

Political Science 3224
CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTIES
Wednesdays 11:35am-2:25pm Fall 2012, LSC Common Area C224

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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

Heather McIvor. 2010. *Election*. Peterborough: Emond Montgomery Press.

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

Anderson, Cameron and Laura Stephenson, eds. 2010. *Voting behaviour in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press. **On Reserve, Killam Library: JL 193 V68 2010**

Carty, Kenneth and Munroe Eagles. 2004. *Politics is local : National politics at the grassroots*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. **On Reserve, Killam Library: JL 186.5 C37 2005**

Cross, William. 2002. *Political parties, representation, and electoral democracy in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. **On Reserve, Killam Library: JL 195 P644 2002**

Cross, William. 2004. *Political parties*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. **On Reserve, Killam Library: JL 195 C76 2004**

Gagnon, Alain and Brian Tanguay. 2007. *Canadian parties in transition*, 3rd edition. Peterborough: Broadview Press. **On Reserve, Killam Library: JL 195 C28 2007**

Young, Lisa and Keith Archer, eds. 2002. *Regionalism and party politics in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. **On Reserve, Killam Library: JL 195 R43 2001**

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:

Letter Grd.	% Grade	GP Value	Definition
A+	90-100	4.30	Excellent: Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	85-89	4.00	
A-	80-84	3.70	
B+	77-79	3.30	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.
B	73-76	3.00	
B-	70-72	2.70	
C+	67-69	2.30	Satisfactory: Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	63-66	2.00	
C-	60-62	1.70	
D	50-59	1.00	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).
F	0-49	0.00	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

COURSE AGENDA

Week 1 — September 12th

HISTORICAL FRAMEWORKS

John Courtney, "Forty and counting," *Election*, Chapter 2.

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?

Dennis Pilon, "Understanding electoral systems," *Election*, Chapter 3.

Michael Pal and Sujit Choudhry, "Constituency boundaries in Canada," *Election*, Chapter 4.

Tom Kent, "Electoral reform for constructive competition," *Policy Options*, Nov. 2007. (BBL).

John C. Courtney, "Electoral reform and the role of national parties," *Policy Options*, Nov. 1997. (BBL).

Week 3 — September 26th

HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY: OVERVIEW

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.

Christopher Cochrane, "[Left/Right ideology and Canadian politics](#)", *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 43:3, 583-605, 2010. (BBL).

Antoine Bilodeau, Stephen White, Neil Nevitte, "[The development of dual loyalties: Immigrants' integration to Canadian regional dynamics](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 43:03, 515-544, 2010. (BBL).

Roger Gibbons, "The Rich Kid" *Literary Review of Canada*. May 2005. 13:4; 3. (BBL).

Week 4 — October 3rd

HISTORY, CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY: THE CONSERVATIVES

Stephen Harper & Tom Flanagan, "Our benign dictatorship" *Next City Magazine*, December 21 1996. (BBL).

Tom Flanagan, "[The emerging Conservative coalition](#)" *Policy Options* June 2011, 104-108. (BBL).

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

Thomas Flanagan, "10 commandments of Conservative campaigning" *Harper's Team*. Killam Reserve. Killam Library: JL 197 P67 F53 2007. 2007 (BBL)

Tom Flanagan, "Leading the united right — from the imperative of conservative unity to the opportunity of liberal scandals," *Policy Options* March 2004. (BBL)

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)

Andre Blais, "[Accounting for the electoral success of the Liberal Party of Canada](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38:4 (December 2005) 821-840. (BBL)

Adam Gopnik, "The return of a native; Letter from Canada," *The New Yorker*, September 7, 2009, 26. (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)

James Laxer, "Look back, Jack", *This Magazine* July –August 2008. (BBL)

Robin Sears, "Uniting the left: Prospects for a Liberal-NDP merger," *Policy Options* November 2008. (BBL)

Brad Lavigne, "Anatomy of the orange crush: ten years in the making. *Policy Options* June, 2012. (BBL)

Week 7 – October 24th REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Louise Carbert, "Senate Reform: What Does Bill C-20 Mean for Women?" in Jennifer Smith (ed.) *Democratic Dilemma* (McGill-Queen's University Press) 2009a. (BBL)

Louise Carbert, "A political economy analysis of women's leadership" in J. Masciulli, M. Molchanov, W.A. Knight (eds.) *Ashgate Research Companion to Political Leadership* (Ashgate Press, 2009). Killam Library: JC 330.3 A84 2009b. (BBL)

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

Karen Bird, "Guess who's running for office? Visible minority representation in the 2004 Canadian election" *Canadian Issues* Summer 2005, 80. (BBL)

Myer Siemiatycki and Ian Matheson, "Suburban success: Immigrant and minority electoral gains in suburban Toronto" *Canadian Issues* Summer 2005, 69. (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.

R.K. Carty, “[The politics of Tecumseh Corners: Canadian political parties as franchise organizations](#)” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 35:4, 2002, 723. (BBL)

Royce Koop, “Local Campaigns and Grassroots Armies,” in Koop, R. ed., *Grassroots Liberals: Organizing for local and national politics*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011. (Chapter 4, 104-137). (BBL)*.

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

David Coletto, Harold Jansen, Lisa Young, “[Stratarchical party organization and party finance in Canada](#)” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 44:1, 2011, 111-136. (BBL).

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

Elisabeth Gidengil, Neil Nevitte, Andre Blais, Patrick Fournier and Joanna Everitt, “Why Johnny won’t vote” *Globe and Mail*, Wednesday, 4 August 2004, p. A15. (BBL)

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

Alan Gerber, Donald Green and Christopher Larimer, “Social pressure and voter turnout: Evidence from a large-scale field experiment” *American Political Science Review*. February 2008. (BBL)

Costas Panagopoulos, “Social pressure, surveillance and community size: Evidence from field experiments on voter turnout”, *Electoral Studies* 30:2, 2011, 353-357. (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.