

**Political Science 3224**  
**CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTIES**  
**Wednesday 1 pm – 4 pm, Fall 2013**

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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 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 occasional addition of a supplementary reading, or exclusion of a previously required reading) upon notice provided by the instructor.*

### **Textbook**

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

### **Readings**

Almost all required readings (other than the textbook) have been placed in BBLearn 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.

Bittner, Amanda and Royce Koop. 2013, eds. *Parties, elections and the future of Canadian politics*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Carty, Kenneth and Munroe Eagles. 2004. *Politics is local : National politics at the grassroots*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Cross, William. 2002. *Political parties, representation, and electoral democracy in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Cross, William. 2004. *Political parties*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

Gagnon, Alain and Brian Tanguay. 2007. *Canadian parties in transition*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Peterborough: Broadview Press.

Young, Lisa and Keith Archer, eds. 2002. *Regionalism and party politics in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

<b>TWO DIFFERENT GRADING SCHEMES</b>		
<b>MANDATORY FOR ALL STUDENTS</b>		
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>% value</b>
Twitter exercise, 5 re-tweets, 5 original tweets	2 October	10
Term test 1	30 October	30
Report on a Nova Scotia election event	throughout	30
<b>OPTIONAL: STUDENTS CHOOSE TO DO AN ESSAY OR AN ORAL PRESENTATION.</b>		
Research Essay	4 December	30
<b>OR</b>		
Oral presentation to class, with speaking text and notes	throughout	30

**STUDENTS CHOOSE EITHER GRADING SCHEME 1 OR GRADING SCHEME 2.**

**Twitter assignment:** the purpose is to become familiar with twitter as a political medium, as used by political professionals. Re-tweet to @lcarberr five (5) twitter messages issued by journalists, staffers, or other political professionals. Tweet five (5) original messages relevant to Canadian politics to @lcarberr. Your tweets may be re-tweeted.

**Term Test:** Critical-analysis based on assigned readings. No additional research beyond the syllabus is required. Tests are written in class. A personal computer may be used.

**Report on a campaign event:** A Nova Scotia general election is expected to be held this fall. Attend a political event of your choice and reflect on how it relates to curriculum material. The event will most likely be an all-candidates' debate (in the SUB?), but other events qualify as well. Prepare an analysis of the candidates, 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 will be available.

**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	%	Definition
A+	90-100	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	
A-	80-84	
B+	77-79	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	
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	Satisfactory: Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from their university experience.
C	63-66	
C-	60-62	
D	50-59	Marginal Pass: Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills.
F	0-49	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

## COURSE AGENDA

### 11 September HISTORICAL CONTEXT: How has Canadian politics changed since the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 . <http://librivox.org/sunshine-sketches-of-a-little-town-by-stephen-leacock/> Best enjoyed as mp3 file.

### 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.

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

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.

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

**18 September** *no class*

**25 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 Rathberger, 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.

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

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

**2 October HISTORY, CULTURE, REGION, IDEOLOGY: OVERVIEW OF PARTISANSHIP**

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.

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.

**9 October THE CONSERVATIVES**

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

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

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

Allan Gregg, [Negative statesmanship, Review of Harperland: The Politics of Control](#) by Lawrence Martin”  
*Literary Review of Canada* December 2010.

### **16 October 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.

Bob Rae, “Creating an alternative” *Policy Options*, March 2012.

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

Warren Kinsella, “The biggest losers: A long-time Liberal strategist explains the defeat of the once-  
mighty Grits” *The Walrus* July/August 2011.

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

### **23 October THE 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.

### **30 October TERM TEST 1 written in class**

### **6 November REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY**

Louise Carbert, “The hidden rise of new women candidates seeking election to the House of Commons,  
2000-2008” *Canadian Political Science Review*, Vol. 6, No. 2-3, 2012, 143-157 143

Louise Carbert, “Viewing women’s political leadership through a rural electoral lens: Canada as a Case  
Study” in K. O’Connor, ed. *Gender and women’s leadership: A reference handbook* (SAGE  
Publications, 2010), 137-150.

Public Policy Forum, *Edging towards diversity*, 2011.

Karen Bird, “Guess who’s running for office? Visible minority representation in the 2004 Canadian  
election” *Canadian Issues* Summer 2005, 80.

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

Goldy Hyder, "Gaining the political support of minorities in Canada" *Canadian Issues* Summer 2005, 46.

### **13 November 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.

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).

### **20 November ELECTION CAMPAIGNING II: the air campaign**

Tanya Talaga, "[Secrets of the election war room: Focus groups, telephone polls and tea leaves. Toronto Star](#)". 13 September 2011.

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.

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

### **27 November 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. .

### **ELECTION CAMPAIGNING IV: Staffing the perpetual campaign**

Sid Noel, "Leaders' entourages, parties, and patronage" chapter 9, Killam reserve.

Sid Noel, "Old and new rules of patronage" Killam reserve.

Linda Diebel, "Harper's 'political pit bull'" *Toronto Star*, September 06, 2008.

Glen McGregor, "Kids on the Hill?" *Ottawa Citizen* June 21, 2009

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## **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](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 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.

## **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](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/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.