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


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>% value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term test 1</td>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term test 2</td>
<td>Exam period</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>throughout</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on an election event. See assignment grid</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADING SCHEME

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

Report on a political event: Attend a political event of your choice and reflect on how it relates to the curriculum. A number of nomination races are expected in the fall term as the political parties prepare for a Nova Scotia general election. If not, there will be other events scheduled that will be posted to Brightspace for you to choose from. 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 Brightspace.
COURSE AGENDA

9 September  HISTORY: 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.

16 September  ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

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

20 September Springtide Electoral Reform workshop, 2107 Mona Campbell 6-8:30pm

23 September  DO VOTERS CARE ABOUT ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY?

Lawrence LeDuc and Jon Pammett, “Voter turnout” Election, Chapter 12.
David Coletto, “The next Canada” Politics, political engagement, and priorities of Canada’s next electoral powerhouse: young Canadians” Abacus Data for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. 2015.
Sharanjit Uppal and Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté, Factors associated with voting, Component of Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-001-X, 24 February 2012.

30 September  OVERVIEW: HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, AND IDEOLOGY

Andrea Perella, “Overview of voting behaviour theories” Election, Chapter 11
Joanna Everitt et al, “Patterns of party identification in Canada” Election, Chapter 13.

7 October  STAFFING THE PERPETUAL CAMPAIGN
Ian Brodie, “In defence of political staff” *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 2012.
Ian Brodie. “Handing campus politics to the “lefties”* C2C Journal. 7 October 2015 |

21 October LIBERALS


28 October CONSERVATIVES

Andrew Potter, “The firewall from the other side: The past and future of Stephen Harner’s agenda” In *Due Course*. 13 November 2015.

4 November NEW DEMOCRATS

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

11 NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE DAY

18 November UNITED STATES ELECTION RETROSPECTIVE. Articles to be assigned via Brightspace.
25 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

2 December  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.

TERM 2 TEST DURING FINAL EXAM PERIOD

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students 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.
POLITICAL SCIENCE 3224, NOMINATION EVENT GRID

overwrite italicized text and expand cells as appropriate to occupy approximately 3 pages. If no nomination is available, students attend another event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION OF EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>POLITICAL PARTY</th>
<th>ELECTORAL DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCUMBENT</th>
<th>CHAIR or MODERATOR</th>
<th>GUEST SPEAKER</th>
<th>ASPIRANT 1</th>
<th>ASPIRANT 2</th>
<th>ASPIRANT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name and party</td>
<td>Name and position. Position is not occupation, but position that qualified them to chair the event</td>
<td>Name and position that explains why invited to speak.</td>
<td>Nominated by? Name and Relation to aspirant. Why this person to nominate?</td>
<td>Nominated by? Name and Relation to aspirant. Why this person to nominate?</td>
<td>Nominated by? Name and Relation to aspirant. Why this person to nominate?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASPIRANT 1 SPEECH</th>
<th>ASPIRANT 2 SPEECH</th>
<th>ASPIRANT 3 SPEECH</th>
<th>ASPIRANT 4 SPEECH</th>
<th>ELECTORAL SYSTEM</th>
<th>RATE CROWD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongest point</td>
<td>Strongest point</td>
<td>Strongest point</td>
<td>Strongest point</td>
<td>Preferential ballot? STV, ATV</td>
<td>Hostile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakest moment</td>
<td>Weakest moment</td>
<td>Weakest moment</td>
<td>Weakest moment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Put an X somewhere along here</td>
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<tr>
<th>RATIFICATION</th>
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</table>

Social characteristics of audience

Size of audience #

Seating arrangement

# of men wearing ties

Who are they that they are wearing ties?

3 tweets associated with nomination meeting

Incisive observations