

Political Science 3224 CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

Monday / Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30 pm McCain 2021, Fall 2019

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Office Hours: M/W & T/R 3 pm – 4 pm

OVERVIEW

The Canadian party system, viewed as an integral part of the entire political system, presents a number of questions for study such as voter turnout, electoral reform, party ideology, representation, campaign finance, the role of new information technologies, and the (in)ability of parties to contribute to Canadian democracy. Median-voter theorem is a central concept. Approved with Canadian Studies.

Since the 43rd General Election coincides with the fall term, poli 3224 is operating as a practicum in elections administration. In conjunction with Elections Canada, students will administer the Dalhousie polling stations under the supervision of Deputy Returning Officer Kathleen Rothwell. You will be poll clerks and registration officers. These are non-partisan jobs that do not permit partisan campaigning during the election. Be ready to apply when the forms become available. There will be training in class.

You must be a Canadian citizen to be employed by Elections Canada. Accommodations will be made for students who are not Canadian citizens.

Some of you are already committed to partisan campaigning. As a junior campaigner, you can expect to be appointed as a scrutinee. Parties make their own rules here: you may not be a Canadian citizen or a resident of Halifax to volunteer for a party. You may or may not be paid. It's up to you to find a candidate's campaign.

The electoral practicum will be integrated into the poli 3224 curriculum, with accompanying assignments and readings. On-campus voting runs from Saturday October 5 through to Wednesday October 9, inclusive. The syllabus is organized around on-campus voting and election day, to accommodate extra work at the beginning of term.

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.

Textbook

Heather McIvor. 2010. *Election*. Peterborough: Emond Montgomery Press.
Required readings (other than the textbook) are posted to Brightspace

Assignments

1. Take-home term tests: Critical-analysis based on election administration and assigned readings.
2. Report on an election event: Attend an election event of your choice and reflect on how it relates to the curriculum. There are a number of all-candidates debates planned on campus and about the province during the fall. Dalhousie Student Union will (probably) organize a debate. Prepare an analysis of the speakers, the debate, and the general tone of the event as they relate to course

material. All elements of the event are open for analysis. A grid for students to complete is appended to this syllabus and posted to Brightspace.

3. Elections administration: The class operates as a practicum in elections administration. On behalf of and in conjunction with Elections Canada, the class will operate the Special Polling Stations on Dalhousie Campus. Partisan students will do elections administration for a political party of their choice. There will be in-class training. A grid for a corresponding assignment is appended to this syllabus and posted to Brightspace. Students must be available from October 5 through October 9.

GRADING SCHEME		
Assignment	Due date	% value
Report on an election event. See assignment grid	16 October	20
Election administration assignment. See assignment grid.	23 October	30
Term test 1	30 October	20
Term test 2	December exam period	20
Attendance and participation		10

COURSE AGENDA

4 September Introduction & Overview of elections administration practicum

Canadian Security Establishment, *Update: Cyber threats to Canada's Democratic Process*. Government of Canada, 2019.

Pippa Norris, *Why American election are flawed (and how to fix them)*. Electoral Integrity Project. 2017.

Jeffrey Karp, Alessandro Nai, Miguel Angel Lara Otaola, Pippa Norris, *Building professional electoral management*. Electoral Integrity Project & the Association of World Electoral Bodies 2017.

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

John Courtney, "Forty and counting" *Election*, Chapter 2.

Robin Sears, "Our parties are dying" *Dorchester Review* 6:2, 2016, 29-34.

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](#).

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

11, 16, September Democracy and manipulation in the internet age

Tuesday, 10 September, 12 - 1:30 pm Room 1020, Rowe
https://www.dal.ca/dept/maceachen-institute/events/policy_matters2019/Democracy-and-Manipulation-Election-2019.html

Tamara Small, "Still waiting for an internet prime minister: Online campaigning by Canadian political parties" *Election*, Chapter 9.

McKelvey, Fenwick and Elizabeth Dubois, "Toward the responsible use of bots in politics" *Policy Options*, Nov 2017.

André Turcotte, "Polling as modern alchemy: Measuring public opinion in Canadian elections" *Election*, Chapter 10.

Tamara Small, Harold Jansen, Bastien, F., Giasson, T., & Royce Koop. 2014. "Online political activity in Canada: Hype and the facts" *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 37(4), 9-16.

Tamara Small, "Canadian politics in 140 characters: Party politics in the twitterverse" *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, Fall 2010: 39 - 45.

18 September TENTATIVE date for IN-CLASS TRAINING IN ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

23, 25 September DO VOTERS CARE 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.

Nicholas Kohler, Colin Campbell, "Stop him before he votes" *Macleans*. 16 January 2006. 119:3, 24.

Andre Blais & Peter Loewen, "Youth electoral engagement in Canada" Elections Canada Working Paper, 2011.

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

R.A. Malatest & Associates, *National Youth Survey Report*, Prepared for Elections Canada. 20 September 2011.

Alan Gerber, Donald Green and Christopher Larimer, "Social pressure and voter turnout: Evidence from a large-scale field experiment" *American Political Science Review*. February 2008.

Sharanjit Uppal and Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté, *Factors associated with voting*, Component of Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-001-X, 24 February 2012.

Daniel Rubenson, André Blais, Patrick Fournier, Elisabeth Gidengil, Neil Nevitte, "Does low turnout matter? Evidence from the 2000 Canadian federal election" *Electoral Studies*, 6:3, September 2007, 589-597.

30 September, 2 October ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Dennis Pilon, "Understanding electoral systems" *Election*, Chapter 3.

Michael Pal and Sujit Choudhry, "Constituency boundaries in Canada" *Election*, Chapter 4.

John Sides and Eric McGhee, "Redistricting didn't win Republicans the House" *Washington Post*, 17 February 2013.

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.

7, 9 October On-Campus voting stations

Candidates' Debate Assignment DUE 16 October

14, 16 October OVERVIEW: HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, AND IDEOLOGY

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

Joanna Everitt et al, "Patterns of party identification in Canada" *Election*, Chapter 13.

Ailsa Henderson, "Greater than the sum of its parts: Political cultures and regions in Canada" *Election*, Chapter 14.

[John Ibbitson, "The collapse of the Laurentian consensus" *Literary Review of Canada*. 2012.](#)

Richard Johnston, "Alignment, realignment, and dealignment in Canada: The view from above" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 46:2, 245-71, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olS1ZRS76sw>

21, 23 October **Canada's 43rd GENERAL ELECTION** [articles to be posted]

Elections Administration Assignment DUE 23 October

28 October **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.

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

Scott Proudfoot, *Politics and the Family Business*, March 26, 2016. Hillwatch.com

Collier, Cheryl & 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.

30 October **TERM 1 TAKE-HOME TEST**

4, 6 November **REPRESENTATION**

William Cross and Scott Pruyers. 2017. "Sore losers? The costs of intra-party democracy" *Party politics*.

William Cross and Scott Pruyers. 2019. "The local determinants of representation: Party constituency associations, candidate nomination and gender" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 1-18.

Diversity demographics <http://diversityvotes.ca/>

View "The right candidate for Rosedale," NFB film 1979.

Dalhousie break 11, 13 November

18 November **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.

20 November **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.

Tom Flanagan, "[The emerging Conservative coalition](#)" *Policy Options* June 2011, 104-108.

25 November NEW DEMOCRATS

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

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

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

27 November, 2 December ELECTION CAMPAIGNING ON THE GROUND

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

Steven Patten, "Democracy and candidate selection process in Canadian elections" *Election*, Chapter 7.

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

[Seth Masket, "When campaign volunteers do more harm than good" *PS Mag* MAY 11, 2015](#)

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

Thomas Flanagan, "10 commandments of Conservative campaigning" *Harper's Team*, Toronto: UTP 2007.

TERM 2 TEST DURING FINAL EXAM PERIOD

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.
