

PSCI 260: Canadian Government and Politics

Spring, 2013

Mathematics & Computer Building, Room 4061, Tuesday, 11:30am-2:20pm

Instructor: Ajay Sharma

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Office Location: Hagey Hall 351

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:30am-11:20am (or by appointment)

Contact Policy: Email is the most efficient way to contact the instructor or the TA outside of scheduled office hours. Please note the following when emailing:

- ***Please use your official University of Waterloo email.*** The Instructor/TA will not reply to emails send from a non-UW account.
- Please allow 24-48 hours for a response to your email.
- The Instructor/TA will not respond to emails after 5pm on weekdays or on weekends.

Teaching Assistant:

John MacLachlan

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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the key issues in Canadian governance and politics. By employing a broad analytical approach, our attention will be directed to topics such as: the nature of governmental institutions; the dynamics of Canadian federalism; the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; political ideology and culture; Aboriginal affairs; the role of the judiciary; regionalism; political parties; and regionalism.

Pre-Requisites: PSCI 101 or PSCI 110.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be expected to address key questions and themes that have played a role in the evolution of Canada's political system. For example, what are the major sources of constitutional change in Canada? Is our system of representative government consistent with contemporary ideas of democracy? How has the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms influenced the development of Canadian identity?

University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

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, [Student Discipline](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

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, [Student Petitions](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult [Student Grievances](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes) <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts' grievance processes.

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, Student Appeals <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity
http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity
<http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, 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 the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Required Text:

Dyck, Rand. (2011). *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches* 6th Ed. Toronto: Nelson Education.

The text is available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.

You are expected to have read all required readings before lecture.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments, Tests, and Examinations:

1. Mid-Term Examination 20% Tuesday 4th June 2013 – Held in class.

The Mid-Term exam will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings. You will be tested on material up to and including Tuesday 28th May 2013. The format will be short answer and essay.

2. Research Essay 35%

The research essay is due at the start of class on **Tuesday 25th June 2013**. Detailed instructions regarding the essay will be issued in class on **Tuesday 21st May 2013**. You are required to write a research essay fully utilizing a **minimum of eight academic sources**.

Essays will be graded based on the cogency and coherence of argument and the ability to incorporate and use supporting evidence. Grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and poor organization affect the professionalism of your essay and will result in a penalty of a maximum of 5 percentage points.

- The essay must be 8-10 pages [excluding title page and bibliography] in length, Calibri size 11 font, 1" margins, and double-spaced. Anything exceeding these requirements will be disregarded in the evaluation of your paper.
- Extensions will be granted only on **humanitarian grounds or on medical grounds (for which written proof of substantial distress must be provided in accordance with university policy)**.

Late essays will be penalized 15 percentage points if they are not received by the deadline. Essays will be assigned a mark of zero if they are not submitted at the start of class on **Tuesday 2nd July 2013**. Technical problems, such as hard drive crashes, are not grounds for an extension - please ensure that you routinely 'back-up' your work.

3. Final Exam 35%

The final examination will be held during the examination period. The date/time/location will be determined by the Office of the Registrar. The exam will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings for the semester. The format will be short answer and essay format.

4. Classroom Participation 10%

You will be expected to actively participate during class. Your participation mark will be based on the following factors: attendance and productive participation in discussions. You are required to arrive in class prepared and having carefully done the required readings –preparation is essential in order to effectively participate in class discussions. Additional details will be provided in the first class and will be posted to LEARN.

Schedule of Weekly Lecture Topics and Required Readings

* The required text has been abbreviated as **RD** for the purposes of this outline.

May 7

Introduction

- Course overview and expectations.
- The study of politics.
- Competing approaches to political analysis.

Required Reading

- RD, Chapter 1.

May 14

Evolution of the Canadian State and the Emergence of Regionalism

- The road to Confederation: The "Bargain of 1867" and the birth of Canadian federalism.
- Contrasting American and Canadian forms of federalism.
- Unitary vs. Federal political systems.
- Political Economy of Canada.
- Regional identity: Western alienation.

Required Readings

- RD, Chapters 2 and 3.

May 21

The Evolution of Canada as a Multinational/Multicultural Nation

- The French-English compact.
- The Quiet Revolution.
- Aboriginal Self-Government and a history of colonialism.
- Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
- Ethnic diversity and the evolution of Canadian demographics.

Required Readings

- RD, Chapters 4, 5, and 6.

May 28

Gender, Class, Religion and Social Cleavages

- Evolution of gender rights in Canada.
- The evolution of class cleavages.
- The emergence of the “Social Safety Net”.
- The intersection of politics and religion.

Required Readings

- RD, Chapters 7, 8, and 9.

Canadian Political Culture and the Role of the Media

- Defining traditional Canadian political culture.
- Regional political culture.
- Culture and electoral participation.
- Mass media as an information shortcut.
- The relationship between the politics and the media.
- The importance of public opinion.

Required Readings

- RD, Chapters 11 and 12.

June 4

Midterm Exam

June 11

The Canadian Electoral System and the Role of Parties

- Elections as a fundamental component of democracy.
- Understanding the electoral process.
- Evaluating the “First Past the Post” system.
- The “Political Party”.

- Ideological and Class-based parties.

Required Readings

- RD, Chapters 13, 14, and 15.

Advocacy Groups, Social Movements and Lobbyists

- The role and impact of non-governmental organizations.
- Targeting the policy process.
- The lobbyist culture.
- The Gomery Report.
- The Federal Accountability Act.

Required Reading

- RD, Chapter 16.

June 18

Constitutional Evolution in Canada

- The principles of the Canadian Constitution.
- Mega Constitutional Politics.
- Night of Long Knives.
- Constitution Act, 1982.
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms [CCRF].
- The Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords.
- Evolution of provincial power.
- The “Charter Era” and the protection of rights.

Required Reading

- RD, Chapters, 17, 18, and 19.

June 25 (Essay Is Due Today)

The Source of Political Power in Canada

- Executive power in Canada - The Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet.
- The role of Parliament.
- Role of the bureaucracy.

Required Readings

- RD, Chapters 21, 22, and 23.

July 2 (Final Deadline to Submit Essay)

The Judiciary

- The role of the Judiciary.
- The intersection between politics and the law.
- The Supreme Court of Canada: Umpires of Canadian federalism?
- Rights vs. Jurisdiction: The 1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Required Reading

- RD, Chapter 24.

July 9

Canada in a North American and Global Context

- Canada-US relations.
- North American Integration and the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].
- Global influences on Politics and Culture.

Required Reading

- RD, Chapter 10.

July 16

Canada: An Urban Nation

- Federal urban policy: the past, present and future.
- The provincial prerogative.
- The increasing prominence of Canada's urban centers.
- Multilevel governance: an emerging trend in Canadian federalism.
- Key areas of urban concern [Immigration settlement, housing policy, infrastructure and climate change].

July 23

Final Class - Exam Review.