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 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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<td>Term test 1 s</td>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Term test 2</td>
<td>4 December</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Attendance and participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report on an election event. See assignment grid</td>
<td>16 October</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Election administration</td>
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Term Test: Critical-analysis based on assigned readings. No additional research beyond the syllabus is required. A personal computer may be used.

Report on an election event: Attend an election event of your choice and reflect on how it relates to the curriculum. There are a number of all-candidates debates planned on campus and about the province during the fall. Dalhousie Student Union will (probably) organize a debate. 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 BLS.
Election administration: The plan is to have the class operate the Special Polling Stations on Dalhousie Campus; details are being sorted out with Elections Canada. Further details on a corresponding assignment will be forthcoming. Students must be available on election day Monday October 19.

COURSE AGENDA

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

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. Best enjoyed as spoken.

18 September  INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF ELECTIONS

Dennis Pilon, “Understanding electoral systems” Election, Chapter 3.
Michael Pal and Sujit Choudhry, “Constituency boundaries in Canada” Election, Chapter 4.
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.

25 September  DO VOTERS CARE ABOUT ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY?

Lawrence LeDuc and Jon Pammett, “Voter turnout” Election, Chapter 12
Sharanjit Uppal and Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté, Factors associated with voting, Component of Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-001-X, 24 February 2012.
2 October  HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, AND IDEOLOGY: OVERVIEW OF PARTSANSHIP

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

9 October  STAFFING THE PERPETUAL CAMPAIGN


16 October  CONSERVATIVES

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

ELECTION EVENT ASSIGNMENT DUE
19 October  42nd General National Election

23 October  42nd General National Election discussion
Articles to be assigned. Stay posted to BLS for announcements.

30 October  NEW DEMOCRATS

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


13 November, TERM 1 TAKE-HOME TEST, ASSIGNED VIA BLS

20 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.
Seth Masket, “When campaign volunteers do more harm than good” PS Mag MAY 11, 2015

27 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. 2010.

4 December 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.