



Department of Political Science  
POLI 3208 Canadian Provincial Politics  
Summer 2016

Section 01 (M, T, W and R 17:35 - 20:25)  
Room 1016, Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building

**Instructor:** Dr. Matthew MacLellan  
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**Office Hours:** After class, or by appointment

**Required or Recommended Prerequisites:**

Introductory course in political science, or the Instructor's permission.

**Course Description:**

This course provides students with an understanding of Canadian politics from a provincial perspective. In this course, we will examine such dimensions of political life at the provincial level in Canada as: geographic, economic and demographic setting; political culture; political parties; elections; institutions; and, political evolution. And in the final week of the course, we will consider the provincial ramifications of one of the more pressing issues in Canadian politics today: energy extraction and climate change.

**Required Course Texts:**

Big Worlds: Politics and Elections in the Canadian Provinces and Territories. Ed. Jared Wesley. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015.

Transforming Provincial Politics: The Political Economy of Canada's Provinces and Territories in the Neoliberal Era. Ed. Bryan M. Evans and Charles W. Smith. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015.

Additional Course Readings will be posted online.

## COURSE EVALUATION:

Class Participation .....	15%
Provincial Analysis .....	15%
Research Essay .....	20%
Mid-Term Test .....	25%
Final Test .....	25%

### *Provincial Analysis*

Each student will write a 5-7 page analysis of **one (1)** province in Canada. Analyses should focus on one aspect or dimension of provincial political as discussed in the course readings (political culture, political economy, political cleavages, political institutions, campaign finance, party system, voter turnout) and argue as to why this specific dimension is especially important or enlightening for understanding the politics of the Canadian province in question. In addition to course readings, analyses should draw on at least 3-5 outside scholarly sources to support their claims. Your sources can include primary public documents, scholarly journals and books, respectable newspapers and periodicals, or advocacy groups and think-tanks.

### *Research Essay*

Each student will also write an 8-10 page research essay on the topic of climate change and Canadian provincial politics. In their essays, students will connect and integrate their knowledge of provincial politics in Canada with some aspect the growing tension concerning energy extraction and climate change in Canada. All essays must be oriented around a central claim or argument – not just a recitation of facts. Your analysis should be based on solid, respectable sources that look at different sides of the issues, and they should conclude with a certain amount of informed opinion. Your sources should include primary public documents, scholarly journals and books, respectable newspapers and periodicals, or advocacy group and thinktanks. In addition to course readings, analyses should draw on 3-5 outside scholarly sources to support their claims.

Students are expected to submit all class work on the assigned deadlines. Make-up examinations or deadline extensions will not be given, unless a proper medical certificate of illness is presented. Students are responsible for knowing the due dates for assignments and exams.

Late assignments will not be accepted. Students, who miss a deadline because of illness and produce a medical certificate as outlined in the 2015-2016 Dalhousie University Academic Calendar, must provide the assignment within one week of their return to class. Students are advised to read relevant regulations carefully.

### ***Mid-Term and Final Test:***

Each test will cover 50% of the course and include all course readings and any topics covered during course lectures. Tests will consist of short and long answer questions.

### ***Participation:***

*POLI 3208* is a combination of lecture and discussions. Course sessions are conducted with the expectation that students attend classes having read all assigned materials in advance and are prepared to discuss materials. Grading points will also be based on class participation.

Attendance sheets must be signed at the beginning of each class as attendance will be a factor in determining students' attendance/participation marks. If students wish to enhance their attendance/participation mark, they must be prepared to share their views and questions on current events in class. If you cannot attend class, you must inform the instructor by e-mail and state the reason why.

### **General Course Rules**

- Cells phones and other communications devices are not to be used in class and should be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Texting in class is distracting to others. Lap tops are NOT to be used for web browsing, messaging, entertainment, paper-writing for other classes, or for any purpose other than to learn the material in this class. If you distract the Instructor or fellow students with your lap top, you may be asked to leave the class.
- To encourage open and more engaging discussions, students are encouraged to freely share their opinions and also be receptive to hearing other viewpoints. If you have a view on an issue that is counter to that of another class member or the instructor, you may challenge or critique the viewpoint but not the individual; respectful professional behavior is demanded at all times.
- Questions relating to assignments, class attendance or other issues may be emailed and responses can normally be expected within 24 hours after receipt. Please do not email an urgent question within 24 hours of an exam or assignment deadline.

## Plagiarism and Intellectual Honesty

All universities, Dalhousie included, considers it a serious matter to present the work of someone else in such a way as to give one's reader reason to think it to be one's own. This is called plagiarism and is a form of intellectual dishonesty. If plagiarism is suspected, the matter must go immediately to the University Senate for adjudication and the imposition of an appropriate penalty, which may involve forfeiture of credit for the course or even outright dismissal from the University.

## Grading

Letter grades will be assigned as outlined in the *2015-2016 Dalhousie University Academic Calendar*. Plus and minus grades are included within these categories:

A+	88-100
A	84-87
A-	80-83
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D	50-59
F	0-49

## Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

*\*Please note that the instructor may amend the schedule of readings with due notice.*

**BW:** Big Worlds: Politics and Elections in the Canadian Provinces and Territories. Ed. Jared Wesley. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015.

**TPP:** Transforming Provincial Politics: The Political Economy of Canada's Provinces and Territories in the Neoliberal Era. Ed. Bryan M. Evans and Charles W. Smith. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015.

Date	Topic
Monday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Course overview and Introductory Lecture</b>
Tuesday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Newfoundland and Labrador and PEI</b> <b>BW:</b> Chapter 1: Newfoundland and Labrador (Flanagan and Marland). <b>BW:</b> Chapter 2: Prince Edward Island (Desserud).
Wednesday, May 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nova Scotia</b> <b>BW:</b> Chapter 3: Nova Scotia (Caberet). <b>TPP:</b> Chapter 3: Nova Scotia (Clancy).
Thursday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>New Brunswick</b> <b>BW:</b> Chapter 4: New Brunswick (Levesque). <b>TPP:</b> Chapter 4: New Brunswick (Desserud).

Date	Topic
Monday, May 16th	<p><b>Québec</b></p> <p><b>BW:</b> Chapter 5: Québec (Tannahill and Kanji).</p> <p><b>TPP:</b> Chapter 5: Québec (Graefe).</p>
Tuesday, May 17th	<p><b>Ontario</b></p> <p><b>BW:</b> Chapter 6: Ontario (Anderson).</p> <p><b>TPP:</b> Chapter 6: Ontario (Evans and Smith).</p>
Wednesday, May 18th	<p><b>MID-TERM TEST: NFLD-ONTARIO</b></p> <p><b>BW:</b> Chapter 7: Manitoba (Wesley).</p>
Thursday, May 19th	<p><b>Saskatchewan</b></p> <p><b>BW:</b> Chapter 8: Saskatchewan (Rasmussen).</p> <p><b>TPP:</b> Chapter 8: (Conway and Conway).</p>
Monday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p><b>NO CLASS - VICTORIA DAY</b></p>
Tuesday, May 24 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Alberta</b></p> <p><b>BW:</b> Chapter 9: Alberta (Sayers and Stewart).</p> <p><b>TPP:</b> Chapter 9: Alberta (Patten).</p>

Date	Topic
Wednesday, May 25 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>British Colombia</b></p> <p><b>BW:</b> Chapter 10: British Colombia (Summerville).</p> <p><b>TPP:</b> Chapter 10: British Colombia (Pilon).</p>
Thursday, May 26 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND CANADA</b></p> <p>Gwynne Dyer, “Chapter 1: The Geopolitics of Climate Change.” and “Scenario 6: Canada, 2055.” <i>Climate Wars</i> (Toronto: Random House Canada, 2008).</p> <p>Andrew Nikiforuk, “Chapter 2: Slaves to Energy” and “Chapter 10: The Petrostate.” <i>The Energy of Slaves</i> (Vancouver: Greystone Books, 2012).</p> <p><b>* ALL PROVINCIAL ANALYSES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THIS CLASS.</b></p>
Monday, May 30 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Mel Watkins, “A Staple Theory of Economic Growth.” <i>Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science</i>,” vol. 29, no. 2 (1963).</p> <p>Brenda Haley, “From Staples Trap to Carbon Trap: Canada’s Peculiar Form of Carbon Lock-In.” <i>Studies in Political Economy</i>, no. 88 (Autumn 2011).</p>
Tuesday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	<p><b>FINAL TEST</b></p> <p><b>* RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>.</b></p>