

PSC 345
CANADIAN POLITICS
FALL 2000

MWF 2:00pm-2:50pm

250 Park Hall

Office Hours: W 3-5pm, F 9:30am-11:30am

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Canada is currently going through an important political crisis. Its own existence is threatened. The failure of recent constitutional tentative reforms is the most visible symptom of the crisis. Deep roots of the crisis can be traced back in the Canadian social environment, especially in its ethnic and regional cleavages. A study of the language, culture, and regionalism will lead us to a better understanding of Canadian political behavior and institutions.

On one hand, this class focuses on micropolitics, i.e., the study of political agents: the citizen, the voter, the politician, the legislator. On the other hand, it turns to the study of macropolitics, i.e., the study of Canadian political institutions: constitution, parliament, executive branch, public administration, political parties, and interest groups.

READINGS

There are only two books assigned to this class:

DYCK, Rand, 2000, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 3rd. Ed., Toronto, Nelson Canada.

MALCOMSON, Patrick and Richard MYERS, 1996, The Canadian Regime, Peterborough, Broadview Press.

Examinations will cover material from ALL required readings. Lectures will complement, but NOT reproduce, the material from the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

2 examinations 70% (40% or 30% each)

Quizzes, assignments, and class attendance 30%

EXAMS

Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies (e.g. death in the family). If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me before the exam. **I will be strict on this policy.** The exams will be weighted in the following way: your best score among the two exams will be worth 40% of your final grade and the second best 30%. The dates of the exams are indicated below. The exams will consist of a mix of multiple choices, true or false, short answers and take-home essays. Take-home essays will be distributed one week prior to the in-class exams and they will be due in class at the beginning of the examination.

QUIZZES, EXERCISES, AND CLASS ATTENDANCE

There will be regular quizzes during the semester. The value of each quiz will vary, but none will exceed five points. There will be no make up for these quizzes. I will also take attendance. You will receive one point if you are present. There is also a possibility of short exercises, which you will do at home. The combination of quizzes, assignments, and class attendance will be weighted to amount 30% of your final grade.

You are expected to attend class regularly and take notes. A majority of the material for the exams is taken from lecture. I will use materials for lectures that are not covered in the readings. Therefore, if you miss class, it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from a classmate. I will not give, **under any circumstances**, my lecture notes to students.

GRADING SCALE

90% to 100% = A
87% to 89.9% = A⁻
84% to 86.9% = B⁺
80% to 83.9% = B
76% to 79.9% = B⁻
72% to 75.9% = C⁺
68% to 71.9% = C
64% to 67.9% = C⁻
60% to 63.9% = D⁺
50% to 59.9% = D
< 50% = F

WEB PAGE

The course web page will be a central element of the class. The web page will contain the class syllabus, lecture overheads, assignments, midterm review sheets, additional readings, student contact information, links to sites relating to Canadian Politics and International Relations, and other useful information. The page's address is:

<http://montana.fss.buffalo.edu/classes/psc/duchesne/psc345/index.html>.

TOPICS/READINGS

Monday August 28

1) Introduction: Syllabus, course description

2) Cleavages and political conflicts

Discussion: What are the principal political conflicts in Canada?

Wednesday August 30

1) Cleavages and political conflicts (Cont'd)

Discussion: What are the principal political conflicts in Canada?

2) Introduction to Canada

Friday September 1

1) Introduction to Canada

Monday September 4

NO CLASS: LABOR DAY

Wednesday September 6-Monday September 11

1) The Constitution

Discussion: The early constitutional context and its evolution.

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 2; Malcomson & Myers, Chapters 1 and 2.

Wednesday September 13- Wednesday September 20

1) The Executive: The Crown

Discussion: Should we abolish the power of the Queen?

Readings: Dyck, pp. 475-81; Malcomson & Myers, pp. 109-16.

2) The Executive: The Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Discussion: A "One Man Show?" How are decisions made?

Readings: Dyck, pp. 481-503; Malcomson and Myers, pp. 116-23.

Friday September 22-Friday September 29

1) The Legislative: Senate and House of Commons, and Legislative Process

Discussion: Should the Senate be elected? Should more power be granted to the house? Too many pitfalls in the legislative process?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 22; Malcomson & Myers, Chapter 3, and pp. 127-39.

Monday October 2- Friday October 6

1) The Judiciary: The Court System and the Charter of Rights and Freedom

Discussion: Have the reforms gone too far?

Readings: Dyck, Chapters 18 and 23; Malcomson & Myers, Chapters 5 and 8.

Tuesday October 10- Monday October 16

NOTE: NO CLASS ON MONDAY OCTOBER 9, BUT TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 FOLLOWS MONDAY SCHEDULE

NOTE: DISTRIBUTION OF TAKE-HOME ESSAYS ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 10

1) Political Ideologies and Parties: Liberalism

Discussion: Does the Liberal Party still represent the Whigs' tradition?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 14, Malcomson & Myers, Chapter 10.

2) Political Ideologies and Parties: Conservatism

Discussion: Does the Progressive Conservative Party still represent the Tories' tradition?

3) Political Ideologies and Parties: Socialism

Discussion: The end of radicalism?

4) Political Ideologies and Parties: The new parties

Discussion: The rise of regionalism.

Wednesday October 18

FIRST EXAMINATION

Friday October 20- Monday October 30

1) Political Culture and National Values

Discussion: What are the Canadian national values? Are they similar to those of the Americans?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 10.

2) Political Socialization

Discussion: What are the agents of political socialization? What is their impact?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 11.

Wednesday November 1-Monday November 6

1) Regional Economic Cleavages

Discussion: What is the importance of regionalism in Canada?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 3.

Wednesday November 8

1) Class Cleavages: Pressure Groups

Discussion: Do social classes affect Canadian Politics?

Readings: Dyck, Chapters 8 and 15; Malcomson & Myers, Chapter 11

Friday November 10-Monday November 20

1) Ethnic Cleavages: The First Nations

Discussion: Is there a role for the First Nations in Canadian Politics?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 4.

2) Ethnic Cleavages: Other Ethnic Groups

Discussion: Canada: A Mosaic or a Melting Pot?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 6.

3) Ethnic Cleavages: The Linguistic Debate

Discussion: What is the state of the French language in Canada?

Readings: Dyck, Chapter 5.

NOTE: FALL RECESS IS WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26

NOTE: TAKE-HOME ESSAYS DISTRIBUTED ON FRIDAY DECEMBER

Monday November 27-Wednesday December 6

1) Recent Constitutional Politics and the Future of Canada

Discussion: Will the "Quebec Problem" ever go away?

Readings: Dyck, Chapters 16 and 24.

Friday December 8

SECOND EXAMINATION