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, party ideology, representation, campaign finance, 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 occasional addition of a supplementary reading, guest speaker, or exclusion of a previously required reading) upon notice provided by the instructor.

Textbook

Almost all required readings (other than the textbook) have been posted to Blackboard Learning System.

Additional Texts


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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term test 1 s</td>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Term test 2</td>
<td>28 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report on a public event. See assignment grid</td>
<td>throughout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation to class, with speaking text and notes</td>
<td>throughout</td>
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**GRADING SCHEME**

Term Test: Critical-analysis based on assigned readings. No additional research beyond the syllabus is required. Tests are written in class. A personal computer may be used.

Report on a political event: Attend a political event of your choice and reflect on how it relates to the curriculum. The more relevant the event is to partisan politics, the easier the assignment is. There are many events on campus and about the province during the fall; see for example events planned by (my former grad students) at Springtide and LeadNow. Parties are also nominating candidates in preparation for Canada’s 42nd general election.
in 2015. Prepare an analysis of the speakers, the debate, and the general tone of the event as they relate to course material. All elements of the event are open for analysis. A grid for students to complete is posted to bbl.

**Oral presentation**: Must include visual aids. You will have access to a classroom computer with Powerpoint software and a projector. Your presentation will be graded on its ability to communicate intellectually interesting and politically astute insights, not its technical artistry. A sign-up sheet will be distributed on the first day. Submit your PowerPoint file as part of the assignment. Submit written text to accompany presentation. Text need not be in formal essay format; it consists of presentation notes, provided that they are coherent, logical, orderly, clear and properly formatted. The first class includes a unit on data visualization and presentation skills.

**COURSE AGENDA**

5 September  **HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Has much changed since the 12th General Election of 1911?**


12 September  **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF ELECTIONS**


Brent Rathgeber, “Drawing electoral maps is for cartographers, not politicians” 9 August 2012.

Andrew Sanction, “The principle of representation by population in Canadian federal politics” Mowat Centre, University of Toronto, March 2010, pp.16.


Guest speaker: LPC aspirant

19 September  **DO VOTERS CARE ABOUT ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY?**

Lawrence LeDuc and Jon Pammett, “Voter turnout” *Election*, Chapter 12


26 September  HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, IDEOLOGY: OVERVIEW OF PARTSANSHIP

Andrea Perella, “Overview of voting behaviour theories” *Election*, Chapter 11


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


3 October  STAFFING THE PERPETUAL CAMPAIGN


Ian Brodie, “In defence of political staff” *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 2012.


Guest speakers: professional political staffers Paula Diab and Jason Kontak

10 October  TERM TEST 1 written in class

17 October  CONSERVATIVES


Stephen Harper, “Rediscovering the right agenda” *Citizens Centre Report* 30.10  (Jun 2003): 73-77

24 October  LIBERALS


31 October  NEW DEMOCRATS

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


7 November  REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Louise Carbert, “*Viewing women’s political leadership through a rural electoral lens: Canada as a Case Study.*” In K. O’Connor, ed. *Gender and women’s leadership: A reference handbook* (SAGE Publications, 2010), 137-150.


Goldy Hyder, “Gaining the political support of minorities in Canada” *Canadian Issues* Summer 2005, 46.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE: Paying the bills for the perpetual campaign

Heather McLvor, “Canada’s election law: Less than meets the eye?” *Election*, Chapter 3

14 November  ELECTION CAMPAIGNING ON THE GROUND

Munroe Eagles and Annika Hagley, “Constituency campaigning in Canada” Election, Chapter 6.
Steven Patten, “Democracy and candidate selection process in Canadian elections” Election, Chapter 7.

21 November  ELECTION CAMPAIGNING OVER THE AIRWAVES

Thomas Flanagan, “Campaign strategy: Triage and the concentration of resources” Election, Chapter 8.
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.
Tanya Talaga, “Secrets of the election war room: Focus groups, telephone polls and tea leaves. Toronto Star. 13 September 2011.

28 November  LAST DAY OF CLASS, TERM 2 TEST

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. 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. The Senate has affirmed the right of an instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit a paper to be checked electronically for originality.

DALHOUSIE REGULATIONS

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 to 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 the teaching assistant, 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.

REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION

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 and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A. A note taker may be required as part of a student’s accommodation. There is an honorarium of $75/course (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.