Course overview: This course is designed to give PhD students who have chosen Canadian politics as their major or minor field – or for those simply interested in Canadian politics – an opportunity to review and reflect on key issues and themes in the literature of Canadian Political Science. It is not designed as a survey course for those wishing to acquire a basic understanding of the field and indeed assumes that students already possess a good understanding of the literature and the practice of Canadian politics. Accordingly, some good and important literature on Canadian politics receives little or no attention in this course. Hence while it will be valuable for students preparing to write the Major Field Examination (MFE; aka ‘the comp’) in Canadian Politics, it will be by no means cover all the literature on which the MFE will be based.

The course will seek to consider the literature of Canadian Politics from a variety of perspectives. It will ask about the formative intellectual influences on Canadian political science? It will consider the efficacy and the appropriateness of different methodological approaches to the study of Canadian politics. It will also consider Canadian politics a broad comparative context, asking for example whether the Canadian literature made good use of concepts, models, theories and methodologies from the comparative literature.
Organization:

Any attempt to slice up a complex discipline is bound to be arbitrary. We have chosen to divide the course broadly into the following parts:

- Situating the study of politics in Canada: Weeks 1-4
- The social and economic bases of Canadian politics: Weeks 5-11
- Bridging state and society: Weeks 12-14
- The state and public policy: Weeks 15-21

Format:

As this is a seminar course, students will be expected to participate extensively in the weekly meetings. Within the outline we have presented, we expect students to take the lead in the discussion. For most weeks, two or three students will act as discussion leaders, framing the assigned readings in short (10-12 minute) presentations and leading off the discussion. In the weeks when papers are due, the papers will form the basis of discussion. Presentations are not to be summaries of the readings, but should reflect on them and raise analytic questions for discussion and debate.

Course materials:

We recommend the following book for purchase:


Grading scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eight short papers on weekly readings (8 @ 5%)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay (due at end of course)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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Short papers:

Papers should be 5-7 double-spaced typed pages and are due in class on the days indicated. Additional sources beyond those listed as readings may be incorporated into the papers, but are not at all necessary. Papers are in the nature of ‘think-pieces’ rather than research essays. Topics will be assigned two to three weeks in advance of the due dates (dates on which papers are due are indicated in the outline).
Final essay:

Essays are due April 20, 2012 and should be roughly 20 typed pages (notes or references excluded) and certainly no more than 25 pages. Students are to write an analytic essay on one of the following topics:

1) Select one of the fields or subfields of Canadian political science which is **not** covered in *The Comparative Turn* (eg: electoral reform, local and municipal politics, public administration, Aboriginal politics) and write an essay on it in keeping with the approach and tenor of *The Comparative Turn*.

2) Select a subfield within Canadian political science and trace the intellectual influences on it, as well as its strengths and weaknesses, over the past three or four decades.

3) In 1974, in an article in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Donald Smiley asked “Must Canadian Political Science be a Miniature Replica?” Write an essay pursuing the themes that Smiley raised in his 1974 article from a 2011 perspective.

4) ‘Unity’ and ‘disunity’ have been pervasive themes in the discourse of Canadian politics, and in the discipline. How well do we understand the forces at work, and the accommodation that has been made between them?

5) Review the literature on Canadian federalism written by Anglophone and Francophone scholars. How might we reconcile the differences?

**TOPICS AND READINGS**

Note: a small number of required readings may be added as the course unfolds.

*CJPS* = *Canadian Journal of Political Science*

*UTP* = University of Toronto Press

*OUP* = Oxford University Press

*MQUP* = McGill-Queens University Press
PART ONE: SETTING THE SCENE

Week One – September 15: Introduction and Course Overview

Week Two – September 22: Reading the Classics  (8:00 am – 10:00 am)

Read and be prepared to comment on two of the listed books.


C. B Macpherson, Democracy in Alberta (Toronto: UTP, 1953).


André Siegfied, The Race Question in Canada (Originally published 1907) Available electronically through the UofT Library System.

Members of the class might wish to suggest other titles for ‘classical’ status.

Week Three – September 29: The (Changing?) Nature of the Canadian Discipline

Guest: Professor Rob Vipond

Robert Vipond, “Introduction: The Comparative Turn in Canadian Political Science,” in White, Simeon, Vipond and Wallner, eds., The Comparative Turn

Eric Monpetit, “A Quantitative Analysis of the Comparative Turn in Canadian Political Science,” ibid.

Alan C. Cairns, “Are we on the Right Track?” ibid.


PART TWO: THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BASES OF CANADIAN POLITICS

Week Four – October 6: Identity Politics I: Multicultural Canada

PAPER DUE “Multiculturalism impairs the management of other diversities.” Discuss.

Andrew M. Robinson, “Is Canadian Multiculturalism Parochial? Canadian Contributions to Theorizing Justice and Ethnocultural Diversity” in White, et al., The Comparative Turn

Keith Banting, “Canada as Counter-Narrative: Multiculturalism, Recognition and Redistribution,” ibid.


Debra Thompson, “Is race political?” CJPS 41: 2008), 525-47.
Week Five – October 13:  Identity Politics II:  Gender and Canadian Politics


Week Six – October 20:  Identity Politics III:  Aboriginal Politics


**Week Seven – October 27: Identity Politics IV: Quebec Politics and Society**

**PAPER DUE:** “No academic who studies Quebec intensely is neutral on the questions of soveriegnty and of Quebec’s place in Confederation and the political views of Quebec scholars adversely affect their analyses.” Discuss.


Luc Turgeon, Interpreting Quebec’s Historical Trajectories: between la société globale and the regional space,” *ibid.*, 51-68.


**Week Eight – November 3: Political Cultures: Duelling Methodologies**

Nelson Wiseman, *In Search of Canadian Political Culture* (Vancouver: UBCPress, 2007), Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 8.


Ailsa Henderson, “Regional Political Cultures in Canada,” *CJPS 37:3* (September 2004), 595-615.


**Week Nine – November 10: Regions, Provinces and Regionalism**

**PAPER DUE:** “We are better off studying provinces than regions.” Discuss.


Week 10 – November 17: Urban Politics


------, “Canadian Political Science and the City: A Limited Engagement,” *CJPS* 43:4 (December, 2010), 961-81.


PART THREE: BRIDGING STATE AND SOCIETY

Week Eleven – November 24: Citizen Engagement and Civil Society


**Week Twelve – December 1: Alternative Approaches to Understanding Canadian Politics**

**PAPER DUE:** Does Canadian political science suffer from too many or too few analytic approaches?


**NOTE:** Students will have seven opportunities to write short papers in the second term.

**Week Thirteen January 12: Political Parties and Party Systems**

A. Brian Tanguay, “What’s So Bad about Cultivating Our Own Theoretical Gardens? The Study of Political Parties in Canada,” in White et al., *The Comparative Turn*


R. Kenneth Carty and Munroe Eagles. *Politics is Local: National Politics at the Grassroots* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2005), Ch 1, 2, 8.

**Week Fourteen – January 19: The Architecture of the Canadian State (PL away)**


Peter Aucoin, “Political Science and Democratic Governance,” *CJPS* 29 (December, 1996), 643-60.


**Week Fifteen – January 26: Elections, Voting Behaviour and Party Identification**

**PAPER OPTION:** Different Canadian parties have assembled different coalitions at different times. Why and how does this happen?


Richard Johnston, André Blais, Henry Brady, and Jean Crête, *Letting the People Decide.* (Montreal: MQUP, 1992), Chapters 2, 6, and 8.


**Week Sixteen – February 2. Legislatures**

**PAPER OPTION:** Have Canadian political scientists devoted too much attention to issues of responsible government to the detriment of analysis of other important questions about Parliament?


**Week Seventeen – February 9 Executives – First Minister Government?**

**PAPER OPTION:** Is the extent of prime ministerial power a threat to Canadian democracy?

Donald Savoie, *Governing from the Centre: The Concentration of Power in Canadian Politics* (Toronto: UTP, 1999), chapters 1, 4, 10.

Matthew Kerby, “Combining the Hazards of Ministerial Appointment AND Ministerial Exit in the Canadian Federal Cabinet,” *CJPS* 44: 3 (September 2011), 595-612.


Graham White, *Cabinets and First Ministers*, (Vancouver: UBCPress, 2005), chapters 2 and 3.


**Week Eighteen – February 16: Federalism and Multilevel Government**

**PAPER OPTION:** Does the Canadian study of federalism suffer from too much or too little theory?

Martin Papillon, “Is the Secret to Have a Good Dentist? Canadian Contributions to the Comparative Study of Federalism in Divided Societies,” in White, et al., *The Comparative Turn*


Richard Simeon, *Political Science and Federalism: Seven Decades of Scholarly Engagement* (Kingston: Queen’s University Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, 2002).

**February 23: Reading Week, no class**
Week Nineteen – March 1: Constitutional Politics Guest: Professor Peter Russell

PAPER OPTION: Are Canadian divisions best resolved through constitutional means or through other means?

Peter Russell, Constitutional Odyssey: Can Canadians Become a Sovereign people? 3rd ed. (Toronto: UTP, 2004), chapters 1, 2, 9, 11, 12.

Supreme Court of Canada, Reference re the Secession of Quebec. [1998] 2 S.C. R. 217


Week Twenty – March 8 Bureaucracy/Public Administration

PAPER OPTION: TBA


**** MORE TO COME *****

Week Twenty-one – March 15: Policy and Globalization

PAPER OPTION: Are Canadian academics attributing too much influence on policy to globalization?
Week Twenty-two – March 22    Student presentations

For the third last and very last weeks of the course, we ask students to assign readings related to a Canadian politics topic of interest to them. Topics will likely be related to the course's major paper, but need not be. All students will do the readings and participate in a discussion led by the assigning student. The presentations can be related to topics examined earlier in the course, but need not be. Likewise, they need not be drawn from Canadian politics exclusively. They need only inform some outstanding question in Canadian politics on which young scholars can be expected to contribute in the coming years.

Week Twenty-three – March 29 (GW Away)    Courts and Judicial Politics

PAPER OPTION: Have the debates about “the Charter Revolution” diverted academic attention away other important issues about the courts and the judicial system?


Christopher Manfredi, Feminist Activism in the Supreme Court: Legal Mobilization and the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (Vancouver: UBCPress, 2004), chapters 1, 2, 6; available as an e-book from the UofT Library System.


Donald Songer. The Transformation of the Supreme Court of Canada. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008). Ch 1, 3, 6.

**Week Twenty-four – April 5**  **Student Presentations**