

# CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

## Political Science 3224 Fall 2020

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On-line office Hours and tutorial: Wednesday 11:30 - 1 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, 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

Heather McIvor. 2010. *Election*. Peterborough: Emond Montgomery Press.

Required readings (other than the textbook) are posted to Brightspace

### 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.

<b>GRADING SCHEME</b>		
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>% value</b>
Self-introduction by home FED on discussion board.	14 September	5
Term test– ~2000 words based on assigned readings.	14 October	25
Reflection entries (N=5 @5% each)	throughout	25
“SWOT” workshopping participation	23, 25 November	5
“SWOT” analysis for a candidate of your choice.	7 December	40

## **COURSE AGENDA**

### **9 September Introduction**

### **14 - 16 September HISTORY: Has much changed since the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **21-24 September WHO CARES 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.

Gidengil, Nevitte, Blais, Fournier, Everitt, “Why Johnny won’t vote” *Globe and Mail*, 4 August 2004, p. A15.

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.

### **28, 30 September ELECTORAL SYSTEMS**

Dennis Pilon, “Understanding electoral systems” *Election*, Chapter 3.

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

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.

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

[“The right candidate for Rosedale,” NFB film 1979.](#)

**5, 7 October**

**PARTY SYSTEM: 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.  
Richard Johnston, *The Canadian Party System*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 2018..  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olS1ZRS76sw>

**12, 14 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.  
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.  
Scott Proudfoot, *Diminishing Economic Value of a Political Career*, March 26, 2016. Hillwatch.com  
Cheryl Collier & 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.

**14 October TERM TEST DUE**

**19, 21 October**

**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.

**26, 28 October**

**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, "[Future of Conservatism Series, Part II: The Harper Victory Formula](#)" *C2C Journal* February 2020.

**2, 4 November**

**NEW DEMOCRATS**

David McGrane, "The New NDP: Moderation, modernization, political marketing. Vancouver: UBC Press excerpt.  
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

**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.  
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.  
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*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007.

**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.  
McKelvey, Fenwick and Elizabeth Dubois, "Toward the responsible use of bots in politics" *Policy Options*, Nov 2017.  
Canadian Security Establishment, Update: *Cyber threats to Canada's Democratic Process*. Government of Canada, 2019.  
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.

**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](mailto: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](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.

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](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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