

Advanced Seminar in Canadian Politics
Department of Political Science
Fall 2018

Professor: Dr. Lori Turnbull

Office: School of Public Administration, 3rd floor, Kenneth Rowe building

Office Hours: Thursday 9:30-11:30

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Course synopsis

This course offers an opportunity for an in-depth analysis of the major issues, themes and trends in Canadian politics. The focus is on the federal government, though provincial, territorial, and municipal matters will be explored as well. We will explore the ways in which the institutions and actors that dominate Canadian politics interact with one another to affect the distribution of power and resources in Canada.

Readings

All readings are available online for free.

Assignments

Critical presentation of readings: 20%

Engaged class participation (including paper presentation): 20%

Term paper: 35%

Take home exam: 25%

Critical presentation of readings: Each student will be responsible for offering a critical presentation of assigned readings for one week during the term. Presentation should be 15-20 minutes long with 10 minutes for questions from peers.

Term paper: You are to write a ten page paper (NO MORE THAN TEN PAGES AND NO LESS THAN NINE) in which you identify the most important reform measure that ought to be undertaken to enhance the quality and integrity of democracy in Canada. Choose one reform, justify your choice, analyze costs and benefits, and outline your plan for implementation. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day. All papers should be submitted by email or Brightspace on **November 7** by 11:59 pm.

UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

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. Click [here](#) to read more.

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 (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click [here](#) to read more.

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. Click [here](#) to read more.

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 being 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). Click [here](#) to read more.

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 in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

Student Absence Declaration Form: <https://www.dal.ca/campus-life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-policies/Information%20for%20students.html>

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
- Scent-Free Program

<https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.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

Topics and Readings

September 5: Introduction and Organization

September 12: Political Power in Canada

- Prime Minister of Canada. 2015. *Open and Accountable Government*. Available at: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/11/27/open-and-accountable-government>

September 19: What is the point of Parliament? (Eli)

- Asselin, Robert. 2014. "An Agenda for Democratic Reform." Canada 2020. Available at: http://canada2020.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014_Canada2020_DemReform_PaperSeries_EN_Issue-03_FINAL.pdf
- Government of Canada. 2017. "Reforming the Standing Orders of the House of Commons." Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/leader-government-house-commons/services/reform-standing-orders-house-commons/2017/march.html>
- Public Policy Forum. 2015. "Time for a Reboot: Nine Ways to Restore Trust in Canada's Public Institutions." Available at: <http://www.ppforum.ca/sites/default/files/Report%20-%20English.pdf>

September 26: Is electoral reform dead? (Tristan)

- Institute for Research on Public Policy. 2016. "Electoral Reform." *Policy Options*. Available at: <http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/june-2016/electoral-reform/> (Read any 5 of the articles).

October 3: The Senate, reformed? (Richard)

- Public Policy Forum. 2016. "A House Undivided: Making Senate Independence Work." Available at: http://www.ppforum.ca/sites/default/files/Senate-A-House-Undivided_2.pdf
- Harder, Peter. 2017. "Sober Second Thinking: How the Senate Deliberates and Decides." Available at: http://peterharder.sencanada.ca/en/resources/media/pdf/Sober%20Second%20Thinking%20-%20How%20the%20Senate%20Deliberates%20and%20Decides_2017-03-31_EN_Final.pdf

October 10: Feminist Government in Canada (Ksenia)

- Finding Feminism, Canadian Journal of Political Science 50:2, June 2017. Please review articles by: Dobrowolsky, MacDonald, Raney, Collier, and Dufour; Scala and Paterson; Ashe; and, O'Neill.

October 17: Campaigns, Brands, and Money (Davis)

- Delacourt, Susan. 2014. "How marketing came to drive our politics," *National Post*. Available at: <http://nationalpost.com/opinion/susan-delacourt-how-marketing-came-to-drive-our-politics>

- Marland, Alex. 2016. "Brand Command: Canadian Politics and Democracy in the Age of Message Control (book excerpt)," *Policy Options*. Available at: <http://policyoptions.irpp.org/2016/07/13/book-excerpt-brand-command-canadian-politics-and-democracy-in-the-age-of-message-control/>
- Public Policy Forum. 2017. "Transparent and Level: Modernizing Political Finance in Canada." Available at: <https://www.ppforum.ca/publications/transparent-and-level-modernizing-political-financing-in-canada/>

October 24: Canada's Public Service (Jonathan Frontain)

- Aucoin, Peter. 2012. "New Political Governance in Westminster Systems: Impartial Public Administration and Management Performance at Risk" *Governance* 25:2. (Available via Dal library website)
- Heintzman, Ralph. 2014. "Renewal of the Federal Public Service: Towards a Charter of Public Service." Available at: http://canada2020.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014_Canada2020_Paper-Series_Public_Service_EN_Final.pdf
- Public Policy Forum. 2017. "Building a Dynamic Future: The Next Generation of Public Service Talent." Available at: http://www.ppforum.ca/sites/default/files/PPF_NEXT_GENERATION_REPORT_EN_FINAL.pdf

October 31: The Media, Fake News, and Civic Literacy (Julia and Brendan)

- Public Policy Forum. 2018. "Democracy Divided: Countering Disinformation and Hate in the Digital Public Sphere." Available at: <https://www.ppforum.ca/publications/social-marketing-hate-speech-disinformation-democracy/>

November 7: Review of past material; Parliamentary update; Guest speaker

November 21: Paper presentations

November 28: Paper presentations