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


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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>% value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report on an election event. See assignment grid</td>
<td>16 October</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election administration assignment. See assignment grid</td>
<td>23 October</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term test 1</td>
<td>30 October</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term test 2</td>
<td>December exam period</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING SCHEME**

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**COURSE AGENDA**

**4 September**  
**Introduction & Overview of elections administration practicum**


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


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


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.


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

*Tuesday, 10 September, 12 - 1:30 pm Room 1020, Rowe*


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

**23, 25 September**  **DO VOTERS CARE ABOUT ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY?**


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.


**30 September, 2 October**  **ELECTORAL SYSTEMS**


**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

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


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


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


30 October TERM 1 TAKE-HOME TEST

4, 6 November REPRESENTATION


Diversity demographics http://diversityvotes.ca/


30 October TERM 1 TAKE-HOME TEST

18 November LIBERALS


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.


**25 November  NEW DEMOCRATS**

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


**27 November, 2 December  ELECTION CAMPAIGNING ON THE GROUND**


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


Seth Masket, “When campaign volunteers do more harm than good” *PS Mag MAY 11, 2015*


**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

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
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.