PSCI 360:
 Provincial Politics
 Fall, 2017
 RCH 207 - Tuesdays, 8:30-11:20am

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Office Location:  Hagey Hall 308
Office Hours:  Wednesdays 1pm-3pm or by appointment

Contact Policy: Email is likely the best way to get in touch with the professor outside of scheduled office hours. A few things to remember when emailing:

- Please use your official UW email account. To ensure your privacy, your professor will not reply to emails sent from a non-UW account (such as Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, Sympatico, etc.).
- Please address your email to the professor appropriately (i.e. 'Dr. Macfarlane', 'Professor', etc.).
- Please remember to sign your email with a first and last name.
- Please allow 24-48 hours for a response to your email.
- Email should be used for brief questions that can be answered quickly. If you want to discuss course material, assignments, or another matter in greater detail, please see the professor during office hours or make an appointment to meet at some other time convenient for both.

Course Description: At the time of Confederation, Canada’s provinces were not envisioned as playing a considerable role in the political life of the country. The constitution was intended to be a centralizing force, and the federal government was given jurisdiction over what were perceived as the ‘important’ areas of policy. Yet Canadian federalism quickly evolved to reduce federal powers over the provinces, and the rise of the modern welfare state meant that the policy areas under provincial jurisdiction became increasingly significant to Canadian citizens. This evolution has meant that Canadian provinces are among the most powerful sub-national governments of any country in the world.

This course will examine the ‘provincial state’ in Canada. The first half of the course will examine the major themes of provincial politics: political culture, parties and elections, institutions, intergovernmental relations, and policy. In the second half of the course we will place these themes in context by undertaking an in depth survey of the individual provinces/regions of the country.


University Regulations:

**Academic Integrity:**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. These two websites are particularly helpful:

- **Academic Integrity website (Arts):** http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html
- **Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility at the beginning of each academic term.

**Academic/Personal Counselling:**

Life at university can sometimes have unexpected challenges. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, anxious, stressed, or have other personal or academic issues that are affecting how you are managing your workload, please see counselling services offered at U Waterloo. You do not need to divulge personal information to me, you can simply talk to a counselor and he or she can advise your professors whether or not you require accommodation vis-à-vis extensions, etc.. Visit the following website for more information: Counselling https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/academic-and-life-wellness-services.
Format:
Although this is a lecture course, student participation and discussion of key issues, course readings and cases will be a significant component. The first half of the course will focus on key issues and aspects of provincial politics. In the second half, we will “flip” the classroom, and students will lead the class in exploring specific provinces/regions.

Texts:
Two core texts are required for the course and are available for purchase at the university bookstore:

Christopher Dunn (editor), Provinces: Canadian Provincial Politics (Third edition). University of Toronto Press.

Jared Wesley (editor), Big Worlds: Politics and Elections in the Canadian Provinces and Territories. University of Toronto Press.

Additional readings can be obtained through the course LEARN site (these readings are also available through the library system).

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

Reading Summary and Discussion Questions (20%):
Students will submit a 200 word summary (a short, single-spaced paragraph) of one of the readings for each week, with three sophisticated discussion questions that reflect the student has carefully read the chapter/article. A total of SIX such assignments must be submitted during the term, THREE of which must be submitted before the midterm. Each assignment is due IN CLASS the day the reading is assigned. NOTE: no late assignments will be accepted.

Midterm (20%)

Group Presentation (20%)
In the second half of term, students will be divided into groups to present to the class on one of the provinces/regions in relation to two or three of the themes examined in the first half of term. A separate assignment sheet will be handed out in class.

Research Paper (40%):
Students will be expected to write a research paper examining a political or policy issue in relation to one or more provinces. A separate assignment sheet will be handed out in class. Final Due Date Friday November 24, 11:59pm, on LEARN (Week 11).
Extra Credit/Make-up Work:
Unlike high school, it is rare that a university-level course would allow for make-up work to help improve a grade. There is no extra credit or make-up work offered in PSCI 360. The requirements of the course are set out at the beginning and students are expected to work hard and well in order to earn marks. It should also be stated that students don’t start off with an “A” and lose marks on assignments. Everyone hands in their assignments and the assumption is that marks are earned – that is, you go from a zero up to the assessed value of the work as evaluated by the professors or tutorial assistants.

It should also be clear that at the post-secondary level, it is expected that everyone will work hard. “Working hard” on your assignments does not mean you have earned or deserve a high grade if key elements of the assignment are missing. I will not entertain appeals of grades on the basis that you “worked hard” on it and therefore deserve more marks.

Other Course Policies:

Course Website
The course outline, detailed assignments, class announcements, etc. will be available on the course website on LEARN. If you have questions about when assignments are due, late policies, sickness accommodation, etc., your first source of information is the course outline. Users can login to LEARN via: Learn http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/. Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password.

Late Penalties
All late assignments will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends). A waiver of this penalty will only be considered in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance (this does NOT include a note from your mother). See “Extension Policy” below. Late assignments can be placed in the professor’s drop box in the Department of Political Science. This is cleared out daily.

Final Submission Date for Assignments
The final submission date for assignments is one week (7 days) after their due date (with the imposition of late penalties). The instructor WILL NOT accept the assignment for grading after one week has passed without a documented extenuating circumstance. If an extenuating circumstance may prevent you from submitting an assignment by its submission date, please contact the professor at the earliest possible convenience and be prepared to provide him or her with official documentation concerning your situation.

Extension Policy for Assignments
The professor will only consider granting an extension in the event of an officially documented extenuating circumstance (that is, serious personal illness, critical personal or family crisis, etc.). If a situation arises that may prevent you from completing an assignment, contact the professor as early as possible, ideally before the assignment is due.
The UW Verification of Illness Form can be found at: Health Services
www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html. Please note that midterms will not be deferred. Instead, the final exam will be re-weighted appropriately.

*Computer Problems*

Students are expected to back up their written work and lecture notes (on a USB stick, by emailing them to yourself, by printing them out, by saving them on an app like DropBox, etc.). Extensions will NOT be granted for computer-related issues. Furthermore, students will be responsible for finding replacement lecture notes where they fail to back-up their files.

**Grade Appeals**

To request a review of your assignment, you must provide a 1 page explanation as to why you think your assignment was improperly graded (i.e. what do you think you did that should have been given more weight?). The explanation, the original assignment, and a clean copy of the assignment should be submitted no later than 3 weeks after the assignment was made available for return.

**NOTE:** Students must take responsibility for picking up their marked work in a timely manner. No appeals will be considered more than 3 weeks after the assignment/exam was made available for return. *Grades may be either raised, stay the same, or lowered on appeal.* Students who wish to appeal an examination grade should follow the same procedure noted above for assignments.

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students who do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin® must contact the instructor by September 19th to discuss.
Schedule:

WEEK 1 – Sept. 12: Introduction

WEEK 2 – Sept. 19: Provincial Landscapes and Constitutional Development

Readings:

- Rand Dyck, “Political Developments in the Provinces” (Dunn Ch. 2, pp. 46-88)

WEEK 3 – Sept. 26: Institutions and Representation

Readings:

- Christopher Dunn, “Premiers and Cabinets” (Dunn Ch. 11, pp. 315-353).
- Paul Thomas and Graham White, “Evaluating Provincial and Territorial Legislatures” (Dunn. Ch. 12, pp. 363-397)
- Brenda O’Neill, “Variation in Women’s Status across the Provinces” (Dunn Ch. 4, pp. 109-132)

WEEK 4 – Oct. 3: Political Culture

Readings:

- Nelson Wiseman, “Provincial Political Cultures” (Dunn Ch. 1, pp. 3-45)

[NOTE: Oct. 10 is a study break (part of the Fall Break), so we meet on THURSDAY Oct. 12]

WEEK 5 – Oct. 12: Parties and Elections

Readings:

- David K. Stewart, Anthony Sayers, and R. Kenneth Carty, “Partisan Competition in the Canadian Provinces” (Dunn Ch. 5, pp. 135-157)
- David McGrane, “Centrism, Ideological Polarization, and the Canadian Provincial Voter” (Dunn Ch. 7, pp. 184-216)
WEEK 6 – Oct. 17: Intergovernmental Relations and Social Policy

Readings:

- Matt Wilder and Michael Howlett, “Province-building and Canadian Political Science” (Dunn Ch. 3, pp. 89-108)
- Katherine Fierlbeck, “The Provinces and Health Policy” (Dunn Ch. 15, pp. 442-470)

WEEK 7 – Oct. 24: Midterm Exam

WEEK 8 – Oct. 31: Ontari-ari-ari-o.

Readings:

- Cameron D. Anderson, “Ontario” (Wesley Ch. 6, pp. 103-20)

WEEK 9 – Nov. 7: La Belle Province

Readings:

- Kerry Tannahill and Mebs Kanji, “Quebec” (Wesley Ch. 5, pp. 82-102)

WEEK 10 – Nov. 14: The Atlantic Provinces

Readings:

- Luke Flanagan and Alex Marland, “Newfoundland and Labrador” (Wesley Ch. 1, pp. 1-18)
- Don Desserud, “Prince Edward Island” (Wesley Ch. 2, pp. 19-35)
- Louise Carbert, “Nova Scotia” (Wesley Ch. 3, pp. 36-58)
- Mario Levesque, “New Brunswick (Wesley Ch. 4, pp. 59-81)
WEEK 11 – Nov. 21: The Prairies

Readings:

- Jared J. Wesley, “Manitoba” (Wesley Ch. 7, pp. 121-36)
- Ken Rasmussen, “Saskatchewan” (Wesley Ch. 8, pp. 137-53)
- Anthony M. Sayers and David K. Stewart, “Alberta” (Wesley Ch. 9, pp. 154-70)

WEEK 12 – Nov. 28: British Columbia & The Territories

Readings:

- Tracy Summerville, “British Columbia” (Wesley Ch. 10, pp. 171-83)
- Graham White, “The Territories” (Wesley Ch. 11, pp. 184-205)
- Jared J. Wesley, “Conclusion: Explaining the Worlds of Difference” (Wesley, pp. 206-19)