

CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

Political Science 3224

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Lecture: Monday / Wednesday 10 am – 11:15 am; Hicks 217

Office hours: by appointment

OVERVIEW

The course is built around a retrospective analysis of a specific riding or FED in the 2021 national election campaign. The first half of the course introduces the electoral system, the party system, and party ideology as context for local campaigns. Then we switch to working on an overview of the general material on local campaigns to prepare you to work on your own in-depth analysis of the local campaign in a riding of your choice.

The syllabus is subject to minor changes (i.e. an addition of a supplementary reading, guest speaker, or exclusion of a previously required reading) upon notice provided by the instructor via Brightspace.

Textbook

Alex Marland and Thierry Giasson, *Inside the local campaign: Constituency Elections in Canada*. Download full text from <https://www.ubcpres.ca/inside-the-local-campaign>

Required readings (other than the textbook) are posted to Brightspace

Assignments

1. Introduce yourself on the Brightspace discussion board. In this class, we refer to each other by our electoral districts. So introduce yourself by “the Honourable Member from” and tell us something interesting about that riding.
2. Mid-term take-home term test based on lectures and assigned readings. Write essays in response to specific questions posted to Brightspace.
3. Evaluation of four [Inside the local campaign](#) articles; roughly 500 words for each article. Which four articles are the most instructive for your own purposes? Going through this extensive array of short articles can inspire, direct, and organize your own research about a local FED 2021 campaign of your choice. What angle will your own analysis take and why?
4. Present in class the local campaign that you are working on; approximately 5 slides for 30 minutes.
5. Provide useful and interesting comments about peers’ presentations in class.
6. Local campaign analysis. A grid for a corresponding assignment is posted to Brightspace on the Introduction page.

GRADING SCHEME		
Assignment	Due date	% value
Self-introduction by FED on discussion board	17 September	5
Mid-term test – essays based on & assigned readings	16 October	20
Local campaign article assignment	20 November	10
Participation	20, 22, 27, 29; 4, 6 December	5
Local campaign presentation	20, 22, 27, 29; 4, 6 December	20
Text of local campaign analysis	7 December	40

COURSE AGENDA

6 September Introduction: What's the work of an MP about?

Samara Centre for Democracy, *Beyond the Barbecue* (MP Exit Interviews Vol. II). 2018

11 September HISTORY: Has much changed since the 12th General Election of 1911?

[Nelson Wiseman, *Partisan odysseys: Canada's political parties*, Toronto; UTP 2020](#)).

Stephen Leacock, "The Great Election in Missinaba County" and "The candidacy of Mr. Smith" *Sunshine sketches of a little town*, 1912. Chapters 10 and 11. [Best enjoyed as spoken](#).

13 September VOTER TURNOUT: WHO CARES ABOUT ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY?

Lawrence LeDuc and Jon Pammett, "Voter turnout" *Election*, Chapter 12.

David Coletto, "The next Canada" Politics, political engagement, and priorities of Canada's next electoral powerhouse: young Canadians" Abacus Data for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. 2015.

Elections Canada, *2015 National Youth Survey*. Prepared by Nielsen Consumer Insights. 6 May 2016.

David Coletto, [Political Participation and Canadian millennials – what gives?](#) 2 June 2013. Abacus Research.

18, 20 September ELECTORAL SYSTEM: DRAWING BOUNDARIES

[Elections Canada, Federal Electoral Boundaries 2022](#).

Paul Thomas, Peter Loewen, Michael MacKenzie, "Fair isn't always equal: Constituency population and the quality of representation in Canada" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 46:2, 273-94, 2013.

["The right candidate for Rosedale," NFB film 1979](#).

[Electoral Reform, IRPP, 2016](#)

25 September INTRODUCTION TO THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN (no class)

[Alex Marland, ed. Inside constituency level election campaigns, IRPP 2021](#)

27 September VOLUNTEER TURNOUT: WHO'S STAFFING THE PERPETUAL CAMPAIGN

CBC Ottawa. ["Mental health on the Hill"](#) 26 June 2018

Glen McGregor, "Kids on the Hill?" *Ottawa Citizen* 21 June 2009.

Ian Brodie, "In defence of political staff" *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 2012.

Ian Brodie. "Handing campus politics to the "lefties" *C2C Journal*. 7 October 2015.

Jennifer Robson, "As Parliament prepares to resume, a new cohort of political staffers will arrive to help their ministers and critics. Here are a few useful tips" *IRPP*. November 2019.

Feodor Snagovsky, Matthew Kerby, "Political staff and the gendered division of political labour in Canada" *Parliamentary Affairs*, 72:3, July 2019, 616–637.

Scott Proudfoot, *Diminishing Economic Value of a Political Career*, March 26, 2016. Hillwatch.com

Cheryl Collier and Tracey Raney. 2018. "Canada's Member-to-Member Code of Conduct on sexual harassment in the House of Commons: Progress or regress?" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51:4, 795-815.

2 October **VOTING BEHAVIOR: HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, IDEOLOGY**

Andrea Perella, "Overview of voting behaviour theories" *Election*, Chapter 11

Elisabeth Gidengil, "Voting behaviour in Canada: State of the discipline" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 55(4), 2022/

4 October **PARTY SYSTEM: HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, IDEOLOGY** (no class possibly)

[The Big Shift updated: Sean Speer in conversation with Darrell Bricker.](#)

[Richard Johnston, "Baffling history of Canada's party system" *Policy Options* 2017.](#)

[Nelson Wiseman, *Partisan odysseys: Canada's political parties*, Toronto; UTP 2020\).](#)

9 October **Thanksgiving**

11 October **TERM TEST**

16, 18 October **LIBERALS**

Bob Rae, "Creating an alternative" *Policy Options*, March 2012.

Andre Blais, "[Accounting for the electoral success of the Liberal Party of Canada](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38:4 December 2005, 821-840.

R.K. Carty, *Big tent politics: The Liberal Party's long mastery of Canada's public life*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2016.

[Richard Johnston, "Baffling history of Canada's party system" *Policy Options* 2017.](#)

Achim Hurrelmann, Mérand, & White, "Eurosphere or Anglosphere? Canadian public opinion on Brexit and the future of transatlantic relations" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, July 2021, 1-22.

23, 25 October **CONSERVATIVES**

Andrew Potter, "The firewall from the other side: The past and future of Stephen Harper's agenda" In *Due Course*. 13 November 2015.

Ken Boessenkool, "How Harper's philosophy transformed Canada for the better" *Policy Options* 1 December 2015.

30 October **NEW DEMOCRATS**

David McGrane, excerpt from *The New NDP: Moderation, modernization, political marketing*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2019.

Brian Topp, "Two down, one to go" *Policy Options*, June 2011, 56-63.

James Laxer, "Look back, Jack" *This Magazine* July–August 2008.

Avi Lewis candidate https://www.facebook.com/AviLewisOfficial/videos/tip-the-scales-why-im-running/3025673941041102/?locale=ms_MY

Robin Sears, "Uniting the left: Prospects for a Liberal-NDP merger" *Policy Options* November 2008.

Brad Lavigne, "Anatomy of the Orange Crush: ten years in the making." *Policy Options* June 2012.

1, 6 November GENERAL THEORIES OF THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN

Munroe Eagles & Annika Hagley, "Constituency campaigning in Canada" *Election*, Chapter 6.

Thomas Flanagan, "Campaign strategy: Triage and the concentration of resources" *Election*, Chapter 8.

R.K. Carty, "[The politics of Tecumseh Corners: Canadian political parties as franchise organizations](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 35:4, 2002, 723.

Belfry Munroe, K., and Munroe, H. 2018. "Constituency campaigning in the age of data" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 51:1, 135-154.

Koop, Royce. 2014. "Elite-activist relationships in political parties: A social exchange analysis of Canadian parties' *Representation*. 50(2) 259-270.

Royce Koop. 2011 "Local campaigns and grassroots armies" *Grassroots Liberals: Organizing for local and national politics*. Vancouver: UBC (Chapter 4, 104-137).

8 November NUTS & BOLTS OF THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN

Local campaign assignment due

13, 15 November

STUDY BREAK

20, 22, 27, 29 November, 4, 6 December

SWOT ANALYSIS PRESENTATIONS

6 December SWOT ANALYSIS DUE

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate.

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation.

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to be a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office at 1321 Edward St. or contact elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803.

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates) http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Aboriginal Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

- Studying for Success program and tutoring: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

From the University Calendar

"Students are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances ... may an instructor extend such deadlines." Late papers will be assessed a late penalty at the instructor's discretion. Students who miss a deadline on account of illness are expected to hand in the assignment within one week of their return to class, with a medical certificate, per academic regulations of the Dalhousie Calendar.

Papers should be submitted directly to the instructor or in person to the Political Science office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays only. The instructor cannot assume responsibility for papers otherwise submitted.

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation. Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require them will be able to participate in the class.

INFORMATION ON PLAGIARISM

Proper documentation is required on all writing assignments. Failure to document sources constitutes plagiarism and can result in severe academic penalty. You should keep your rough notes and be prepared to defend your work orally. Consult a writing/style manual for acceptable citation styles.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived.

At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course; students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand.
