

**The University of Waterloo**  
Department of Political Science  
PSCI 360 – Topics in Canadian Government and Politics  
Fall 2012

Instructor: Ajay Sharma  
Lecture Time: Monday, 9.30am-12:20pm  
Lecture Location: Arts Lecture Hall, Room 124.  
Office: J.G. Hagey Hall of the Humanities, Room 340  
Office Hours: Monday, 1pm-2pm  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the evolution of the Canadian constitution and the nature and scope of federalism and intergovernmental relations in Canada, with particular emphasis placed on the past fifty years. Our attention will be directed to topics such as: constitutionalism; the evolution of Canada's federal system; the theory and practice of Canadian federalism; the role of the Supreme Court of Canada; regionalism; federal-provincial relations; multilevel governance; and key areas of public policy.

This course is guided by several key questions. For example, what are the implications of living in a federal country? How does federalism influence our political process, our policy challenges and solutions? Has the federal structure served us well? Does federalism facilitate or constrain decision-making? Students will be expected to explore these and other key questions that will arise during the semester.

**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

**Course Announcements**

Announcements and information for this course will be made available on **Desire2Learn** at <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>.

**1.0. Required Readings**

There are two required texts for this course.

- Bakvis, Herman, Gerald Baier, and Douglas Brown. (2009). *Contested Federalism*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press. (abbreviated as "BBB")
- Stevenson, Garth. (2004). *Unfulfilled Union: Canadian Federalism and National Unity*. 4th Ed. Montreal: McGill-Queens's University Press. (abbreviated as "GS")

**You are expected to have read all required readings before class.**

## **2.0. Evaluation Scheme**

Mid-term Exam: 20% - Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. The Midterm will be held in class.

Research Essay: 40% - Due at the start of class, Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Final Exam: 40% - To be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

### **2.1. Mid-term Exam**

The Mid-term examination will be held in the lecture hall on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. The exam will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings. You will be tested on material up to and including Monday October 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. The format will be short answer and essay.

### **2.2. Research Essay**

The essay is due at the start of class on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Detailed instructions regarding the essay will be issued in class on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012. 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 10-12 pages [excluding title page and bibliography] in length, Times New Roman size 12 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 by 12pm on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Technical problems, such as hard drive crashes, are not grounds for an extension - please ensure that you routinely 'back-up' your work

### **2.3. Final Exam**

The final examination will be held during the examination period. The exam will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings for the semester.

## **3.0. University Policies**

Please read the following University policies very carefully. If you require additional information/clarification, please contact the Instructor or the relevant office in a timely manner.

### **3.1. Academic Integrity**

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. For more information please visit [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity).

### **3.2. 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>.

### **3.3. 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>.

### **3.4. 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>.

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html).

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>.

### **3.5. Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

#### **Note for Students with Disabilities**

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term. For more information please visit <http://www.studentservices.uwaterloo.ca/disabilities/>.

## **Schedule of Weekly Lecture Topics and Required Readings**

\* Please note: The required readings have also been placed on reserve at the Dana Porter Library and may also be accessed through the electronic database at the University of Waterloo in accordance with the University of Waterloo's library licence agreements.

\*\* The required texts have been abbreviated as **BBB and GS** for the purposes of this outline.

### September 10

#### **Introduction: Setting the Stage**

- Course overview, expectations, evaluation scheme and administrative matters.
- The federal principle.
- What is federalism?
- Unitary vs. Federal political systems.
- The federal structure.
- Why does the study of federalism matter?
- The theoretical benefits of federalism.
- 1867: The birth of Canadian Federalism.

#### **Required Readings:**

- BBB, Chapter 1.

### September 17

#### **The Historical Evolution and Institutionalism of Canadian Federalism:**

- The "Bargain of 1867" – The birth of Canadian federalism.
- The English-French Compact.
- Early Constitutionalism: the "Pendulum Theory".
- The sources of early federal dominance.
- The impact of the JCPC and the rise of provincial autonomy.
- Post-war federalism.
- The Rowell-Sirois Commission.

#### **Required Readings:**

- GS, Chapter 2.

### September 24

#### **The Evolving Power of Canada's Provincial Governments:**

- Reexamining the impact of the JCPC.
- Westward expansion.
- The impact of "Regionalism".
- The expansion of the "Provincial State".
- The political economy of Canadian provinces.
- "Province-Building" vs. "Nation-Building".

#### **Required Readings:**

- GS, Chapter 4.

### October 1

#### **Federalism as a Centripetal and Centrifugal Force:**

- The fragmented politics of Intrastate Federalism.
- The dominance of “Central Canada”.
- The rise of Quebec nationalism.
- Federalists and sovereignists.
- The Quiet Revolution.
- Western alienation.
- Secessionism in Canada.

#### **Required Readings:**

- GS, Chapter 5.

### October 8

#### **Thanksgiving – No Class**

### October 15

#### **The Era of Mega-Constitutional Politics:**

- The Trudeau era – The Victoria Charter, Patriation, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- The Mulroney Era – The Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords.
- Critiquing the institutions of Canadian federalism.
- The Clarity Act.
- Have we reached a constitutional impasse?

#### **Required Readings:**

- BBB, Chapter 4.

### October 22

#### **\*\*\*Midterm Exam\*\*\***

### October 29

#### **The Various Faces of Canadian Federalism:**

- Executive Federalism: The defining feature of federalism in Canada?
- Cooperative, competitive and collaborative federalism: the evolving nature of Canadian Federalism.
- Intergovernmental Relations and First Ministers’ Conferences.
- Executive vs. Legislature.
- Executive Federalism: the pros and cons.
- Democratic deficit.

#### **Required Readings:**

- BBB, Chapters 3, 6, 7.

### November 5

#### **Fiscal Federalism: The Financial Framework for Canadian Federalism**

- The Federal Spending Power.
- Evolution of the use of the federal spending power.

- Federal-Provincial financial relations.
- Vertical vs. Horizontal Imbalance.
- Equalization transfers.

**Required Readings:**

- BBB, Chapters 8, 9.
- GS, Chapters 6, 7.

November 12

**The Economic and Social Union**

- The Social Union Framework Agreement.
- Macroeconomic Policy.
- Health Care Policy.
- Post-Secondary Education.

**Required Readings:**

- BBB, Chapters 10, 11.

November 19

**\*\*\*Essay is due at the start of class\*\*\***

**The Supreme Court of Canada, Federalism and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

- The Intersection of Politics and Law.
- The Supreme Court of Canada: Umpires of federalism?
- Rights vs. Jurisdiction: The 1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Patterns of Judicial Interpretation: Constitutional reform, official languages, Aboriginal rights, social issues.
- The Charter Revolution: A national role for the Supreme Court of Canada.

**Required Readings:**

- BBB, Chapter 5.
- GS, Chapter 3.

November 26

**Urban Dimensions of Canadian Federalism**

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

**Required Readings:**

- BBB, Chapter 13.

December 3

**Canadian Federalism: What does the Future Hold?**

- Can we measure the effectiveness of Canadian Federalism?
- Exam preview.

**Required Readings:**

- BBB, Conclusion.