POL382H1S Topics in Canadian Politics: Legislators, Legislatures and Parliamentary Debate in Canada

Summer 2020-2021

**Instructor:** Chris Greenaway

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**Course Times:** Asynchronous

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 3-4pm Online Via Zoom and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course studies the nature and role of political debate among legislators and within legislatures in the Parliament of Canada. The federal Parliament of Canada is the country’s institutional center for legislating laws, establishing representation, and upholding accountability through political debate, yet there is widespread concern among scholars, commentators and citizens that the practice of Parliamentary discourse and debate has fallen short of the institution’s goals and ideals. What explains this gap between institutional ideals and our empirical realities? This course engages with traditional and emerging literature in political deliberation and parliamentary debate to understand and challenge the so-called Democratic Deficit in Canadian Parliamentary Democracy today.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** This course provides students with the opportunity to research and study their own unique research project related to political debate/parliamentary procedure (annotated bibliography and research paper) while also gaining and solidifying knowledge of Canadian Parliamentary procedure and debate (participation, take-home exam). Students will evaluate and analyze Canadian democracy and the so-called democratic deficit through the lens of political debate, political representation and legislative procedure as related to the Parliament of Canada.

**Online Course Instructions:** This course is entirely asynchronous, meaning that all lectures will be pre-recorded and posted onto the Quercus course website. All assignments can be completed asynchronously, though there will be opportunities to attend “live” class discussions throughout the semester.

**Prerequisites:**

Prerequisites are strictly checked and enforced and must be completed before taking a course. By taking this course you acknowledge that you will be removed from the course at any time if you do not meet all requirements set by the Department of Political Science. Further information can be found in the 2020-2021 Courses Calendar which is available from the Office of the Registrar.
Required Texts

David Docherty (2005) *Legislatures* is available for purchase at the UofT Bookstore.

All other required readings for this course will accessible electronically through the online University of Toronto Library System (https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/).

Assessment

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay Outline and Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-Home Exam</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>25%</td>
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*Note: penalty for late essays/assignments is a deduction of 5% per calendar day*

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Resource Centre as soon as possible. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services at 416-978-8060 or accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. Appointments and drop-in sessions for accessibility advisors and learning strategists are available. For more information, please visit http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/as

Statement on the use of Turnitin.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.

A WARNING ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an academic offence with a severe penalty.

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 in a university. What the university calls “plagiarism”, non-university institutions might call “fraud”.

The University of Toronto provides a process that faculty members must initiate when they suspect a case of plagiarism. In the Department of Political Science, suspected evidence of plagiarism must be reported to the Chair; in most cases, the Chair passes the case on to the Dean.
A faculty member may not mark an assignment or assess a penalty if he or she finds evidence of plagiarism – the matter must be reported. Penalties are assigned by the Chair, by the Dean or by the University of Toronto Tribunal.

The following are some examples of plagiarism:

1. Submitting as your own an assignment written by someone else.
2. Quoting an author without indicating the source of the words.
3. 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!**
4. Adapting an author’s ideas or theme and using it as your own without referencing the original source.
5. Seeking assistance from a friend or family member in respect to work you claim as your own.

Ignorance of the rules against plagiarism is not a defence; students are presumed to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Students are especially reminded that material taken from the web **must** be quoted and cited in the same manner as if it came from a book or printed article.

If you are not sure whether you have committed plagiarism, it is better to ask a faculty member or teaching assistant than risk discovery and be forced to accept an academic penalty.

Plagiarism is **cheating**. It is considered a **serious offence** against intellectual honesty and intellectual property. Penalties can be severe, ranging from a mark of “0” for the assignment or test in question, **up to and including expulsion from the university.**

**Class Schedule**

**Class 1: Course Introduction**


Canadian Parliament Question Period. September 24 2020 (CPAC)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo9QVqjb_vE&ab_channel=cpac

**Class 2: The Democratic Deficit**


Suggested Reading


Class 3: Federal Parliamentary Procedure and Debate


Suggested Reading:


Class 4: Parliamentary Debate and Party Discipline


Suggested Reading:


Class 5: Theories of Representation & Political Debate


Suggested Reading:


Class 6: Measuring Debate I: The Discourse Quality Index


Suggested Reading:


Class 7: Measuring Debate II: Ideology and Text-as-Data


Class 8: Emotion, Debate and Sentiment Analysis


Suggested Reading:

**Class 9: Political Debate and Inclusion**


MP Mumilaaq Qaqqaq’s final speech in the House of Commons: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rP3Y5K1LqzM&ab_channel=CTVNews

**Class 10: Indigenous Parliamentary Debate**


*Suggested Reading:*


**Class 11: Confederation Debates**


*Suggested Reading:*


**Class 12: The Democratic Deficit & Institutional Reform**
*Canadian Public Administration* 55(2): 315-18


*Suggested Reading:*