

# Political Science 3224 CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

Friday 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm, Fall 2016

Dr. Louise Carbert [louise.carbert@dal.ca](mailto:louise.carbert@dal.ca)  
359 Henry Hicks Building

Telephone: (902) 494-6628  
Office Hours: TR 4 pm – 5pm, by appointment

## 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

Heather McIvor. 2010. *Election*. Peterborough: Emond Montgomery Press.  
Almost all required readings (other than the textbook) have been posted to Blackboard Learning System.

## Additional Texts

Anderson, Cameron and Laura Stephenson, eds. 2010. *Voting behaviour in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press.  
Bittner, Amanda & Royce Koop. 2013, eds. *Parties, elections and the future of Canadian politics*. Vancouver: UBC.  
Carty, Kenneth & Munroe Eagles. 2004. *Politics is local : National politics at the grassroots*. Toronto: Oxford Press.  
Cross, William. 2002. *Political parties, representation, and electoral democracy in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford Press.  
Cross, William. 2004. *Political parties*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.  
Young, Lisa and Keith Archer, eds. 2002. *Regionalism and party politics in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford Press.

GRADING SCHEME		
Assignment	Due date	% value
Term test 1 s	14 November	30
Term test 2	Exam period	30
Attendance and participation	throughout	15
Report on an election event. See assignment grid	To be announced	25

**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.  
John Sides and Eric McGhee, "Redistricting didn't win Republicans the House" *Washington Post*, 17 February 2013.  
Paul Thomas, Peter Loewen, Michael MacKenzie, "Fair isn't always equal: Constituency population and the quality of representation in Canada" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 46:2, 273-94, 2013.  
View "The right candidate for Rosedale," NFB film 1979.

**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.  
Elections Canada, *2015 National Youth Survey*. Prepared by: Nielsen Consumer Insights. 6 May 2016.  
Gidengil, Nevitte, Blais, Fournier, Everitt, "Why Johnny won't vote" *Globe and Mail*, 4 August 2004, p. A15.  
Nicholas Kohler, Colin Campbell, "Stop him before he votes" *Macleans*. 16 January 2006. 119:3, 24.  
Andre Blais & Peter Loewen, "Youth electoral engagement in Canada" Elections Canada Working Paper, 2011.  
David Coletto, [Political Participation and Canadian millennials – what gives?](#) 2 June 2013. Abacus Research.  
R.A. Malatest & Associates, *National Youth Survey Report*, Prepared for Elections Canada. 20 September 2011.  
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.  
Sharanjit Uppal and Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté, *Factors associated with voting*, Component of Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-001-X, 24 February 2012.  
Daniel Rubenson, André Blais, Patrick Fournier, Elisabeth Gidengil, Neil Nevitte, "Does low turnout matter? Evidence from the 2000 Canadian federal election" *Electoral Studies*, 6:3, September 2007, 589-597.

## **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.  
Ailsa Henderson, "Greater than the sum of its parts: Political cultures and regions in Canada" *Election*, Chapter 14.  
[John Ibbitson, "The collapse of the Laurentian consensus" \*Literary Review of Canada\*. 2012.](#)  
Richard Johnston, "Alignment, realignment, and dealignment in Canada: The view from above" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 46:2, 245-71, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olS1ZRS76sw>

## **7 October STAFFING THE PERPETUAL CAMPAIGN**

Linda Diebel, "Harper's political pit bull" *Toronto Star*, 6 September 2008.  
Glen McGregor, "Kids on the Hill?" *Ottawa Citizen* 21 June 2009.  
Ian Brodie, "In defence of political staff" *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 2012.  
Ian Brodie. "Handing campus politics to the "lefties" *C2C Journal*. 7 October 2015 |  
Scott Proudfoot, *Diminishing Economic Value of a Political Career*, March 26, 2016. Hillwatch.com  
Scott Proudfoot, *Politics and the Family Business*, March 26, 2016. Hillwatch.com

**14 October TERM 1 TAKE-HOME TEST**

**21 October LIBERALS**

Scott Reid, "On the long road back from third place, Liberals need to play the long game" *Policy Options*, June 2011, 119-124.  
Bob Rae, "Creating an alternative" *Policy Options*, March 2012.  
Warren Kinsella, "The biggest losers: A long-time Liberal strategist explains the defeat of the once-mighty Grits" *The Walrus* July / August 2011.  
Andre Blais, "[Accounting for the electoral success of the Liberal Party of Canada](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38:4 (December 2005) 821-840.  
R.K. Carty, *Big tent politics: The Liberal Party's long mastery of Canada's public life*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2016.  
Adam Gopnik, "The return of a native; Letter from Canada" *The New Yorker*, September 7, 2009, 26.

**ELECTION EVENT ASSIGNMENT DUE**

**28 October CONSERVATIVES**

Andrew Potter, "The firewall from the other side: The past and future of Stephen Harper's agenda" In *Due Course*. 13 November 2015.  
Ken Boessenkool, "How Harper's philosophy transformed Canada for the better" *Policy Options* 1 December 2015.  
Tom Flanagan, "[The emerging Conservative coalition](#)" *Policy Options* June 2011, 104-108. .  
Allan Gregg, "[Negative statesmanship. Review of Harperland: The politics of control](#) by Lawrence Martin" *Literary Review of Canada* December 2010.

**4 November NEW DEMOCRATS**

Brian Topp, "Two down, one to go" *Policy Options*, June 2011, 56-63.  
James Laxer, "Look back, Jack" *This Magazine* July –August 2008.  
Robin Sears, "Uniting the left: Prospects for a Liberal-NDP merger" *Policy Options* November 2008.  
Brad Lavigne, "Anatomy of the Orange Crush: ten years in the making. *Policy Options* June, 2012

**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.

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

[Seth Masket, "When campaign volunteers do more harm than good" PS Mag MAY 11, 2015](#)

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).

## **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.

Tamara Small, "Canadian politics in 140 characters: Party politics in the twitterverse" *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, Fall 2010: 39 - 45.

Thomas Flanagan, "10 commandments of Conservative campaigning" *Harper's Team*, Toronto: UTP 2007.

## **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](http://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](http://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.*

STUDENT NAME		
LOCATION OF EVENT		
DATE		
POLITICAL PARTY		
ELECTORAL DISTRICT		
INCUMBENT	<i>Name and party</i>	
CHAIR or MODERATOR	<i>Name and position. Position is not occupation, but position that qualified them to chair the event</i>	
GUEST SPEAKER	<i>Name and position that explains why invited to speak.</i>	
ASPIRANT 1	<i>Name:</i>	
Nominated by?	<i>Name and Relation to aspirant. Why this person to nominate?</i>	
ASPIRANT 1 SPEECH		
Strongest point		
Weakest moment		
ASPIRANT 2	<i>Name:</i>	
Nominated by?	<i>Name and Relation to aspirant. Why this person to nominate?</i>	
ASPIRANT 2 SPEECH		
Strongest point		
Weakest moment		
ASPIRANT 3	<i>Name</i>	
Nominated by?	<i>Name and Relation to aspirant. Why this person to nominate?</i>	
ASPIRANT 3 SPEECH		
Strongest point		
Weakest moment		
ASPIRANT 4 SPEECH		
Strongest point		
Weakest moment		
ELECTORAL SYSTEM	<i>Preferential ballot? STV, ATV</i>	
RATE CROWD		
Hostile	<i>Put an X somewhere along here</i>	Deferential
Social characteristics of audience		
Size of audience #		
Seating arrangement		
# of men wearing ties	<i>Who are they that they are waiting ties?</i>	
3 tweets associated with nomination meeting		
Incisive observations		