DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

POLI 5207: Advanced Seminar in Canadian Politics

Fall 2020

Online/Reading Course Version

3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Good
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Cross-appointed with the Law, Justice and Society Program

Office: 356 Henry Hicks
Telephone: 902-494-1944
E-mail: Kristin.Good@Dal.Ca

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%20207.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 4th, 2020)

The research paper should be submitted by December 9th at the latest so the final grade can be submitted by the instructor on December 11th.
**Topic Schedule – Fall 2020**

Introductory meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 8th 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 6th)

**October 12: Thanksgiving**

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

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

Topic 7: Diversity in Canadian Politics? (Deadline: October 27th)

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

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

Topic 9: Municipal Government 2 (Deadline: November 17th)

Topic 10: Municipality Government 3 (Deadline: November 24th)

Final week of classes – work on research paper which is due on December 9th.
POLI 5207 – READING LIST

Prof. Kristin Good
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Textbook (For purchase)


1. Canadian Political Origins and Identity

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

Canadian Politics (7th 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.


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

*Canadian Politics* (*7th* 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:


3. Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections

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

*Canadian Politics* (*7th* 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 (7th edition):*

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

*Other required reading:*


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.


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*:


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

**Other required reading:**


### 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 (6th 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)


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

**Other required reading:**
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?


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)


10. Municipal Government 3 – Power and Policymaking

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


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=vwcatalog

University Statements

Academic Integrity 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 respect1. 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.

1“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

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).


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.

University Policies and Programs

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

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
(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

Black Students

International Students
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html

Student Health Services
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html

Counselling

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


Writing Centre 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