OVERVIEW

The Canadian party system, viewed as an integral part of the entire political system, presents a number of questions for exploration such as the alleged fickleness of voters, 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.

* Note: This course was conceptualized and designed by Dr. Louise Carbert. This syllabus has been modified to allow for all resources (other than the textbook) to be posted on BBLearn (New OWL). Copyright considerations have required that some content be changed to facilitate this.

Textbook


Readings

All other required readings have been placed in BBLearn (New OWL) as either pdf documents or are linked to library or web resources.

Additional Texts


GRADING SCHEMES

Grading Scheme 1

Twitter assignment 26 September 10%
Term test 1 31 October 30%
Term test 2 Scheduled during exam period 30%
Essay 4 December 30%

Grading Scheme 2

Twitter assignment 26 September 10%
Term test 1 31 October 30%
Term test 2 Scheduled during exam period 30%
Presentation with text Throughout 30%

STUDENTS CHOOSE EITHER GRADING SCHEME 1 OR GRADING SCHEME 2. STUDENTS CHOOSE TO DO AN ESSAY OR AN ORAL PRESENTATION.

Twitter assignment: the purpose is to become familiar with twitter as a political medium, as used by political professionals. Re-tweet to the instructor [T_Krawchenko] five (5) twitter messages issued by journalists, staffers, or other political professionals. Tweet five (5) original messages relevant to Canadian politics to the instructor [T_Krawchenko]. Your tweets may be re-tweeted to the rest of the class.

Term Tests: Critical-analysis based on assigned readings. No additional research beyond the syllabus is required.

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.

Essay: a paper based on assigned readings and topics in the syllabus. Additional research beyond the syllabus is required. Maximum length – 10 pages.

Grading scale: Each assignment will receive a numerical grade. Final grades will be translated into letter grades using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grd.</th>
<th>% Grade</th>
<th>GP Value</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</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>85-89</td>
<td>4.00</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>3.30</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</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 ‘C’ is required).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE AGENDA

Week 1 — September 12th  HISTORICAL FRAMEWORKS


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 (BBL).

Week 2 — September 19th  INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK: CAN ELECTORAL REFORM SAVE DEMOCRACY?


Week 3 — September 26th  HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY: OVERVIEW


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


Week 4 — October 3rd  HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY: THE CONSERVATIVES


Stephen Harper, “Rediscovering the right agenda: The Alliance must commit to ideals and ideas, not vague decision-making processes: The Canadian Alliance leader outlines how social and economic conservatism must unite” *Citizens Centre Report* 30.10 (Jun 2003): 73-77. (BBL).

*Supplementary reading

Week 5 — October 10th  
HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY : THE LIBERALS

Scott Reid, "On the long road back from third place, Liberals need to play the long game" Policy Options, June 2011, 119-124. (BBL)

Bob Rae, “Creating an alternative,” Policy Options, March 2012. (BBL)


Week 6 — October 17th  
HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY: THE NEW DEMOCRATS

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


Week 7 – October 24th  
REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY


Public Policy Forum, Edging towards diversity, 2011. (BBL)


Goldy Hyder, “Gaining the political support of minorities in Canada” Canadian Issues Summer 2005, 46. (BBL)
Week 8 – October 31st  TERM TEST 1

Week 9— November 7th  ELECTION CAMPAIGNING I: the ground campaign

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.


Week 10— November 14th  ELECTION CAMPAIGNING II: the air campaign

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.

Andre Turcotte, “Polling as modern alchemy: Measuring public opinion in Canadian elections” Election, Chapter 10.

Infoscape Research lab, Ryerson University http://www.infoscapelab.ca/videopolitics

Week 11— November 21st  ELECTION CAMPAIGNING III: paying the bills

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


Week 12 – November 28th  DO VOTERS CARE ABOUT ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY?

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

Lawrence LeDuc and Jon Pammett, "Voter turnout" Election, Chapter 12


Nicholas Kohler, Colin Campbell, “Stop him before he votes” Macleans. 16 January 2006. 119:3,24. (BBL)


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 any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any 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 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 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.
• The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar's office. Make no travel plans until you know the date of the exam. Students who think they are obliged to be absent from an examination for some profoundly compelling reason need to elaborate that reason in the form of a letter to the chair of the department of Political Science well in advance of the scheduled exam, and the chair will render a decision on the matter.
• For Fall-term classes, the deadline by which a student may withdraw is November 5th. (October 5th is the last date by which a student may drop a fall-term class without a W appearing on the transcript).

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. Please 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/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.