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 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 divided the course broadly into the following parts:

- Situating the study of politics in Canada: Weeks 1-3
- The social and economic bases of Canadian politics: Weeks 4-10
- Bridging state and society: Weeks 11-13
- The state and public policy: Weeks 14-21
- Conclusion: Evaluating success and failure., planning the future: Weeks 22-4.
Format:

As this is a seminar course, students will be expected to participate extensively in the weekly meetings and to take the lead in the discussion. In the weeks when papers are due, the papers will form the basis of discussion. In other 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. 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short papers on weekly readings (14 @ 5%)</td>
<td>70 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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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. Dates on which papers are due are indicated in the outline.

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 11: Introduction and Course Overview

Week Two – September 18: Reading the Classics

Read one of the following books and skim another and be prepared to discuss them, especially from the point of view of whether they remain relevant and valuable today.


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

Members of the class are invited to suggest other titles for ‘classical’ status.

Week Three – September 25: The (Changing?) Nature of the Canadian Discipline/Imagining Canadian Political Development

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 2: Multicultural Canada**

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


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


Debra Thompson, “Is race political?” *CJPS* 41:3 (September, 2008), 525-47.

**Week Five – October 9: Gender and Canadian Politics**


**Week Six – October 16: Aboriginal Politics**

**PAPER DUE:** Does the study of Aboriginal politics in Canada require distinctive methodologies and epistemologies?


**Week Seven – October 23: Quebec Politics and Society**

**PAPER DUE**

To what extent has the debate about the national question in Quebec been affected by an increasingly complex ethnic and cultural landscape there? What are the implications for its relations with the rest of Canada?


Jocelyn Mauchre, “Quebec’s Culture War: Two Conceptions of Quebec Identify”, *ibid.*, 137-152.


**Week Eight – October 30: Political Cultures: Duelling Methodologies**

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


Week Nine – November 6: Regions, Provinces and Regionalism

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


Week 10 – November 13: Urban Politics

PAPER DUE: Given the overall lack of attention to urban politics in Canadian political science, what should be the priority areas for research?


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


Kristin Good, Municipalities and Multiculturalism: The Politics of Immigration in Toronto and Vancouver (Toronto: UTP, 2009), chapters 1,2 and 8.


PART THREE: BRIDGING STATE AND SOCIETY

Week Eleven – November 20: Canadian Political Economy


Week Twelve – November 27: Elections and Political Behaviour
Guest: Professor Peter Loewen

PAPER DUE: “Partisan identifications play a crucial role in understanding Canadian elections” Discuss.


Peter Loewen, "Affinity, Antipathy, and Political Participation: How Our Concern for Others Makes Us Vote,“. CJPS 43:3 (September, 2010), 661-87.

Week 13 – January 8: Political Parties and Party Systems

PAPER DUE: “Canadian political parties are marked by the absence of two key characteristics that might be expected of parties: internal democracy and ideological distinctiveness”. Discuss.

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.


- Ch 1 Kenneth Carty, “Has Brokerage Politics Ended? Canadian Parties in the New Century”;
- Ch 13 Richard Johnston, “Situating the Canadian Case”;
- Ch 14 Royce Koop and Amanda Bittner, “Parties and Elections after 2011: The Fifth Canadian Party System?”

**Week 14 – January 15: The Architecture of the Canadian State**


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

Week Fifteen – February 2: Legislatures

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


• Chapter 10, Peter Russell, “Learning to Live with Minority Parliaments”;

• Chapter 11, Graham White, “The Coalition that Wasn’t”.


Week Sixteen – January 29: Executives – First Minister Government?

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


**Week Seventeen – February 5: Bureaucracy and Public Administration**

**PAPER DUE:** Is the field of public administration ‘too academic’ – that is, remote from the interests of practitioners – or is it ‘not academic enough’ – that is devoid of conceptual sophistication and theoretical rigour?


**Week Eighteen – February 12: Courts/Judicial Politics**


**February 19 – Reading Week – No Class**

**Week Nineteen – February 26: Constitutional Politics**

**PAPER DUE:** Are constitutional politics in Canada dead? If so, why?


**Week Twenty – March 5: Federalism and Multilevel Government**

**PAPER DUE:** Are the institutions and processes of Canadian federalism suited to meet the challenges they face?

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).

**Week Twenty-one – March 12: The Public Policy Process**

**PAPER DUE:** Are interests, institutions and ideas of equal importance as determinants of Canadian public policy?


A. Paul Pross, *Group Politics and Public Policy* (Toronto: OUP, 1986), chapters 5 and 6,


Week Twenty-two – March 19: Globalization and the Canadian State

**PAPER DUE: How significant has globalization been for Canadian politics?**


**Weeks Twenty-three and Twenty-four – March 26/April 2: Student-selected Topics**

For the final two weeks of the course, each student will select a topic related to the study of Canadian politics for discussion and will selected and assign readings related to it (roughly three or four articles/chapters each). Two topics will be discussed each week. 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.