

CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

Political Science 3224 Fall 2021

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Lecture: Monday / Wednesday 4 – 5:15 pm

Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 3 - 4 pm, and by appointment

OVERVIEW

The Canadian party 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 via Brightspace.

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 Brightspace discussion board. In this class, we refer to each other by our electoral districts. So introduce yourself by “the Honourable Member from” and tell us something interesting about that riding.
2. Two take-home term tests based on lectures and assigned readings. Write essays in response to specific questions posted to Brightspace.
3. 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. No documents are necessary.
4. SWOT workshopping attendance: Provide useful and interesting suggestions to each other about your peers’ chosen FED candidate. Attendance at one session is sufficient for credit.
5. SWOT analysis. A grid for a corresponding assignment is posted to Brightspace on the Introduction page.

GRADING SCHEME		
Assignment	Due date	% value
Self-introduction by FED on Brightspace discussion board.	15 September	10
Term test 1 – essays based on lectures & assigned readings.	18 October	20
Term test 2 – essays based on lectures & assigned readings.	December	20
“SWOT” workshopping attendance and participation	22, 24 November	5
“SWOT” workshopping presentation	22, 24 November	15
“SWOT” analysis for a candidate of your choice.	6 December	30

COURSE AGENDA

Readings are presented below in order of priority. Begin with the textbook and read further from there as your interests engage you.

In the event of a general Canadian election, our regular agenda will be modified by the addition of a separate class to review the results. Supplementary readings to be assigned.

8 September Introduction

13, 15 September HISTORY: Has much changed since the 12th 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.

20 September VOTER TURNOUT: 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.

22 September ELECTION RETROSPECTIVE – articles to be posted to Brightspace

27, 29 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.](#)

4, 6 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>

11 October Thanksgiving

13 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 and 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.

18 October TERM TEST DUE

18, 20 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.
 Achim Hurrelmann, Mérand, & White, "Eurosphere or Anglosphere? Canadian public opinion on Brexit and the future of transatlantic relations" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, July 2021, 1-22.

25, 27 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.

1, 3 November NEW DEMOCRATS

David McGrane, excerpt from *The New NDP: Moderation, modernization, political marketing*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2019.
 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.

8, 10 November STUDY BREAK

15, 17 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.
- Koop, Royce. 2014. "Elite-activist relationships in political parties: A social exchange analysis of Canadian parties' *Representation*. 50(2) 259-270.
- Belfry Munroe, K., and Munroe, H. 2018. "Constituency campaigning in the age of data" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 51:1, 135-154.
- Royce Koop. 2011 "Local Campaigns and Grassroots Armies" *Grassroots Liberals: Organizing for local and national politics*. Vancouver: UBC (Chapter 4, 104-137).
- Flanagan, Thomas. 2007. "10 commandments of Conservative campaigning" *Harper's Team*, McGill-Queen's University.

22, 24 November

SWOT ANALYSIS WORKSHOPPING

29 November 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

Retrospective on election 2021

6 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
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures 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
- 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>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: 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

- 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.
