Instructor: Dr. Kristin Good
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

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Telephone: 494-1944
E-mail: Kristin.Good@Dal.Ca or Profgood@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or by appointment.

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 the nature of ‘responsible government,’ the role of the Senate, the nature of the Canadian party system, federalism, the role of the courts in Canadian governance, municipal governance, and the multifaceted relationship of Aboriginal governments and peoples to the Canadian state. We also explore Canadian political culture including the ideologies, identities and actors that have both influenced and been shaped by these political institutions. More specially, we consider the influence of regionalism, Quebecois and Aboriginal nationalisms, multicultural identities, race, gender and class on Canadian politics and 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 analyse a significant amount of reading quickly and accurately.

Strengthen oral and written communication skills by writing weekly short analytical pieces on the readings and through participation in small group (instructor-led) discussions on the material.

Improve analytical skills and one’s ability to develop a sound argument by filtering the readings through a weekly question.

Learn how to edit one’s work in response to constructive class and instructor feedback.

**Accessibility Services**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

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. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student’s accommodation. There is an honorarium of $75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to fully participate in the class.
Course Assessment

Breakdown of Final Grade – POLI 4207 and 5207*

Weekly discussion papers (13 papers) 40%
Participation 10%
Written commentary (on another student’s paper) 10%
Research paper 40%

*Please note differences in requirements for graduate students under each assignment description.

Please Note: Graduate students should refer to the Department of Political Science’s grading rubric. 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

Grading Scale

Dalhousie University uses a common grading scale which reproduced below. It is taken from the Undergraduate Calendar 2014-2015 which is available at the following website: http://www.dal.ca/academics/academic_calendars/Undergraduate_Calendar_2014_2015/Academic_Regulations.html
### 17.1 Grade Scale and Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>Excellent Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
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<td></td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td></td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<td></td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>Good Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
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<td></td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
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<td></td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Satisfactory Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>65-69</td>
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<td>60-64</td>
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<td>55-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Marginal Pass Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of &quot;C&quot; or &quot;C+&quot; is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Grade Description</td>
<td>Grade Reason</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>INC</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Neutral and no credit obtained</td>
<td>Withdrew after deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILL</td>
<td>Neutral and no credit obtained</td>
<td>Compassionate reasons, illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>TR</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Transfer credit on admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Grade not reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Discussion Papers

Discussion papers should respond to the “fundamental question” that is provided in the syllabus. They should draw upon ALL of the assigned readings for the week (and cite them). 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 ‘where do the authors of the readings differ in their perspective and on what points do they share common ground?’ Discussion papers should be one single-spaced page in length (12 point font) and raise a question for class discussion at the bottom of the page.

Discussion papers must be e-mailed to me no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. They will be posted on BLS. Seminar participants should read at least 3 other discussion papers each week and note questions for other students about their papers.

Discussion papers (and heavier than usual reading) replace an exam requirement for the course. They are designed as a way to assess student’s knowledge of the material without testing as well as to assess analytical and communication skills more than memorization. Furthermore, the discussion papers are designed to raise the level of discussion in the class since all students will not only have read the readings but will have considered them thoughtfully.

*Note for students in POLI 5207: Graduate students are required to read and incorporate into their discussion papers the readings with an asterisk under supplementary reading. Furthermore, graduate students should read ALL of the other discussion papers posted to OWL.

Research Paper

The first iteration of research papers will be due the Monday before it will be presented in class to give the commentator time to prepare their written commentary. Both the paper and commentary will be posted on OWL. Commentaries will be presented in class (informally) to start the discussion about the paper. Paper writers will be given an opportunity to respond.

All students will be given the opportunity to edit their papers in light of feedback provided in class and by the instructor. The final drafts should be submitted to the instructor on the final day of classes at which point they will be evaluated formally.

For undergraduates (POLI 4207), research papers should be 15 pages in length and should include reference to at least 15 good academic sources (journal articles, chapters in books and books published by reputable academic publishers). This could include readings from the assigned readings, supplementary readings or the full-length version of readings in the Essential Readings textbook.

For graduate students (POLI 5207), research papers should be 25 pages in length and should reference at least 25 good academic sources.
Commentary

Students should submit a written commentary on another student’s research paper. The commentary should be 5 pages (double-spaced). It should provide a critical assessment of the paper’s strengths and weaknesses focusing primarily on its analytical and organizational aspects. The commentary will be presented informally in class to begin the discussion on the student’s paper.

Participation

Active participation in seminar discussion is expected of all members of the group.

The participation grade will be assigned on the basis of the quality of students’ interventions in class discussion. Essentially, it will assess students’ knowledge and analysis of readings as well as their ability to express their ideas clearly and effectively through oral communication.

Basic Rules of the Class for all Students (POLI 4207 and 5207)

Attendance is mandatory

Since the class is a seminar, attendance is mandatory. Any student who misses more than three classes will not be given credit for the course.

Late penalties

Research papers submitted after the last day of class will be penalized by 5% per day (excluding weekends). If your assignment is late then it can be submitted to the Department of Political Science office (301 Henry Hicks). Please have your assignment dated and initialed if you submit it to the Department’s main office.

Late discussion papers will receive a grade of “O”.

Late penalties will be waived for exceptional reasons (such as medical and family emergencies) if the proper documentation is provided.

Academic Integrity

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar available at: http://www.dal.ca/academics/academic_calendars.html#12
More information on academic integrity and support services for students is available on the following Dalhousie University website:
http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Textbooks and Other Reading Materials


Note: Other reading material will be available either electronically (on Owl) or on reserve at the Killam Library.
Schedule and Topics

September 4: Introduction: Studying Canadian Politics and Government

September 11: Responsible Government

September 18: The Senate

September 25: Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections

October 2: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations

October 9: Municipal Government and Urban Politics

October 16: The Courts

October 23: Political Culture

October 30: Quebec Politics and Society

November 6: Regions and Regionalism

November 13: Aboriginal Politics

November 20: Multiculturalism, Race and Class

November 27: Women in Canadian Politics

December 4: A “Democratic Audit” of Canadian Government and Politics
Library Staff have enhanced your Course Reading List with persistent URLs. Readings highlighted in Yellow have been scanned and added as PDFs. Readings highlighted in Blue cannot be digitized due to copyright restrictions and are only available in paper copy at the Library Reserve desk. Call numbers are indicated on library owned items. Prof Copies are also indicated.

Prof. Kristin Good
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Note: *Readings marked with an asterisk under “supplementary readings” are required for graduate students only.

### 1. Responsible Government

**Discussion paper question:** Is the Prime Minister too powerful?

**REQUIRED READING**


*In Killam Library Reserve* - JL 27 a93 2011 - *Democratizing the Constitution*

**Essential Readings** (Textbook):


#16 – Donald Savoie – “The Rise of Court Government in Canada,”

#17 – Lisa Young. “Value Clash: Parliament and Citizens after 150 Years of Responsible Government,”

#21 – Tom Flanagan. “Only Voters Have the Right to Decide on the Coalition,”

#22 – Various Authors. “What Happens Next If PM Loses Vote on Coming Budget,”
SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS


Chapter 10, Peter Russell, “Learning to Live with Minority Parliaments,”;

Chapter 11, Graham White, “The Coalition that Wasn’t”


*e-book

http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0008423913000905

2. The Senate

Discussion paper question: Should the Senate be reformed?

REQUIRED READING


SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

*E-book


3. Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections

Discussion paper questions (choose one):

Does continuity or change stand out in Canadian party politics?

What is distinctive about Canadian party politics?

REQUIRED READINGS

Chapter 1 - Kenneth Carty. “Has Brokerage Politics Ended? Canadian Parties in the New Century?”; See PDF in Readings Folder

Chapter 14 – Royce Koop and Amanda Bittner, “Parties and Elections after 2011: The Fifth Canadian Party System?” See PDF in Readings Folder


Essential Readings (Textbook):

#15 – Janine Brodie and Jane Jenson – “The Party System,”

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS


4. Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations

Discussion paper question: Is the Canadian federation governed in an effective and legitimate way?

REQUIRED READING


Essential Readings (Textbook):

#42 – Donald V. Smiley - “The Structural Problem of Canadian Federalism,”
#43 – Alan C. Cairns - “The Governments and Societies of Canadian Federalism,”
#45 – Richard Simeon and Ian Robinson – “The Dynamics of Canadian Federalism,”

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS


5. Municipal Government, Urban Politics and Governance

Discussion paper question: To what extent have Canada’s political institutions and policy-making processes adapted to urbanization?

REQUIRED READINGS


**not available via Novanet-PDA-47728313**


See PDF in Readings Folder


SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS


http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0008423910000715


### 6. The Courts

**Discussion paper question:** Is there a fundamental tension between the role of Canadian courts and parliamentary sovereignty?

**REQUIRED READINGS**

KE 8200 G74 2006 In Killam Library Reserves

Essential Readings (Textbook):

#57 - Peter Russell – “The Political Purposes of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms”
#58 - Peter Hogg, A.A. Bushnell – “The Charter Dialogue Between the Courts and Legislatures”
#59 – Beverly McLachlin – “Courts, Legislatures and Executives in the Post-Charter Era,”
#61 - F.L. Morton, Rainer Knopff – “The Charter Revolution and the Court Party”
#62 Gregory Hein – “Interest Group Litigation and Canadian Democracy”.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING


http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0008423913000681

http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0008423913000504
7. Political Culture

Discussion paper question: What is “political culture” and what does it explain?

REQUIRED READINGS


JA 75.7 W558 2007- In Killam Library Reserves


Essential Readings (Textbook):
#67 – Gad Horowitz – “Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism in Canada,”
#73 – H.D. Forbes – “Hartz-Horowitz at Twenty,”
#75 – Neil Nevitte – “The Decline of Deference,”

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS


8. Quebec Politics and Society

**Question for discussion paper:** Is Quebec’s distinctiveness recognized adequately in Canadian politics?

**REQUIRED READINGS**


**Essential Readings (Textbook):**

#4 – David Twavnick – “The Tremblay Report”
#5 – Daniel Johnson – “Equality or Independence”
#6 – Pierre Elliott Trudeau – “Federalism, Nationalism and Reason,”
#48 – “The Night of the Long Knives”
#49 – Supreme Court of Canada – “Quebec Secession Reference,”
#50 – Government of Canada – “The Clarity Act”
#51 – National Assembly of Quebec – “Bill 99”

**SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**


9. Regions and Regionalism

Discussion paper question: What is regionalism and what does it explain in Canadian politics?

REQUIRED READINGS


Essential Readings (Textbook)

#72 – Preston Manning – “The West Wants In”
#80 – Roger Gibbins – “Political Action on Stage West”
#79 – Robert Finbow – “Atlantic Canada in the Twenty-First Century: Prospects for Regional Integration”

**SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**


CB 161 E44 1995 –In Killam Library Reserves


10. Aboriginal Politics

Discussion paper: What is and ought to be the nature of the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian state?

**REQUIRED READINGS**


Available online: [http://iportal.usask.ca/docs/Journal%20of%20Aboriginal%20Economic%20Development/JAED_v2no2/JAED_v2no2_Article_pg104-107.pdf](http://iportal.usask.ca/docs/Journal%20of%20Aboriginal%20Economic%20Development/JAED_v2no2/JAED_v2no2_Article_pg104-107.pdf)

**Essential Readings**

#8 – Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples – “People to People, Nation to Nation, ”
#10 – James Tully – “Canada as a Multinational Democracy”
#32- Harold Cardinal – “The Unjust Society,”
#33 – Clément Chartier – “Aboriginal Rights and Land Issues: The Métis Perspective,”
#34 – John Borrows – “Recovering Canada: The Resurgence of Indigenous Law,”
#46 – Martin Papillon – “Canadian Federalism and the Emerging Mosaic of Aboriginal Multilevel Governance”

**11. Multiculturalism, Race and the Canadian State**

**Question for discussion paper:** What role should the Canadian state play in immigrant integration and ethnic relations?

**REQUIRED READINGS**


*Essential Readings* (Textbook)

#25 – Pierre Elliott Trudeau – “Statement on Multiculturalism,”
#26 – Guy Rocher – “The Ambiguities of a Bilingual and Multicultural Canada,”

**SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**

http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0008423910001071


12. **Gender and Sexuality in Canadian Politics**

Question for discussion paper: What do gender perspectives offer to the understanding of Canadian politics and institutional development?

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Women in Canadian Governments. Vancouver: UBC Press, xii-xxiii. See PDF in Readings Folder


Essential Readings:
#36 - Royal Commission Report – “Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada”.
#38 – Mary Ellen Turpel – “Patriarchy and Paternalism,”
#39 - Miriam Smith – “Lesbian and Gay Rights in Canada”
#40 – Himani Bannerji – “The Dark Side of the Nation,”
#41 – Linda Trimble and Jane Arscott – “Still Counting”

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

HQ 1236.5 C2 O64 2009-In Killam Library Reserves


Discussion paper topic: Identify a “democratic deficit” in Canadian government and politics and propose/argue for a particular reform solution.