POLI 3405 — Canadian Political Thought
Dalhousie University — Fall 2014

Tuesday and Thursday, 2:35 pm - 3:55 pm
McCain Arts and Social Sciences Building, Room 2176

Instructor: M. Firmini — Henry Hicks Building, 3rd Floor (Office 356)
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 11 am (or by appointment)
Email: Marcella.Firmini@dal.ca (Please allow 48 hr response time)

Course synopsis: This course addresses the distinct school of Canadian political thought and its development. From the ideological origins of Canadian society to contemporary thinkers, the course will explore theories and philosophical currents that have shaped Canada.

We begin with the colonial era and continue through to current trends. The aim will be to analyze the underlying logic of each strand of political thought and the interactions between them. At the end of the term, students will have a deeper knowledge of the intellectual traditions that have shaped (and continue to shape) Canada. This awareness will enrich their understanding of contemporary Canadian institutions, the current issues in Canadian politics, and the foundational values of the country.

Course Evaluation:

Thematic Papers: The course is divided into three themes. Each theme will end with an in-class discussion and a paper due at the end of each segment. The thematic paper should be no longer than two pages and should reference/cite (at the very least) 2 readings related to each class. Extraneous readings are permitted. The paper should relate briefly and concisely to the material covered for the theme, but the majority of your time should be spent on your own reflections about the readings and the theme at hand. The papers should NOT be a summary of the readings. Deadlines and evaluations as follows:

September 30 - 20%
October 30 - 20%
December 2 - 25%

Major Paper: The paper is a standard (research) term paper. A few general topics will be outlined during a lecture as indicated in the syllabus. Topics of your choice are permitted, but must pertain to Canadian Political Thought and to the themes covered in this course. Consult with the instructor before proceeding with your research.

Evaluation and deadline as follows:

35% - November 13
Each assignment will receive a numerical grade. Final grades will be translated into letter grades using the following scale:

- 90-100: A+
- 85-89: A
- 80-84: A-
- 77-79: B+
- 73-76: B
- 70-72: B-
- 65-69: C+
- 60-64: C
- 55-59: C-
- 50-54: D
- 45-49: F
- 40-44: F

**Required Text and Readings:**

1. *The Development of Political Thought in Canada* – Katherine Fierlbeck (University of Toronto Press). Available at the bookstore.
2. All supplemental readings as listed on the syllabus are available online or on OWL system.

**Drop Course Dates:** please review dates on the registrar’s website

**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 Access Services Center prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit the website for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:**

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced on the website. *Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations*

**Writing Centre:**

Writing expectations at university are high. The Writing Centre can help with any difficulties. Check the website for appointment details.

**Cell phone and computer etiquette:**

The use of cellular phones (including texting) is **not permitted** during class; neither are recording devices of **ANY** kind. During regular classes, all ringers must be switched to vibrate and, if a call constitutes an emergency, students are asked to exit the classroom and make (or take) the call **quietly** in the hallway without disturbing others. Students will be allowed to re-enter the classroom once the communication is completed. During discussion panels, all phones, computers, and electronic gadgets **must be turned off and stored away**. No phone calls, texts, or other forms of electronic communication are permitted.
Theme One: Foundations of Political Thought in Canada

September 4:
This class will focus on introducing students to the main concepts and issues that will be addressed throughout the course. There will be a discussion about expectations, and how to accomplish the reading schedule and prepare for discussions.

Readings
1. Chapter 1 from text.

September 9 — 11:
Readings:
1. The Political Thought of Lord Durham. J. Ajzenstat chapters 1, 7 & 8
2. Canada's Origins: liberal, tory, or republican? J. Ajzenstat, P. Smith et al. (Ch. 1: OWL).
4. ** Durham’s full report available on OWL.

September 16 — 18:
Readings:
1. Toryism - John W. Osborne (OWL)
2. Chapter 13 from text
3. Canada's Origins: liberal, tory, or republican? - J. Ajzenstat, P. Smith et al. (Ch. 2) OWL.
September 23 — 25:
Readings:

4. *Paper Topics Discussion*

September 30:
Readings:

1. *Louis Hartz’s Concept of the Fragment Theory and its Applications to Canada*. K. D. McRae (OWL)
3. Chapter 2 from text

**Discussions and Thematic Analysis Paper Due**

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<th>Theme Two: Social Justice in Canadian Political Thought</th>
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October 2 — 7:
Readings:

1. Chapters 4 & 5 from text

October 9 — 14:
Readings:

1. Chapters 6 & 8 from text
2. *Social Credit Explained* (link provided on OWL)
October 16 — 21:
Readings:


October 23 — 28:
Readings:


October 30:
Readings:

1. Chapters 7 & 12 from text

**Discussions and Thematic Analysis Paper Due.**

Theme Three: Trends in Canadian Political Thought

November 3 — 6:
Readings:


4. Chapter 11 from text.
November 13 — 18 — 20:
Readings:
1. Chapter 14 from text
3. “I Never Thought I Could be as Proud…” R. Cook (OWL)
4. Repatriation Era (Video in Class). Material viewed will be part of the thematic discussions in class.

November 25 — 27:
Readings:
1. Chapters 15, 16, 17 from text.

December 2:
Readings:
1. Ch. 10 Canadian Founding. (OWL)

**Discussions and Thematic Analysis Paper Due.**

**HAVE A GREAT BREAK!**