

POLITICAL SCIENCE POLI 2210

Unity and Diversity: The Federal Dynamics of Canadian Politics

Professor Louise Carbert

Lecture: Tuesday / Thursday 4 – 5:15 pm

Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 3 - 4 pm, and by appointment

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COURSE SUMMARY

This course is an introduction to the social, economic, and participatory dynamics that drive Canadian politics. It covers political culture, regionalism, indigenous politics, political economy, interest groups, social movements, and the executive. Federalism is central to all these topics, as we study the role of Quebec nationalism in the federation's evolution, the relationship between the constitutional order and federalism, the place of emerging orders of government (including First Nations governments), and debates concerning the causes and consequences of centralization and decentralization in the Canadian federation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students completing this course will be introduced to the methodologies, concepts, and approaches used by political scientists to study Canada. At the end of this course, students should be able to apply these new tools to help describe, understand, and explain a variety of political phenomena in Canadian politics. In addition to strengthening their analytical abilities, students will have the opportunity to improve their reading comprehension and writing skills through the completion of multiple, diverse assignments.

This class is succeeded by POLI 2220 in January. POLI 2210 is not a pre-requisite, but the POLI 2220 curriculum takes off from where we leave off in December. POLI 2220 begins from the second half of the same textbook.

TEXTBOOK

- Marland, Alex and Jared Wesley. 2020. *Inside Canadian Politics*. 2nd edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
- The instructor reserves the right to assign additional readings to Brightspace.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. INTRODUCTORY POST

Introduce yourself via Brightspace discussion post of about 300 words. Tell us where you're from and what you think about the current state of Canadian politics. Evaluation by a rudimentary rubric:

- Excel (5/5). A paragraph or two of incisive and thoughtful reflection.
- Pass (3/5). A few sentences of thoughtful critique that meanders off topic.
- Minimal (2/5). A sentence or two indicating submitted entry.
- Failure to submit entry (0/3).

2. ON-LINE QUIZZES

Each module has its own quiz. The quizzes are short-answer, multiple-choice, true/false format. The goal is to enable you to study the material efficiently, with direction and purpose in order to understand key concepts. They ensure that you have acquired a solid foundation of knowledge from the textbook.

These quizzes stay open for the duration of the module. Some students may want to do the quizzes ahead of time. Other students will want to delay until near the due date. Your time is yours to organize. The quizzes will be graded immediately on receipt, but the correct answers will not be revealed until after the due date. Quizzes close at midnight (Atlantic time zone) of the day due.

3. ESSAY

The essay assignment requires additional work beyond the textbook. Approximate length – 2000 words. Your task is to analyse, critique, and evaluate two articles corresponding to a single topic from the syllabus. Begin from the sources cited in the textbook. You are not restricted to sources from the textbook. Papers are submitted to the Brightspace assignment dropbox where it may be checked for plagiarism.

Speaking very roughly, the essay should look like a one-page Introduction, 3 pages summarizing each article; and 2 pages critique and evaluation. Your critique might address such questions as: which paper is more useful politically? Which paper has deeper insight? Which paper is flawed methodologically?

The quality of your analysis rests on the quality of your understanding of the article. A correct knowledge of the author's point of view is the basis of a sophisticated critique. And the quality of your analysis rests on the quality of the articles you choose to study. A more challenging article may be easier to critique than a simplistic one.

Articles approved by 25 November receive 5 % credit. Submit a complete citation and abstract for each of your articles. Suggested journals and such are listed in Brightspace.

A proper bibliography must be included. It need not appear on a separate page. I prefer in-text citation that looks like this (author surname, year of publication, page number). If no page number is available on an html document, cite the paragraph number. Proper citation is an integral part of the essay.

Consult a writing manual for direction on the rules for citing specific points, general arguments, and quotations.

4. ESSAY WORKSHOP

We workshop essays in class together. Students make a brief presentation about their choice of articles (or seek guidance about their lack of articles). No written submission is required.

5. EXAM

The final exam requires you to synthesize broad course themes in essay format. To synthesize is to bring different aspects of the course material together in a single coherent explanation. The questions to be posed typically ask the student to address – in all its historical and theoretical complexity- a current “crisis” in Canadian politics. It will, most likely, be assigned as a take-home exam; date to be determined.

GRADING SCHEME

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Value (%)</i>
Discussion board post	16 September	5
Chapter 1 Overview of Canadian politics quiz	16 September	5
Chapter 2 Constitution quiz	23 September	5
Chapter 3 Federalism quiz	7 October	5
Chapter 4 Regionalism quiz	28 October	5
Chapter 5 Executive quiz	4 November	5
Chapter 8 Public policy & bureaucracy quiz	18 November	5
Chapter 12 Interest groups & movements quiz	2 December	5
Workshopping essay in class	22, 24 November	5
2 sources for essay approved	25 November	5
Essay (2 sources compare & contrast)	1 December	25
Final exam	December	25

SCHEDULE

Introduction – Why study your own country?

6, 8 September

- [The Two Sides of Canada | Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj](#) Netflix, posted to YouTube
- Noël, Alain. 2014. “Studying your own country: Social scientific knowledge for our times and places” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 47(4).

Module 1 Overview of key concepts & cleavages

13, 15 September

Chapter 1, Overview, textbook

Introductory discussion post due 16 September

Chapter 1 quiz due 16 September

Module 2 Constitution

20, 22 September

Chapter 2, Constitution, textbook.

Roy, Marc-André and Laurence Brosseau. 2018. *The Notwithstanding Clause of the Charter*. Library of Parliament, Legal and Social Affairs Division.

National Film Board, [The Road to Patriation Robert Duncan, 1982 | 1 h 33 mi](#)

Chapter 2 quiz due 23 September

Module 3 Federalism (with 3 sub-modules)

27, 29 September

Introduction to the mechanics of federalism in Canada

Chapter 3, Federalism, textbook

[Fierlbeck, K. and L. Hardcastle, “Have the post-SARS reforms prepared ss for COVID-19? Mapping the institutional landscape” in Eds., Flood, MacDonnell, Philpott, Thériault, Venkatapuram *Vulnerable: Law, policy and ethics of COVID-19*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2020.](#)

Sub-module 3.1 Quebec

4, 6 October

Walker, John. 2019. “Quebec My Country Mon Pays” NFB film *access through Killam Library with netid*

Chapter 3 quiz due 7 October

Sub-module 3.2 Fiscal federalism

11, 13 October

Wesley, Jared. 2014. [The vertical dimension video](#). [The horizontal dimension](#) video

Olivier, Jacques, Daniel Béland & André Lecours. 2021. “Fiscal federalism, social identity and place-based resentment” *Regional Studies*.

Sub-module 3.3 Treaty federalism

18, 20 October

[APTN video Living Treaties, parts 1 & 2](#)

Starblanket, Gina. 2019. "The numbered treaties and the politics of incoherency" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Papillon, Martin. 2018. "Trans Mountain ruling shows we need to acknowledge Indigenous peoples' jurisdiction over their lands and establish joint decision-making processes" *Policy Options*.

Module 4 Regionalism & political cultures

25, 27 October

Chapter 4, Regionalism, textbook.

[Potter, Andrew. 2019. "Could populism take root in Canada? Too late - it already has" *Globe & Mail*.](#)

Bricker, Darrel and John Ibbitson. 2012. "The collapse of the Laurentian consensus" [The Big Shift video](#).

McDougall, Andrew. 2020. "Stuck in the middle with you: is the Trudeau government really representative of a Central Canadian "Laurentian Elite?" *Canadian Studies*, 89, 11-39.

[Environics. 2021. *Confederation of tomorrow survey. The role of governments and the division of powers: Federalism in the context of a pandemic*.](#)

Chapters 4 quiz due 28 October

Module 5 Executive

1, 3 November

Chapter 5, Executive, textbook

Lagassé, Philippe. 2016. "The Crown and PM power" *Canadian Parliamentary Review* 17-23.

Lagassé, Philippe. 2018. A pedantic style guide.

Lagassé, Philippe. 2019. <https://soundcloud.com/canada2020/explain-like-im-five-13-the-governor-general-with-philippe-lagasse>

Chapters 5 quiz due 4 November

8, 10 November fall break; Remembrance Day

Module 8 Public policy and bureaucracy

15, 17 November

Chapter 8, Public policy and the bureaucracy, textbook

[Wells, Paul. 2019. "Canada – the show" *Macleans*.](#)

Banting, Keith & Debra Thompson. 2021. "The puzzling persistence of racial inequality in Canada" *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 1-22.

Chapters 8 quiz due 18 November

Workshopping essays in class, 22, 24 November

Essay articles approved (with citation & abstract) 25 November

Module 12 Interest groups and social movements

29 November, 1 December

Chapter 12, Interest groups and social movements, textbook

Chapters 12 quiz due 2 December

Final exam December

UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate.

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to be a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Aboriginal Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html

- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

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.

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, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation. Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require them will be able to participate in the class.

INFORMATION ON PLAGIARISM

Proper documentation is required on all writing assignments. Failure to document sources constitutes plagiarism and can result in severe academic penalty. You should keep your rough notes and be prepared to defend your work orally. Consult a writing/style manual for acceptable citation styles.

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. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand.
