LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
POLI 2212 WAO
WINTER 2017

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Jarvis
Classroom: OA2019
Class Schedule: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30am-1:00pm
Email: TBD
Office Location & Hours: TBD

Course Description:

This course will explore the institutional dimensions of Canadian Government in historical, descriptive and comparative terms. The course will begin with a historical survey of Canada's Parliamentary Westminster System. Throughout the course, students will learn about the comparative differences between Canada's political system and the UK, which stands as the birthplace of the Westminster Parliament. The role of our colonial experience, and how it molded our society towards the nation building arrangement known as Canadian Confederation, will be assessed. Students will then learn in detail how the legislative and executive branches of Canadian government interact with each other in political life. Following this exploration of Canadian Government's institutional development and framework, the course will grapple with the historical, cultural and social factors behind the late 20th century development of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Finally, students will assess how Canadian government has changed since the passage of the Charter, and how that has influenced policy issues, with special emphasis placed on Aboriginal matters.

Required Texts:
S. Brooks, M. Menard, *Canadian Democracy: A Concise Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2013

C. Leuprecht, P. Russell, *Essential Readings in Canadian Constitutional Politics*, University of Toronto Press, 2011

Assignments and Grading:
1.) Short Essay due by Feb. 3 (30%)

What are the advantages or disadvantages of a constitutional monarchy over a republic for a democratic political system? If there are so many ethnic groups in Canada that see themselves as standing outside the British Empire, why does Canada still maintain the British Crown as the trustee of national sovereignty?

or

Explain "Responsible Government" and outline its strengths and weaknesses. Is it preferable or not preferable to representative government? Why?

2.) Short Essay Due by March 3 (30%)

Why is Canada considered a "Confederation" in terms of its Provinces' relation to national sovereignty? Given that the federal government's powers are so concentrated and extensive, is the word "Confederation" a misnomer or true reflection of Canada's federal system?

Or

With special reference to the unique executive position of the Canadian Prime Minister in Canada's Parliamentary system, explain why substantive Senate reform seems to never occur despite constant promises across Party lines for a better Senate appointment system.

3.) Short Essay Due by April 7 (30%)

During the 30th anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused to officially celebrate the patriation of Canada's constitution. If the Charter currently defines what it means to be a Canadian on a legal and political level, why is it still so divisive?

Or

Is the Not Withstanding Clause (Sec. 33) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms an aberration or necessary component of the Charter of the Rights and Freedoms? If it is an aberration, why was it essential for all the Provinces, excluding Quebec, in order to support the Charter? If it was a necessary component of the Charter, why has it been so rarely used by Provinces and never by the Federal Government?

3.) Participation (10%)

Course Schedule:
Jan. 9---Intro

Jan. 11—Values and Norms in Canadian Politics

Brooks & Menard, ch. 2

Jan. 16—The Historical Roots of Canada's Constitutional Sovereignty
Walter Bagehot, *The English Constitution*, Ch.2 ("The Monarchy")
http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/bagehot/constitution.pdf

Suggested Watching:
The Madness of King George (1994)

Jan. 18—Colonial Foundations of Canadian Government
Patrick Monahan, *Constitutional Law*, Ch.2 (Canada's Constitutional Development Before 1867), course reserves

Jan. 23—Responsible Government: A Detailed Study
Leuprecht & Russell, Part I, chs. 3, 4, Part V, ch. 29

Jan. 25—Canadian Constitutionalism
Leuprect & Russell, Part 1, chs. 1, 2

Jan. 30—Canadian Constitutionalism cont.
Brooks & Menard, ch. 5

Feb. 1—Parliament's Place in the Canadian Constitution
Patrick Monahan, *Constitutional Law,* ch. 3, Section E ("Legislative Power")

Suggested Readings:
Leuprecht & Russell, Part 1, ch. 5

Suggested Watching:
The Great Palace: The Story of Parliament (BBC) (available at youtube)

Feb. 6—The Mechanics of Canadian Government
Brooks & Menard, ch.8,

Suggested Watching (available at www.nfb.ca):
The Secret World of Whitehall parts 1, 2, 3 (available at youtube)
Paperland (available at www.nfb.ca)

Feb. 8—The Prime Minister in Canada
Monahan, *Constitutional Law,* Ch. 3, Section D (Executive Power)
Leuprecht & Russell, Part 5, ch. 25

Suggested Watching:
How to Be Prime Minister (BBC) (available at youtube)

Feb 13—Canadian Confederation and its Federal System
Leuprecht & Russell, Part 2 chs. 8, 9, 10

Suggested Readings:
Brooks & Menard, ch. 4

Feb 15—Canadian Confederation and its Federal System cont.
Brooks & Menard, ch. 7

Feb 20—No Class

Feb 23—No Class

Feb 27—Canadian Confederation and its Federal System cont.
Leuprecht & Menard, Part 2, ch. 11, Part 3, chs. 13, 14, 15

March 1—Canadian Confederation and its Federal System cont.
P. Monahan, Ch. 4, Sec. C (Federal Distribution of Legislative Powers)

March 6—Canadian Government and the Language Question
Brooks & Menard ch. 12
Leuprecht & Russell, Part V, ch. 24, ch. 25

March 8—Canadian Government and the Language Question cont.
Leuprecht & Russell, Part V, chs. 26, 27,28

March 13---The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Brooks & Menard ch. 6
Leuprecht & Russell, part 6 ch. 30

Suggested Watching (available at www.nfb.ca):
i.) *The Champions* (Parts 1, 2, 3)
ii.)*The Road to Patriation*

March 15—The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms cont.
Leuprecht & Russell, Part 6 chs., 31, 32, 41

March 20—The Canadian Charter and its Discontents
Leuprecht & Russell , Part 7, chs. 34, 36, 33

Marc 22—The Charter and Canadian Society
Brooks & Menard, ch. 13

March 27—Aboriginal People and the Canadian Government
Brooks & Menard, ch. 14

March 29—Aboriginal People and the Canadian Constitution (Pre-Charter)
P. Monahan, ch. 14, Section A and B

April 3—Aboriginal People and the Canadian Constitution (Post-Charter)
P. Monahan, ch. 14, Section C
Leuprecht & Russell, Part 7 chs. 39, 40

April 5—Canadian Government and the Media
Brooks and Menard, ch. 11

Suggested Watching:
The Prime Minister and the Press Barons (BBC) available at youtube