

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE POLI 2210**

### ***Unity and Diversity: The Federal Dynamics of Canadian Politics***

#### **Professor Louise Carbert**

*Office Hours:* Thursday 2:30 - 4 pm, via TEAMS

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#### **COURSE SUMMARY**

This course is an introduction to the social, economic, and participatory dynamics that drive Canadian politics. It covers political culture, regionalism, indigenous politics, political economy, interest groups, social movements, and the executive. Federalism is central to all these topics, as we study the role of Quebec nationalism in the federation's evolution, the relationship between the Constitutional order and federalism, the place of emerging orders of government (including First Nations governments), and debates concerning the causes and consequences of centralization and decentralization in the Canadian federation.

There will be regular on-line synchronous office hours, scheduled for the Thursday of each week at 2:30 pm. Alternative times will be found for students unable to participate online at the regularly scheduled time. The professor is available by phone or email as well.

#### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students completing this course will be introduced to the methodologies, concepts, and approaches used by political scientists to study Canada. At the end of this course, students should be able to apply these new tools to help describe, understand, and explain a variety of political phenomena in Canadian politics. In addition to strengthening their analytical abilities, students will have the opportunity to improve their reading comprehension and writing skills through the completion of multiple, diverse assignments.

This class is succeeded by POLI 2220 in January. POLI 2210 is not a pre-requisite, but the POLI 2210 curriculum takes off from where we leave off in December. POLI 2210 begins from the second half of the same textbook.

#### **TEXTBOOK**

- Marland, Alex and Jared Wesley. 2020. *Inside Canadian Politics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
- The instructor reserves the right to assign additional readings to Brightspace. Slides will be posted for the duration of the unit being studied.

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Each module has its own quiz. The quizzes are short-answer, multiple-choice, true/false format. The goal is to enable you to study the material efficiently, with direction and purpose in order to understand key concepts. They ensure that you have acquired a solid foundation of knowledge from the textbook.

These quizzes stay open for the duration of the module. Some students may want to do the quizzes ahead of time. Other students will want to delay until near the due date. Your time is yours to organize. The quizzes will be graded immediately on receipt, but the correct answers will not be revealed until after the due date. Quizzes close at midnight (Atlantic time zone) of the day due.

2. There are two short-writing assignments. These are based on the textbook, lectures, and assigned material. No further research is required or allowed. These are time-limited essay assignments that function much as “tests.” There will be choice, but be sure to address the question as posted. Roughly 500 words per essay.
3. The essay assignment requires additional work beyond the textbook. Approximate length – 2000 words. Your task is to analyse, critique, and evaluate two articles corresponding to a single topic from the syllabus. Begin from the sources cited in the textbook. You are not restricted to sources from the textbook. Papers are submitted to the Brightspace assignment dropbox where it may be checked for plagiarism.

The quality of your analysis rests on the quality of your understanding of the article. A correct knowledge of the author’s point of view is the basis of a sophisticated critique. And the quality of your analysis rests on the quality of the articles you choose to study. A more challenging article may be easier to critique than a simplistic one.

Students are strongly encouraged to have the instructor check out their choice of articles. Articles approved by 3 December receive 5% credit.

Speaking very roughly, the essay should look like a one-page Introduction, 3 pages summarizing each article; and 2 pages critique and evaluation. Your critique might address such questions as: which paper is more useful politically? Which paper has deeper insight? Which paper is flawed methodologically?

A proper bibliography must be included. It need not appear on a separate page. I prefer in-text citation that looks like this (author surname, year of publication, page number). If no page number is available on an html document, cite the paragraph number. Proper citation is an integral part of the essay. Consult a writing manual for direction on the rules for citing specific points, general arguments, and quotations.

## GRADING SCHEME

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Value (%)</i>
Module 2 Concepts & cleavages quiz	17 September	5.7%
Module 3 Constitution quiz	24 September	5.7%
Module 4 Federalism quiz	15 October	5.7%
<b>Short writing assignment</b>	<b>22 October</b>	<b>15%</b>
Module 5 Regionalism quiz	29 October	5.7%
Module 6 Executive quiz	5 November	5.7%
Module 7 Public policy quiz	19 November	5.7%
<b>Short writing assignment</b>	<b>26 November</b>	<b>15%</b>
Module 8 Interest groups quiz	3 December	5.7%
<b>2 sources for longer essay approved by professor</b>	<b>3 December</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Longer essay (2 sources compare &amp; contrast)</b>	<b>8 December</b>	<b>25%</b>

## DISCUSSION BOARD

Each module has its own discussion board. The topic on each board corresponds to the “Up for Debate” topic in the textbook. Entries are encouraged, but not required.

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## SCHEDULE

### Module 1 – Why study your own country?

**8 September**

- [The Two Sides of Canada | Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj](#) Netflix, posted to YouTube Sep 2, 2019
- Noël, Alain. 2014. “Studying your own country: Social scientific knowledge for our times and places” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 47(4).

### Module 2 Overview of key concepts & cleavages

**15 – 17 September**

- Chapter 1, textbook

**Module 2 quiz due 17 September**

### Module 3 Constitution

**22 – 24 September**

Chapter 2, Constitution, textbook.

Roy, Marc-André and Laurence Brosseau. 2018. *The Notwithstanding Clause of the Charter*. Library of Parliament, Legal and Social Affairs Division.

National Film Board, [The Road to Patriation Robert Duncan, 1982 | 1 h 33 mi](#)

**Module 3 quiz due 24 September**

## Module 4 Federalism (with 3 sub-modules)

**29 – 1 October** Introduction to the mechanics of federalism in Canada

Chapter 3, Federalism, textbook

[Fierbeck, Katherine and Lorian Hardcastle, "Have the post-SARS reforms prepared ss for COVID-19? Mapping the institutional landscape" in eds., Flood, MacDonnell, Philpott, Thériault, Venkatapuram Vulnerable: Law, policy and ethics of COVID-19. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2020.](#)

### Sub-module 1

**6 – 8 October** Quebec

Walker, John. 2019. ["Quebec My Country Mon Pays" PBS video](#)

### Sub-module 2

**13 – 15 October** Treaty federalism

Starblanket, Gina. 2019. "The numbered treaties and the politics of incoherency" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Papillon, Martin. 2018. "The Trans Mountain ruling shows we need to acknowledge Indigenous peoples' jurisdiction over their lands and establish joint decision-making processes" *Policy Options*.

### Sub-module 3

**20 – 22 October** Fiscal federalism

Wesley, Jared. 2014. [The vertical dimension video](#). [The horizontal dimension](#) video

**Module 4 quiz due 15 October**

**Short essay assignment 1 due 22 October**

## Module 5 Regionalism

**27 - 29 October**

Chapter 4, Regionalism, textbook

Potter, Andrew. 2019. "Could populism take root in Canada? Too late - it already has" *Toronto Globe & Mail*.

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

Environics. 2019. *Canada: Pulling together or drifting apart? Confederation of Tomorrow*.

**Module 5 quiz due 29 October**

## Module 6 Executive

**3 – 5 November**

Chapter 5, Executive, textbook

Lagassé, Philippe. 2016. "The Crown and Prime Ministerial power" *Canadian Parliamentary Review* 17-23.

Lagassé, Philippe. 2018. A pedantic style guide.

Lagassé, Philippe. 2019. <https://soundcloud.com/canada2020/explain-like-im-five-13-the-governor-general-with-philippe-lagasse>

*Module 6 quiz due 5 November*

**Module 7 Public policy and bureaucracy**

**17 – 19 November**

Chapter 8, Public policy and the bureaucracy, textbook  
[Wells, Paul. 2019. "Canada – the show" Macleans.](#)

*10, 12 November fall break*

*Module 7 quiz due 19 November*

*Short essay assignment 2 due 26 November*

**Module 8 Interest groups and social movements**

**24 – 26 November**

Chapter 12, Interest groups and social movements, textbook

*Module 8 quiz due 26 November*

*Long essay due 8 December*

DRAFT

## 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 (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

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

### 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)

### Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](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](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](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](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)
- Aboriginal Student Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/native.html](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](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)
- Studying for Success program and tutoring: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](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.

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](http://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.

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