



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POL 214 Y1Y: Canadian Government and Politics, Summer 2012

University of Toronto – St. George Campus

Instructor: Carey Doberstein

Office Hrs: Tues & Thurs 5:30-6:00pm;

Lectures: Tues and Thurs 6-8pm (SS2118) 8-8:30pm (half hour before and after class)

Office: TBA

*Also by appt

Email: carey.doberstein@utoronto.ca

Course description:

An introduction to government and politics in Canada, covering institutional structures and their evolution, including the Constitution, Parliament, federalism, and the Charter and courts. The course also investigates political processes, ranging from political parties, to elections and voting behavior, as well as issues of political culture and ideology. After examining the core institutional features of the political system, we focus on contemporary issues in Canadian politics, including multiculturalism, regionalism, the judicialization of politics, and proposals for political-institutional reform.

Grading:

Midterm test (1 hour):

15%

Essay (10-12 pgs):

25%

Group presentation:

15%

Tutorial participation:

10%

Final Exam (2 hours):

35%

Due:

July 3rd (in class)

June 21st

August 7th and 9th

TBA (August 14-17)

Drop date: July 23

TAs: Saman Chamanfar (saman.chamanfar@utoronto.ca)

Matthew Lesch (matt.lesch@mail.utoronto.ca)

Course texts (at UofT bookstore):

Rand Dyck, 6th edition (2011), Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches

Additional readings are posted on Blackboard for download.

Blackboard:

This course employs a Blackboard website, where you will find the course outline, course readings, and supplementary material. To access the Pol 214Y website, go to <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to www.utorid.utoronto.ca. Once you have logged in to the portal, look for the My Courses box, where you will find the link to the POL 214Y website.

If you are properly registered for this course, you should be able to access the Blackboard

website.

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> to facilitate the appropriate accommodation.

NOTES ON COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Essays

You are assigned one essay. In your essay, you are expected to articulate a concise and well-researched argument in response to the essay question, using evidence from academic sources. You will be able to choose from 5 topics, and the assignment will be distributed separately from the course outline.

You should hand in your essays directly to me on the due date. Do not submit your essays by sliding them under my office door in Sidney Smith. Also, do not submit your essay to the main office in the Department of Political Science in Sidney Smith on the due date. The office is not equipped to handle large numbers of student essays. Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work as well as hard copies of their essays before handing them in to the Instructor. These should be kept until the marked essays have been returned and the grades posted on ROSI.

Scholarly essays must contain a thesis statement, typically appearing in the first paragraph, which summarizes the argument you will make in the paper. You must also acknowledge and fairly present to the reader counter arguments to those you are making, and ideally demonstrate to the reader that they are less convincing than your argument. You must also provide in-text citations for all evidence you present and a complete bibliography in an accepted format at the end of the paper. Note: *Failure to cite properly is considered plagiarism and will result in academic integrity procedures (see Plagiarism section below)*. Consult your TA if you have any questions.

Turn-it-in.com:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

If the student does not wish to use the Turnitin.com procedures, an alternative is available: to meet with the Instructor prior to submitting the paper to discuss how it was researched and assembled. The student will also be required to submit rough notes along with the paper submission. If you choose this method, you must inform the Instructor two weeks prior to the due date of the paper (June 5th).

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. Students found to have plagiarized are subject to severe penalties. It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is and that you do not commit it. In essence, it is the theft of the thoughts or words of others, without giving proper credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s). You must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words. Plagiarism is *unacceptable*. Students should be especially careful when using material from the Internet in essays and assignments: the same rules about acknowledging and citing sources apply to the Internet as to books and other print sources. Submitting the same essay to two courses is also impermissible.

Under the University of Toronto policy, ignorance of the nature and consequences of plagiarism is not a valid defense. If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask your instructor than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism, or how to cite sources properly, ask!

The following are some examples of plagiarism (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
- Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
- Using words, sentences, or paragraphs written by someone else and failing to place quotation marks around the material and reference the source and author. Using either quotation marks or reference alone is not sufficient. Both must be used!
- Adapting an author's ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
- Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

It is important that you familiarize yourself with U of T's policies and procedures.

Consult:

- “Academic Honesty”: <http://life.utoronto.ca/get-smarter/academic-honesty.htm>;
- “Rights + Responsibilities”: <http://life.utoronto.ca/get-help/rights-responsibilities.htm>

Your essays will be marked on the assumption you have read this section of the outline.

Late essays:

Late penalties for written assignments: **2 percent per day, including the weekends**. Late papers must be submitted to the Department of Political Science reception, Room 3018, 3rd floor Sidney Smith Hall (100 St. George Street). During the week, there is an after hours mail slot in the department but it is not available on the weekends.

In order to submit a late essay after classes end in August without penalty, you need to obtain a medical extension before classes end. In other words, do not ask for an essay

extension after classes end. If you plan to submit a late essay after classes end with a late penalty, *it is extremely advisable* that you warn me it is coming. If you do not warn me, I have no reason to assume it is coming. I do not check my mailbox regularly after classes end. The office cannot be expected to know that your late essay should be immediately recognized for what it is and promptly forwarded to me.

This course concludes on exam day. You cannot submit a late essay after the final exam.

Extensions and make up tests:

Make up tests and essay extensions are granted only for documented medical emergencies and severe family crises.

Writing a makeup test is a privilege, not a right. There is no point showing up for a makeup test without the U of T medical certificate properly filled out. (You may of course, submit your medical certificate before the makeup test date). Without submission of the medical certificate, you will not be admitted to the makeup test. Students should notify me (not the TA) as soon as possible that they will be missing the test. Do *not* wait for weeks after the test date before asking if it is possible to write a makeup test. Students who miss the final exam should consult the Registrar's Office immediately.

Grade appeals:

Appeals must be accompanied by a one-half page explanation of the basis of the appeal. Appeals must be submitted to your TA first.

You are entitled to the mark your work merits. You are not entitled to the mark you think you personally deserve, or you need in order to achieve your personal goals such as getting into law school or graduate school, staying in university, raising your mark in the course to the next letter grade level, maintaining your GPA at a certain level, etc. Do not lobby me to raise your mark simply because you want a higher mark. This is a waste of your time.

There are no provisions for students to do extra work or extra assignments to make up for low grades on any of the assignments.

Group presentations

Debates are a fundamental feature of Canadian politics, whether it is during Question Period in the House of Commons or in the media. It is an important skill for the active citizen to educate oneself on a pressing public matter, but also to listen to, understand and assess opposing arguments, before coming to a conclusion informed by the facts and your personal value system.

In this assignment, you are asked to assemble into groups of 4 to prepare a presentation that will manifest itself as a debate between two factions of your group on a topic relevant to this course. Thus, two members of the group will prepare an argument in favour of a motion capturing the topic or issue chosen, and the other two members will prepare the counter argument, a total presentation time of 10 minutes. The 4 group

members will, however, work together in the preparation of the presentation in order to make sure the opposing sides know the respective arguments that will be made so that they can form coherent rebuttals. This exercise is NOT designed to discern a 'winner' or 'loser' for each presentation, but rather so that we all learn about the various arguments and counter arguments for many of the pressing issues being debated in Canada relating to our political institutions.

Students should not be intimidated by these presentations: the stakes are not high, the debate will not be 'live' (you will **not** be put on the spot), and you will have learned all the important features of Canadian politics before you make your short presentation. You will do a similar amount of research as you would for a paper, but rather than express it over 10 pages, you will have to make your arguments and present your evidence *concisely* in a short presentation. No powerpoints, elaborate graphs, or costumes are expected, though students should feel free to be creative.

The presentation will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Substantive content (50%): relevant arguments and counter arguments introduced
- Supporting evidence (30%): use of current and relevant examples to support or refute the arguments presented
- Clarity (20%): presentation delivered clearly and concisely

Each group member should present approximately equal portions of the work, and every student will be evaluated an individual basis.

Examples of questions that students could propose to debate:

- Should the Senate be reformed according to the Triple E model?
- Is electoral reform that introduces a proportional representation system desirable?
- Should we elect judges or appoint them?
- Has the Government of Canada done enough to accommodate Quebec in the federation?
- Is the multiculturalism policy working?

*note: all topics must be pre-approved by the Instructor; they should relate to a specific topic discussed in lecture, and avoid narrow partisan issues (this is designed to help prepare you for the final exam!). Groups and topics need to be approved by the Instructor by **July 15th**; each group will be given a presentation time on August 7th or 9th.

Tutorials

Tutorials are a critical component of the course. Tutorials give students the opportunity to meet regularly in small groups to discuss readings, ideas raised in lectures, and course assignments.

Your tutorial grade is based on a combination of attendance and contributions to tutorial discussions. Please note that attendance alone will not guarantee a good tutorial grade.

Students who attend diligently but do not make meaningful contributions to the discussion do better than students who do not attend at all, but not as well as students who attend diligently and make meaningful contributions.

You are expected to attend the session for which you are registered. Your TA will keep a formal attendance record. If you are concerned that the TA has failed to record your name properly, the time to bring this to his/her attention immediately after the event, not weeks later or at the end of term. If the name you commonly use varies from your name as recorded by ROSI, let the TA know. Keep in mind that the class list we use for recording marks is the list generated by ROSI.

Do not show up at the end of a tutorial and expect the TA to give you credit for attendance. If you missed a tutorial for what you believe is a legitimate reason, bring this to the attention of the TA *as soon as possible*. Do not come to the Instructor weeks after a tutorial was held and claim the TA failed to record you as present. The Instructor cannot adjudicate questions about what may or may not have happened in a tutorial weeks after the event.

Tutorial schedule:

Date	Topic
Tutorial 1 (week of May 21-25)	<i>How democratic is 'responsible government'?</i>
Tutorial 2 (week of May 28- June 1)	<i>Should the Governor General's role in our political system remain symbolic and undemocratic or should we attempt to give more clout to this position and make it more democratic by electing our Governor Generals?</i>
Tutorial 3 (week of June 4-8)	<i>Does the political executive in Canada have too much power vis-à-vis other elected members?</i>
Tutorial 4 (week of June 18-22)	<i>What are the most important changes to Canadian politics as a result of the Charter?</i>
Tutorial 5 (week of July 2-6)	<i>Do political parties compromise their fundamental values and principles in order to win an election and form a government?</i>
Tutorial 6 (week of July 9-13)	<i>Is there such a thing as a Canadian national identity? What is unique or special about the Canadian political culture? Are Canadians fundamentally different from Americans?</i>
Tutorial 7 (week of July 16-20)	<i>What are the similarities and differences between Quebec nationalism and western alienation? Are these regional grievances justified?</i>
Tutorial 8 (week of July 23-27)	<i>Can First Nations nationalism be successfully incorporated into the existing institutions of the Canadian liberal democratic state?"</i>
Tutorial 9 (week of August 6-10)	<i>EXAM REVIEW</i>

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Institutional features of Canadian Government and Politics

Class 1 (May 15): **Introduction to course & Constitutional Foundations**

- Dyck, chapter 2

Class 2 (May 17): **Constitutional Foundations cont.**

- Dyck chapter 2
- Blackboard: Peter Aucoin et al., “Responsible Government: Clarifying Essentials, Dispelling Myths, and Exploring Change”, National Library of Canada

Class 3 (May 22): **Constitutional change**

- Dyck chapter 17
- Blackboard: Peter Russell, “The Constitution”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 4 (May 24): **Cabinet**

- Dyck chapter 21
- Blackboard: Graham White, “Cabinet Government in Canada”, Cabinets and First Ministers

Class 5 (May 29): **Prime Minister**

- Dyck chapter 21
- Blackboard: Donald Savoie, “First Ministers, Cabinet and Public Service”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 6 (May 31): **House of Commons**

- Dyck chapter 23
- Blackboard: Paul G. Thomas, “Parliaments and Legislatures: Central to Canadian Democracy?”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 7 (June 5): **Senate**

- Dyck chapter 23
- Blackboard: David Docherty, “The Canadian Senate: Chamber of Sober Reflection or Looney Cousin Best Not Talked About?”, *Journal of Legislative Studies*.

Class 8 (June 7): **Federalism**

- Dyck chapter 18
- Blackboard: Garth Stevenson, “Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations”, *Canadian Politics in the 21st Century*.

Class 9 (June 12): **Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

- Dyck chapter 19

- Blackboard: Janet Hiebert, “The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

June 14 **CLASS CANCELLED** (Instructor away at CPSA conference)

- Online assignment: Watch documentary online called “The Champions, Part 3” at http://www.nfb.ca/film/champions_part_3
*test-able material in the documentary

Class 10 (June 19): **Political Culture**

- Dyck chapter 11
- Blackboard: Stephen Brooks, “Political Culture in Canada: Issues and Directions”, *Canadian Politics*

Class 11 (June 21): **Political Parties and Ideologies**

- Dyck chapter 14
- Blackboard: William Cross and R. Kenneth Carty, “Political Parties and the Practice of Brokerage Politics”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Section Break (June 25-29)

Class 12 (July 3): **MIDTERM TEST**

Class 13 (July 5): **Electoral system and voting**

- Dyck chapters 13 & 15
- Blackboard: Richard Johnston, “Political Parties and the Electoral System”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 14 (July 10): **The Bureaucracy**

- Dyck chapter 22
- Blackboard: Peter Aucoin, “Beyond the ‘New’ in Public Management Reform in Canada”, *The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration*

Issues in Canadian Politics

Class 15 (July 12): **Regionalism**

- Dyck chapter 3
- Blackboard: Roger Gibbons and Loleen Berdahl, “The Roots of Western Alienation”, *Western Visions, Western Futures*

Class 16 (July 17): **Quebec in the federation**

- Dyck chapter 5
- Blackboard: Alain Noel, “Quebec”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 17 (July 19): **Aboriginal Politics**

- Dyck chapter 4
- Blackboard: Yale Belanger and David Newhouse, “The Indian Problem”: Aboriginal Peoples and the Transformation of Canada”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 18 (July 24): **Multiculturalism**

- Dyck chapter 6
- Blackboard: Will Kymlicka, “Ethnic, Linguistic and Multicultural Diversity in Canada”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 19 (July 26): **Globalization**

- Dyck chapter 10
- Blackboard: Michael Hart, “Trade, Globalization, and Canadian Prosperity”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 20 (July 31): **Judicialization of politics**

- Dyck chapter 24
- Blackboard: Radha Jhappan, “Charter Politics and the Judiciary”, *Canadian Politics in the 21st Century*

Class 21 (August 2): **Politics of the Northern Territories**

- Blackboard: Frances Abele, “Northern Development: Past, Present and Future”, Northern Exposure: Peoples, Powers and Prospects in Canada’s North
- Blackboard: Doug McArthur, “The Changing Architecture of Governance in Yukon and the Northwest Territories”, Northern Exposure: Peoples, Powers and Prospects in Canada’s North
- Blackboard: Graham White, “Nunavut and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: Differing Models of Northern Governance”, Northern Exposure: Peoples, Powers and Prospects in Canada’s North

Class 22 (August 7): **Reforming Canadian political institutions**

- Blackboard: Leslie Seidle, “Democratic Reform: The Search for Guiding Principles”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Class 23 (August 9): **Reforming Canadian political institutions cont.**

- Blackboard: Leslie Seidle, “Democratic Reform: The Search for Guiding Principles”, *Oxford Handbook on Canadian Politics*

Final Exam (TBD in August 14-17 exam period)