johnston, Richard, et al., Letting the People Decide: Dynamics of a Canadian Election (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1992).

Maioni, Antonia, Parting at the Crossroads: The Emergence of Health Insurance in the United States and Canada (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998).

Morton, Desmond, A Short History of Canada, 5th ed. (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 2001).

Nevitte, Neil, The Decline of Deference: Canadian Value Change in Cross-National Perspective (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 1996).

Pammett, Jon H., and Christopher Dornan, eds., The Canadian General Election of 2004 (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2004).

Patterson, Samuel C., and Anthony Mughan, eds., Senates: Bicameralism in the Contemporary World (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1999). See chapter by C.E.S. Franks, "Not Dead Yet, But Should It Be Resurrected? The Canadian Senate."

Porter, John A. The Vertical Mosaic: An Analysis of Social Class and Power in Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1965).

Pross, A. Paul, Group Politics and Public Policy, 2nd ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992).

Romanow, W.I., and Walter C. Soderlund, Media Canada: An Introductory Analysis (Mississauga, Ontario: Copp Clark Pittman, 1992).

Savoie, Donald J., Breaking the Bargain: Public Servants, Ministers, and Parliament (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003).

Savoie, Donald J., Governing from the Centre: The Concentration of Power in Canadian Politics (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999).

Sayers, Anthony M., Parties, Candidates, and Constituency Campaigns in Canadian Elections (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1999).

Soroka, Stuart Neil, Agenda-Setting Dynamics in Canada, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2002).

Thomas, David M., ed., Canada and the United States: Differences that Count, 2nd ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2000).

Thompson, John Herd, and Stephen J. Randall, Canada and the United States: Ambivalent Allies, 3rd ed. (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2002).

Thorburn, Hugh G., and Alan Whitehorn, eds., Party Politics in Canada. 8th ed. (Toronto: Prentice-Hall, 2001).

Tremblay, Manon, and Linda Trimble, eds., Women and Electoral Politics in Canada (Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Young, Lisa, and Keith Archer, eds., Regionalism and Party Politics in Canada (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press Canada, 2002).

Academic Honesty: All work of each student must be his or her own. Cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Disability: If you require an accommodation because of a disability please contact the Office for Disability Services [150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue, 292-3307].