

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE – SUMMER 2015

POL 382H1S – Topics in Canadian Politics: Society & Politics in Contemporary Quebec

Instructor: Gabriel Arsenault

Class time: Monday & Wednesday, 4pm - 6pm

Class location: SS2105

I. Introduction

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of contemporary Quebec politics and society to undergraduate students with little or no prior knowledge of Quebec.

The course aims to further both a “civic” and a “political science” education. From the sovereignty movement to the presence of the Bloc Québécois in Ottawa, from the student protests to the values charter, Quebec politics is regularly debated in our national media. Acquiring a basic understanding of Quebec society is thus invaluable to competently participate in Canadian public affairs. Similarly, without a good grasp of Quebec politics, it is difficult to fully engage in several areas of Canadian political science, including federalism, nationalism, and social policy.

As students are not assumed to read French, the mandatory readings are in English only. For bilingual students, readings in French will be recommended on an individual basis.

II. Contact Policy and Office Hours

Email address: gabriel.arsenault@utoronto.ca

My office hours will be held on Monday and Wednesday after class, from 6pm to 8pm, in room SS2105.

III. Assignments

A. Grading Scheme:

1. Five 2-page summaries – ($5 \times 14\% =$) 70%
2. One 10-page final paper - 30%

For every class (starting Class 2), two readings are assigned. Summaries must identify the main arguments of each of these two readings and briefly compare them to one another. Each 2-page summary must have three labelled sections: (i) main arguments of text 1; (ii) main arguments of

text 2; and (iii) comparison: How are the two texts similar or different? How do they respond to one another?

At least two such summaries need to be handed in by July 20th. Students are allowed to hand in more than five summaries throughout the course; only the best five summaries will count for the final grade. No summaries will be accepted for Class 1.

For the final paper, students are expected to *only* rely on the readings assigned in the syllabus and are required to draw from the readings of at least three classes. The final paper must answer one research question. Students may choose their own research question or answer one of the two following questions:

- How do Quebec sovereigntists and federalists differ in their understanding of Canada and Quebec?
- How does Canadian federalism allow and limit Quebec's capacity to make different policy choices?

The final paper is due by August 10th.

The summaries and final paper must be handed in at the *beginning* of class. They should be double spaced in Times New Roman font, with one inch margins. They should have a coversheet and page numbers beginning on the first page of writing (i.e. the cover does not count.) All citations should be in the Chicago "author-date – (page)" parenthesis style.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students at this level should already have a thorough understanding of what is meant by the term "plagiarism" and the meaning of "academic integrity" more generally.

Students should review the University's policies and resources on the matter which can be found on its website, and in particular the sheet "How Not to Plagiarize" located at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

IV. Late Penalties

Students are expected to submit all work on time. If you are unable to submit a piece of work in a timely manner, you are required to submit adequate medical documentation or otherwise seek an extension at the earliest time possible.

Failure to hand in written assignments will result in a 5% daily penalty, including weekends. After one week the papers will not be accepted at all.

V. Accessibility

Classes at the University of Toronto are meant to be welcoming environments for students of all abilities. Should you require assistance, please contact the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>.

VI. Readings

Many of the readings can be found online. The remaining readings will be posted in Blackboard.

VII. Class Schedule

CLASS 1 (June 29th): Historical Background

There are no mandatory readings for this class.

Suggested readings:

Dickinson, John & Brian Young. 2008. *A Short History of Quebec*. McGill-Queen's University Press. Third Edition.

Gervais, Stephan, Christopher Kirkey & Jarrett Rudy, eds. 2011. *Quebec Questions: Quebec Studies for the Twenty-First Century*. Oxford University Press.

CLASS 2 (July 6th): Quebec nationalism during the Quiet Revolution

Vallières, Pierre. 1969. *White Niggers of America*. Oxford University Press, ch.1.

Trudeau, Pierre Elliot. 1968. "Separatist counter-revolutionaries" in *Federalism and the French Canadians*. MacMillan of Canada.

CLASS 3 (July 8th): Identity

Taylor, Charles. 1993. "Shared and Divergent Values" in Guy Laforest, ed. *Charles Taylor. Reconciling the Solitudes: Essays on Canadian Federalism and Nationalism*. McGill-Queen's University Press. (E-Book)

Bourque, Gilles. 2001. "Between Nations and Society" in Michel Venne, ed. *Vive Quebec! New Thinking and New Approaches to the Quebec Nation*, Lorimer. (E-Book)

CLASS 4 (July 13th): Quebec's status in comparative perspective

Bouchard, Gérard. 2008. *The Making of Nations and Cultures of the New World: an essay in comparative history*. Transl. By Michelle Weinroth and Paul Leduc Browne. McGill-Queen's University Press., ch. 3.

Dion, Stéphane. 1996. "Why is Secession Difficult in Well-Established Democracies? Lessons from Quebec," *British Journal of Political Science*, vol. 26, no. 2. (Online)

CLASS 5 (July 15th): Canadian Federalism Viewed from Quebec (I)

Jean-François Caron, Guy Laforest and Catherine Vallières-Roland. 2009. "Canada's Federative Deficits" in Alain-G. Gagnon, ed., *Contemporary Canadian Federalism: Foundations, Traditions, Institutions*. University of Toronto Press.

Gagnon, Alain-G. 2001. "The moral foundation of asymmetrical federalism" in Alain-G. Gagnon and James Tully, eds. *Multinational Democracies*. Cambridge University Press. (E-Book)

CLASS 6 (July 20th): Canadian federalism viewed from Quebec (II)

Seymour, Michel. 1995. "Quebec Sovereignty: A Legitimate Goal". Quebec Intellectuals for Sovereignty (IPSO) (Online)

Pelletier, Benoît. 2008. "Reclaiming Canada: the Affirmation of Quebec's Identity Within the Canadian Federation" in André Pratte, ed. *Reconquering Canada: Quebec federalists speak up for change*. Transl. by Patrick Watson. Douglas & McIntyre.

CLASS 7 (July 22nd): Quebec viewed from English Canada

Heath, Joseph. 2014. *Enlightenment 2.0. Restoring Sanity to Our Politics, Our Economy, and Our Lives*. Harper Collins, pp. 263-266.

McRoberts, Kenneth. 1993. "English-Canadian Perceptions of Québec" in Alain G. Gagnon, ed., *Québec: State and Society*, 2nd edition. Nelson Canada.

CLASS 8 (July 27th): Quebec's Social Model (I)

Haddow, Rodney. 2015. *Comparing Quebec and Ontario: Political Economy and Public Policy at the Turn of the Millennium*. University of Toronto Press, ch. 2.

Graefe, Peter. 2012. "Whither the Quebec Model? Boom, Bust and Quebec Labour" in John Peters, ed. *Boom, Bust and Crisis. Labour, Corporate Power and Politics in Canada*. Fernwood Publishing.

Class 9 (July 29th): Quebec's Social Model (II)

Vaillancourt, Yves. 2012. "The Quebec Model of Social Policy, Past and Present" in Anne Westhues and Brian Wharf, eds. *Canadian Social Policy. Issues and Perspectives*, 5th Edition. Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Noël, Alain, 2013. "Quebec's New Politics of Redistribution", in Keith Banting and John Myles, eds., *Inequality and the Fading of Redistributive Politics*. UBC Press.

CLASS 10 (August 5th): Language Politics

Chevrier, Marc. 1997. *Laws and Language in Québec: The Principles and Means of Québec's Language Policy*. Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec. (Online)

Fraser, Graham. 2006. *Sorry, I don't speak French. Confronting the Canadian Crisis That Won't Go Away*. McClelland & Stewart, ch. 6.

CLASS 11 (August 10th): Integrating Immigrants

Bouchard, Gérard. 2015. *Interculturalism: a view from Quebec*. Transl. by Howard Scott. University of Toronto Press, ch. 3.

Rousseau, Guillaume and James McDonald, 2014. "Legislating Secularism in Quebec: Where Does It Come from? Where Is It Going?" *Inroads*, June 22. (Online)