



Lakehead University  
Canadian Federalism

POLI-3337-WA

Winter 2014

Instructor: **Normand Perreault** (Department of Political Science)

Classroom: RB 2024

Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:30 PM

Office: RB 2035

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 3:00 – 4:00, or by appointment

**Course description:**

This course will provide a broad overview of the main features of Canadian federalism. Our focus will be on the different challenges and issues that confront Canadian federalism today.

We will begin by identifying and examining the main features of Canada's federal structure of government. These include the political economy context of Canadian federalism, the nature of Executive Federalism, and the role and influence of different political forces within Canadian federalism.

In the second portion of the course, we will examine specific issues of Canadian federalism, most notably the debates about the fiscal imbalance, social policy, health care delivery, and reform in the field of education. In the third portion of the course, we will examine contemporary debates on international trade, skills and competitiveness, and immigration, from a modern standpoint as well as from a historical perspective.

Finally, we will study how Canada's federalist structure is dealing with climate change, aboriginal rights and governance, urban issues and regionalism, and the pressures to renew the structure of Canadian governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **Required readings:**

- Bakvis, Herman and Grace Skogstad. Canadian Federalism: performance, effectiveness, and legitimacy. Oxford University Press, 2013. (available in paperback) ISBN: 9780195439793
- Excerpts from other works and authors will be distributed to the class during the semester.

## **Evaluation:**

The evaluation scheme will consist of the following items:

- A short paper assignment (maximum 1,500 words in length) that is due in class on 5 February, and that is worth 20% of your total course grade.
- A second short paper assignment (maximum 1,500 words in length) that is due in class on 26 February, and that is worth 20% of your total course grade.
- A third short paper assignment (maximum 1,500 words in length) that is due in class on 12 March, and that is worth 20% of your total course grade.
- A final research paper (maximum 4,000 words in length) that is due at noon, at my office (RB 2035), on 7 April, and that is worth 40% of your total course grade.

**Late papers are not accepted.**

## **Outline of weekly lectures and readings**

### **Week 1 (6 and 8 January)**

#### **A brief introduction to Canadian federalism.**

- Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad, chapter 1: 'Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy.'

### **Week 2 (13 and 15 January)**

#### **Canada as a patchwork of different political economy spaces. The challenge of equity.**

- Garth Stevenson, chapter 2: 'The Political Economy of Regionalism and Federalism.'

### **Week 3 (20 and 22 January)**

**The dualist conception and Contract Theory of Canadian Federalism. Federal representation and Executive Federalism: the battle for sovereignty.**

- David Cameron, chapter 3: 'Quebec and the Canadian Federation.'
- Richard Simeon and Amy Nugent, chapter 4: 'Parliamentary Canada and Intergovernmental Canada: Exploring the Tensions.'

### **Week 4 (27 and 29 January)**

**The right to decide: the battle over voice and recognition. The impact of constitutional battles on party politics.**

- Gerald Baier, chapter 5: 'The Courts, the Constitution, and Dispute Resolution.'
- Herman Bakvis and A. Brian Tanguay, chapter 6: 'Federalism, Political Parties, and the Burden of National Unity: Still Making Federalism Do the Heavy Lifting?'

### **Week 5 (3 and 5 February) (the first short paper is due in class on Thursday 5 February)**

**Federalism as a dynamic fiscal equilibrium: equity and power politics**

- Douglas M. Brown, chapter 7: 'Fiscal Federalism: Maintaining a Balance.'
- Keith G. Banting, chapter 8: 'The Three Federalisms Revisited: Social Policy and Intergovernmental Decision-Making.'

### **Week 6 (10 and 12 February)**

**The social programs that have become central to Canadian political life.**

- Antonia Maioni, chapter 9: 'Health Care.'
- Martha Friendly and Linda A. White, chapter 10: 'No-lateralism': Paradoxes in Early Childhood Education and Care Policy in the Canadian Federation.'

### **Week 7 (24 and 26 February) (the second short paper is due in class on Thursday 26 February)**

**The dream of an East-West economic space: the artificial border.**

- Grace Skogstad, chapter 11: 'International Trade and the Evolution of Canadian Federalism.'

### **Week 8 (3 and 5 March)**

#### **Facing globalization: how global economic forces are shaping Canada.**

- Rodney Haddow, chapter 12: 'Federalism and Economic Adjustment: Skills and Economic Development in the Face of Globalization.'
- Keith G. Banting, chapter 14: 'Remaking Immigration: Asymmetric Decentralization and Canadian Federalism.'

### **Week 9 (10 and 12 March) (the third short paper is due in class on Thursday 12 March)**

#### **Confronting global issues and challenges: Canada as a world leader.**

- Mark Winfield and Douglas Macdonald, chapter 13: 'Federalism and Climate Change Policy.'

### **Week 10 (17 and 19 March)**

#### **Facing the issue of ownership: the limits of the Canadian legal framework.**

- Martin Papillon, chapter 15: 'Canadian Federalism and the Emerging Mosaic of Aboriginal Multi-Level Governance.'

### **Week 11 (24 and 26 March)**

#### **The 'new' country: world-cities and regional exclusion.**

- Andrew Sancton, chapter 16: 'The Urban Agenda.'

### **Week 12 (31 March and 2 April)**

#### **The future of governance in Canada: non-state actors and international participants.**

- Julie Simmons, chapter 17: 'Democratizing Executive Federalism: The Role of Non-Governmental Actors in Intergovernmental Agreements.'
- Grace Skogstad and Herman Bakvis, chapter 18: 'Conclusion: Taking Stock of Canadian Federalism.'

**The final paper is due at noon at my office (RB 2035), on 7 April.**