

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

**POLI 5207: Advanced Seminar in Canadian Politics**

**Fall 2020**

**Online/Reading Course Version**

**3 credit hours**

**Instructor: Dr. Kristin Good**

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Cross-appointed with the Law, Justice and Society Program

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**Learning Platform:** The learning platform for this course is Brightspace, which can be accessed at the following address: <https://dal.brightspace.com>

**Calendar Description of POLI 4207 and 5207**

**POLI 4207 Canadian Politics: Themes and Theories/POLI 5207 Advanced Seminar in Canadian Politics** CREDIT HOURS: 3 This senior seminar will take an in-depth and critical look at the major issues and institutions in Canadian politics and government. Topics include: the concentration of power; parliamentary governance: constitutional politics; party and electoral systems; and, the role of the mass media and pressure groups. PREREQUISITES: Permission of the instructor. CROSSLISTED: POLI 4207.03 or POLI 5207.03 EXCLUSIONS: POLI 4204.03 FORMATS: Seminar

**Extended Description Course Topics**

This course covers a wide range of fundamental topics in the study of Canadian politics and government including the nature of Canadian political institutions, political culture(s), identities and interests. Topics include 'responsible government,' Parliament (including the House of Commons and the Senate), the nature of the Canadian party system and elections, federalism, the role of the courts in Canadian governance, interest groups and social movements, municipal governance, and the multifaceted relationship of Indigenous governments and peoples to the Canadian state. We also explore Canadian political culture/identities including the influence of regionalism, Quebecois and

Indigenous nationalisms, multicultural identities, race, and gender on Canadian political development.

### **Learning Objectives**

The course's primary learning objectives are the following:

Students will ...

Develop an in-depth understanding of Canada's political institutions.

Become familiar with some of the fundamental debates in the Canadian political science literature.

Hone reading comprehension skills by being asked to read, digest and analyze a significant amount of reading quickly and accurately.

Strengthen written communication skills by writing weekly short analytical papers on the readings.

Improve analytical skills and one's ability to develop a sound argument by filtering the readings through a weekly question.

### **Method of Assessment**

10 (weekly) short papers	50%
Research paper	50%

### **Grading Scale and Definitions**

Graduate students should refer to: 1) The Graduate Studies Calendar (p. 83-83) for the university's grade scale and definitions for graduate students :  
<https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/academics/academiccalendar/GRAD-2020-2021%20July%207.pdf>

2) Graduate students should also consult the Department of Political Science's grading rubric which also elaborates upon the meaning of grades in a graduate context. It is available on the Department's website at the following address:  
<http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/politicalscience/syllabi%202012-13/Graduate%20Student%20Grading%20Rubric.pdf>

## Description of Assignments

### **Short Papers**

10 short papers based on the weekly readings are required for this course.

These papers should respond to the question that is provided in the syllabus. They should draw upon ALL of the assigned full-length readings for the week (and cite them). A bibliography isn't necessary unless the paper goes beyond the assigned readings (which isn't expected). The idea is to develop a dialogue among the authors in response to the assigned question asking, for instance, 'how would each author answer the question?' as well as 'on which points do the authors of the readings differ in their perspective and on which points do they share common ground?'

Short papers should be **750 - 800 words** in length.

These short papers replace testing and exam requirements for the course as well as in class time and participation. They are designed as a way to assess students' knowledge of the material without testing as well as to assess analytical and communication skills more than memorization.

### **Research Paper**

Research papers should be **7000-8000 words in length** and should reference at least 15 high quality academic sources (not including the course reading material which should also be engaged if appropriate to the subject area). The paper will be graded on the quality of its research, its argument (whether its thesis statement is clear and well-supported in the paper), its organization and the quality of the writing.

The deadline for the research paper will be **December 9, 2020**.

### **Policy on lateness**

Since this is a reading course, there is some flexibility in the deadlines. However, all of the short papers must be completed before the final day of classes (December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

The research paper should be submitted by December 9<sup>th</sup> at the latest so the final grade can be submitted by the instructor on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Topic Schedule – Fall 2020**

Introductory meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at a mutually acceptable time.

Topic 1: Canada: Origins and Identity (Deadline: September 15)

Topic 2: Parliament (Deadline: September 22)

Topic 3: Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections (Deadline: September 29)

Topic 4: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations (Deadline: October 6<sup>th</sup>)

### **October 12: Thanksgiving**

Topic 5: The Courts and the Charter (Deadline: October 13)

Topic 6: Colonialism and Indigenous-Canadian State Relations (Deadline: October 20<sup>th</sup>)

Topic 7: Diversity in Canadian Politics? (Deadline: October 27<sup>th</sup>)

Topic 8: Municipal Government 1 (Deadline: November 3rd)

### **Fall Study Break: November 9-13**

Topic 9: Municipal Government 2 (Deadline: November 17<sup>th</sup>)

Topic 10: Municipality Government 3 (Deadline: November 24<sup>th</sup>)

Final week of classes – work on research paper which is due on **December 9<sup>th</sup>**.

## POLI 5207 – READING LIST

**Prof. Kristin Good**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Political Science**

### **Textbook (For purchase)**

Bickerton, James and Alain-G. Gagnon. Eds. (2020) *Canadian Politics* (seventh edition). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*. (Second edition) Toronto: Oxford University Press.

### **1. Canadian Political Origins and Identity**

**Short paper question: What is the nature and origins of Canadian political identity?**

*Canadian Politics* (7<sup>th</sup> edition):

Samuel V. Laselva – “Understanding Canada’s Origins: Federalism, Multiculturalism, and the Will to Live Together,” (Chapter 1)

Guy Laforest and Alain-G. Gagnon – “The Canadian Political Regime from a Quebec Perspective,” (Chapter 2)

Donald Savoie. 2019. “Understanding the Roots of Canadian Democracy,” (Chapter 2) and “Everything is Regional, Except National Political Institutions” (Chapter 6) of his *Democracy in Canada: The Disintegration of Our Institutions*.

Kiera L. Ladner and Michael McCrossan. 2014. “Whose Shared History?,” *Labour/Le Travail* 73: 200-202.

Magnusson, Warren. 2005. “Are Municipalities Creatures of the Provinces?,” *Journal of Canadian Studies*. Spring, 39, 2: 5-29

## **2. Parliament: What is responsible government? Is it in need of reform?**

**Short paper question:** What is ‘responsible government’? Is it in need of reform?

*Canadian Politics* (7<sup>th</sup> edition):

Donald Savoie – “The Centre Rules: Executive Dominance” (Chapter 3)

Lori Turnbull – “The House of Commons and Responsible Government” (Chapter 4)

Andrew Heard – “The Senate: A Late-Blooming Chameleon,” (Chapter 5)

Amanda Clarke – “The Civil Service” (Chapter 6)

Other required reading:

Jennifer Smith. 1999. “Democracy and the Canadian House of Commons at the Millennium,” *Canadian Public Administration*. 42, 4: 398-421.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1754-7121.1999.tb02034.x>

## **3. Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections**

**Short paper question:** Does continuity or change stand out in Canadian elections and party politics?

*Canadian Politics* (7<sup>th</sup> edition):

Allison Harrell, Laura Stephenson, Lyne Deschatelêts – “Public Opinion and Political Cleavages in Canada,” (Chapter 12)

James Bickerton – “Parties and Elections: An End to Canadian Exceptionalism?,” (Chapter 13)

Brian Tanguay. “Democratic Reform and the Vagaries of Partisan Politics in Canada,” (Chapter 14)

Alex Marland – “Media and Strategic Communication in Canadian Politics,” (Chapter 15)

#### 4. Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations

**Short paper question: Does continuity or change stand out in the way in which disputes are resolved in the Canadian federation and the tenor of intergovernmental relations?**

*Canadian Politics (7<sup>th</sup> edition):*

Jennifer Wallner – “Practices of Federalism in Canada,” (Chapter 8)

*Other required reading:*

Simeon, Richard, Ian Robinson and Jenn Wallner. 2014. “The Dynamics of Canadian Federalism,” in James Bickerton and Alain-G. Gagnon. Eds. *Canadian Politics* (sixth edition). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Meekison, J. Peter, Hamish Telford and Harvey Lazar. 2003. “The Institution of Executive Federalism: Myths and realities,” In their edited *Canada: The State of the Federation. Reconsidering the Institutions of Canadian Federalism*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press.

<http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.iigrwww/files/files/pub/archive/SOTF/SOTF2002.pdf>

Harmes, Adam. 2007. “The Political Economy of Open Federalism,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 40, 2: 417-437.

Bakvis, Herman and Grace Skogstad. 2020. “Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy,” (Chapter 1) in their edited *Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness and Legitimacy* (third edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press. **Note:** We are using an earlier edition of this introductory chapter because only one chapter can be used from the volume due to copyright rules.

Baier, Gerald. 2020. “The Courts, The Division of Powers, and Dispute Resolution” (Chapter 4) in Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad’s *Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness and Legitimacy* (fourth edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Puddister, Kate. 2019. “The Canadian Reference Power: Delegation to the Courts and Navigation of Federalism,” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*. 49, 4: 561-586.

## 5. The Courts and the Charter

**Short paper question: To what extent are rights and parliament reconciled in the current constitutional arrangement?**

*Canadian Politics (Sixth edition):*

Raymond Bazowski – “Politics and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms,” (Chapter 9)

*Other required reading:*

Ajzenstat, Janet. 1997. “Reconciling Parliament and Rights: A. V. Dicey Reads the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 30, 4: 645-662.

MacFarlane, Emmett. 2013. “Dialogue or compliance? Measuring legislatures' policy responses to court rulings on rights,” *International Political Science Review*. 34, 1: 39-56.

Hiebert, Janet. 2018. “The Charter, Policy, and Political Judgment,” (Chapter 4) in Emmett MacFarlane. *Policy Change, Courts, and the Canadian Constitution*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press

Albert, Richard. 2018. “The Desuetude of the Notwithstanding Clause – and How to Revive It,” (Chapter 7) in Emmett MacFarlane. *Policy Change, Courts, and the Canadian Constitution*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Kelly, James B. 2007. “Parliament and the Charter: An Unfinished Constitutional Revolution,” *Policy Options*, February.

## 6. Colonialism, Indigenous peoples and the Canadian state

**Short paper question: What is and ought to be the nature of the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the Canadian state?**

*Canadian Politics (7th edition):*

Martin Papillon – “The Two Faces of Treaty Federalism,” (Chapter 11)



Naomi Walqwan Metallic – “The Relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples: Where Are We?,” (Chapter 20)

*Other required reading:*

Greg Poelzer & Ken Coates. 2016. “Political and Institutional Approaches,” (Chapter 5) in their *From Treaty Peoples to Treaty Nation: A Road Map for All Canadians*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Pamela Palmater. 2014. “Genocide, Indian Policy, and Legislated Elimination of Indians in Canada Canada,” *Aboriginal Policy Studies* 3, 3: 27-54.

Alfred Taiaiake and Jeff Corntassel. 2005. “Being Indigenous: Resurgences against contemporary colonialism,” *Government and Opposition* 40, 4: 597-614.

Corey Snelgrove, Rita Kaur Dhamoon, and Jeff Corntassel. 2014. “Unsettling settler colonialism: The discourse and politics of settlers, and solidarity with Indigenous nations,” *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*. 3, 2: 1-32.

## **7. Diversity, Race and Resistance in Canadian Politics**

**Short paper question: Who is ‘in’ and who is ‘out’ of Canadian politics (who has power) and why? How should we understand forms of resistance to powerlessness in Canadian society?**

*Canadian Politics (6<sup>th</sup> edition)*

Will Kymlicka – “Citizenship, Communities and Identity in Canada,” (Chapter 16)

Alain Gagnon – “Five Faces of Quebec: Shifting Small Worlds and Evolving Political Dynamics,” (Chapter 10)

Yasmeen Abu-Laban – “Diversity in Canadian Politics” (Chapter 18)

Mireille Paquet – “Immigration in Canada: From Low to High Politics,” (Chapter 21)

Michael Orsini – “Of Pots and Pans and Radical Handmaids: Social Movements and Civil Society,” (Chapter 18)

Jacquetta Newman – “Acting in and on History: The Canadian Women’s Movement,” (Chapter 19)

*Other required reading:*

Debra Thompson. 2008. "Is race political?" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 41, 3: 525-547.

## 8. Municipal Government 1 – Constitutional Questions

**Short paper question: What purpose do municipalities serve in the Canadian political system? Is reform needed to serve this purpose as Canada becomes increasingly urban?**

Andrew Sancton. 2015. Chapters 1-4 of *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*.

Kristin R. Good. forthcoming. "Reconsidering Municipalities' Constitutional Status: From "Creatures of the Provinces" to Provincial Constitutionalism," to be published by IRPP in September.

Taylor, Zack and Alec Dobson. 2020. *Power and Purpose: Canadian Municipal Law in Transition*. IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance. Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto.

Levi, Ron and Mariana Valverde. 2006. "Freedom of the City: Canadian Cities and the Quest for Governmental Status," *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*. 44, 3: 409-459.

Sancton, Andrew. 2005. "The Governance of Metropolitan Areas in Canada," *Public Administration and Development*. 25, 4: 317-327.

Sancton, Andrew. 2008. *The Limits of Boundaries*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press. [read enough to familiarize yourself with his argument]

## 9. Municipal Government 2 – Municipal Democracy

**Short paper question: What is the state of municipal democracy in Canada and why?**

Andrew Sancton – Chapters 9 and 11 of his *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Second Edition)

Good, Kristin R. 2016. "Municipal Political Parties: An Answer to Urbanization or an Affront to Traditions of Local Democracy?," in Alain-G. Gagnon and Brian Tanguay (eds.). *Canadian Parties in Transition* (4<sup>th</sup> edition). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Valverde, Marianna. 2012. "City Bureaucrats and Village Elders: The Dysfunctional Dance of Local Governance" (Chapter 4) of her *Everyday Law on the Street: City Governance in an Age of Diversity*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

Lucas, Jack. 2019. "The Size and Sources of Municipal Incumbency Advantage in Canada," *Urban Affairs Review*.

Moore, Aaron, A. 2017. "The Potential and Consequences of Municipal Electoral Reform," Institute on Municipal Finance & Governance, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. Pp. 16.

[https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/78793/1/IMFG\\_perspectives\\_20\\_electoral\\_reform\\_AaronMoore\\_Oct\\_17\\_2017.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/78793/1/IMFG_perspectives_20_electoral_reform_AaronMoore_Oct_17_2017.pdf)

## 10. Municipal Government 3 – Power and Policymaking

### Short paper question: Who governs in Canadian cities and why?

Sancton, Andrew. 2015. Chapter 10, 12, 14 and 15 in *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*. (Second edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press, pp. 202-226 and 247-267.

Ted Rutland. 2018. "Making Space for Homo economicus: Neoliberalism, Regional Planning, and the Boundaries of Economic Life," (Chapter 7) in his *Displacing Blackness: Planning, Power, and Race in the Twentieth*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Heather Dorries, Robert Henry, David Hugill, Tyler McCreary, and Julie Tomiak. 2019. "Introduction: Settler City Limits" in their edited *Settler City Limits: Indigenous Resurgence and Colonial Violence in the Urban Prairie West: Settler City Limits*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.

Alan Harding and Talja Blokland. 2014. "Can cities act? Urban political economy and the question of agency" (Chapter 4) in *their Urban Theory: A critical introduction to power, cities and urbanism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage. 88-119.

## 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: <https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?catalogid=106&pageid=viewcatalog>

### University Statements

Academic Integrity [http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

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.

### UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC HONOUR STATEMENT (for all of the Dalhousie community)

August 11, 2020

Academic integrity is a commitment to the values of learning in an academic environment. These values include honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect<sup>1</sup>. All members of the Dalhousie community must acknowledge that academic integrity is fundamental to the value and credibility of academic work and inquiry. We must seek to uphold academic integrity through our actions and behaviours in all our learning environments, our research, and our service.

<sup>1</sup>“The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity” (2nd edition), developed by the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI).

Accessibility [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html)

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).

### Student Code of Conduct

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html)

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 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).

(read more: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

#### 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. Contact the program at [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca).

#### University Policies and Programs

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)

[http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](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](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)

Scent-Free Program

<http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

#### Learning and Support Resources

General Academic Support – Advising

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

(Halifax)

<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre/academic-support.html>

(Truro)

Fair Dealing Guidelines

<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>

Dalhousie University Library <http://libraries.dal.ca>

Indigenous Students

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

Black Students

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)

International Students

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html)

Student Health Services

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html)

Counselling

[https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/frequently-asked-questions-august-2017.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/frequently-asked-questions-august-2017.html)

Copyright Office

<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

E-Learning website

<http://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>

Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services

<http://dsu.ca/dsas>

Dalhousie Ombudsperson [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](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](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

Faculty or Departmental Advising Support: Studying for Success

Program: [http://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)