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, regionalized party system, party ideology, representation, 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.

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


Assignments

1. Introduce yourself on the discussion board. In this class, we refer to each other by our electoral districts. So introduce yourself as “the Honourable Member from .... ” and tell us something interesting about that electoral district.

2. Term test: Critical-analysis based on assigned readings.

3. Five reflections: submit approximately 500 words about Canadian party politics. Only one reflection for each module is permitted. A reflection is an engaged (and perhaps critical) engagement with the substantive material. Professor evaluates reflection by a rudimentary rubric:

   - Excel (5/5). A paragraph or two of incisive and thoughtful critique, with direct reference to assigned material in the syllabus.
   - Pass (3/5). A few sentences of thoughtful critique that meanders off topic and / or off syllabus.
   - Minimal (2/5). A sentence or two indicating submitted entry.
   - Failure to submit entry (0/3).

   Students are welcome, but NOT required, to post their items to the discussion board provided for that week and to discuss each other’s entries.

4. SWOT workshopping: Talk informally about the FED and the candidate that you are working on for the SWOT analysis. Students provide useful suggestions to each other. Credit is given for participation only. No documents are necessary.
5. SWOT analysis. A grid for a corresponding assignment is posted to Brightspace on the Introduction page. Students have the option to present their SWOT to the class on 7 December.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING SCHEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-introduction by home FED on discussion board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term test—~2000 words based on assigned readings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection entries (N=5 @5% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“SWOT” workshopping participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“SWOT” analysis for a candidate of your choice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE AGENDA**

**9 September**  Introduction

**14 - 16 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.

**21-24 September**  WHO CARES 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.

**28, 30 September**  ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Jerome Black, Andrew Griffith, “Do Canada’s most powerful federal posts reflect the country’s diversity?” *Policy Options* June 2020.

5, 7 October  

PARTY SYSTEM: HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, AND IDEOLOGY

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olS1ZRS76sw

12, 14 October  

STAFFING THE PERPETUAL CAMPAIGN

CBC Ottawa. *Mental health on the Hill* 26 June 2018
Ian Brodie, “In defence of political staff” *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 2012.
Jennifer Robson, “As Parliament prepares to resume, a new cohort of political staffers will arrive to help their ministers and critics. Here are a few useful tips” *IRPP*. November 2019.

14 October  

TERM TEST DUE

19, 21 October  

LIBERALS


26, 28 October  

CONSERVATIVES


2, 4 November  

NEW DEMOCRATS

Brian Topp, “Two down, one to go” *Policy Options*, June 2011, 56-63.
16, 18 November 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.

23, 25 November SWOT ANALYSIS WORKSHOPPING

30 November, 2 December ELECTION CAMPAIGNING IN THE AIR

Tamara Small, “Still waiting for an internet prime minister: Online campaigning by Canadian political parties” Election, Chapter 9.
André Turcotte, “Polling as modern alchemy: Measuring public opinion in Canadian elections” Election, Chapter 10.

7 December Option to present SWOT ANALYSIS 8 December SWOT ANALYSIS DUE
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
- ELearning Website: https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html
- Student Advocacy Services: https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service
- 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.