

PS 3215
Ontario Politics

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
RB 2044

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Objective of course

The objective of this course is to gain an understanding of the government and politics of Ontario in order to better grasp the pertinent issues facing the province. This course focuses on issues related to Ontario's role in the federation. The course is divided into three parts. In the first part, we look at the socio-economic setting, government institutions and fiscal policy. This is followed with a debate on the current electoral system. In the second part, we look at media and lobbying in Ontario, the evolution of party politics in Ontario, and ethics in government. In the final part of the course, we look at the political identity and culture of Ontario, municipal politics and Indigenous Peoples with emphasis on recent developments. This is followed by a debate on whether the province should remain intact or whether the people of Ontario are better served by dividing the province. By the end of the course, students will gain a better understanding of Ontario politics and the changing role of Ontario in the current federation.

Format

The course will be comprised of lectures, presentations and class discussion. The readings and class discussions complement rather than substitute for the lectures and presentations. All students are expected to do all the readings for each class and be prepared to present arguments and general findings, as well as to provide constructive comments and criticisms.

Required Text

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed. Toronto:
University of Toronto Press, 1997

Other items have been placed on reserve at the Library or are available online.

Evaluation

Participation and Weekly forms: Ongoing	20%
Group Debate: date varies	10%
Short Paper (1000 – 1250 words): due date varies	15%
Research Paper Proposal: due October 31, 2013	5%
Research paper (3000-3500 words): due November 21, 2013	30%
Four Letters to the Editor or to your MP, MPP: Due October 14 and November 17	20%

Conduct of the Seminar and Participation and Weekly Forms Grade

Students are required to attend all seminars.

All students are expected to carefully prepare for each seminar by reading all of the required readings listed under each week's topic, and preparing, in addition to notes for private study, a list of questions and issues emerging from those readings for discussion in the seminar.

To ensure better and focused discussions, for each session, students are asked to submit one (1) written question raised by that session's readings to the professor by email. The questions should speak specifically to the issues, assumptions, criticisms and so on raised by the readings and the week's central issue. Questions should not focus solely on a summary of an author's arguments; nor should they be overly broad, general or loosely dealing with the week's topic. **The questions are to be emailed to me every Tuesday by 10:00 a.m.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

Students making debate presentations are not required to submit questions on the day of their presentation.

The general participation grade will be distributed over a variety of kinds of participation in the seminars over the whole length of the course: questions and comments to presenters as well as those submitted to the instructor in your weekly forms; faithfulness and steadiness in building up central ideas and themes from week to week as our base of knowledge and shared vocabulary grow (which of course requires steady attendance); contribution of information and analysis to the seminars on the basis of good preparation; and, of course, civility and collegiality in providing good questions and bridges into the discussion for others, as well as both collaborating with and arguing against other viewpoints in the development of themes.

Group Debate: dates vary

Each student (in a group of at least 5 students) must participate in one debate to be chosen during the first seminar (September 10), and confirmed no later than September 17. Debates will take place on:

(1) October 1 & 3: Electoral Reform
Debate Resolution: The current electoral system is undemocratic, therefore, Ontario should adopt proportional representation?

(2) October 29 & 31: Government and Ethics

Debate Resolution: The Gas Plant scandal was no scandal at all. Rather it was an issue that was blown up by the media and the opposition parties

(3) November 19 & 21: Regionalism in the province:

Debate Resolution: Should Toronto become its own province?

A debate resolution has been formulated for each of the three weeks. In order to ensure a balanced exchange, students will either choose or be assigned to the “For” or “Against” position for the presentation. Depending upon the number of students in the class, there may well be five or more people arguing each position, in which case the debate should be approached as a team exercise. Students must confer with others on their ‘team’ to avoid repetitious arguments. Each group presentation should normally last 10-15 minutes, so time should be set aside for rehearsal.

Preparation for presentations includes reading all of the assigned material for the debate in question. Students can also consult sources beyond those listed in the course outline.

Debate presentations should proceed logically from a brief statement of the position, to a coherent exposition of a series of arguments (with supporting evidence), to a succinct conclusion. A good debate presentation will show awareness of and sensitivity to counter-positions, and will anticipate and refute the opposition’s arguments.

For the Short Paper and the Research Paper:

The essays will respect all the rules of good essay composition: a central question the essay will address; an introduction with the plan for development of the argument; appropriate choice of method for topic development; respect for argument and evidence; clear and economical exposition; good quality and quantity of appropriate research; appropriately formatted footnotes and bibliography.

If in doubt, consult a style guide on the proper format for bibliography and footnotes. The first person (“I”) may be used.

Quotations longer than four lines should be indented without quotation marks. Do not overuse quotations.

Papers should be handed in to me directly in class, or, if late, placed in the departmental mailbox to be date-stamped. **Do not** push papers under my door.

Short Paper – Due date varies (see below)

Each student is required to write a critical analysis based on **one week's** set of the assigned readings. This is due no later than October 15. The student will choose **one** of the following weeks (please note, each week has a different due date):

(1) September 17 & 19: fiscal policy

Is Ontario unfairly disadvantaged?

Due September 26, 2013

(2) September 24 & 26: The Machinery of Ontario Government

What is Ontario's role in the federation?

Due October 3, 2013

(3) October 1 & 3: Electoral Reform

Should Ontario adopt proportional representation?

Due October 10, 2013

Note the student is required to read and comment on the all readings (for the week chosen) for the critical analysis.

You can choose to address the question of the week, or another pertinent issue emerging from the readings.

The critical analysis should be a minimum of 1000 words and a maximum of 1250 words (4-5 pages double spaced 12' font). Proper Essay format is required.

Late papers will be penalized by 3% for each day that they are late. Weekends count as one day. The only exceptions will be in the case of documented medical excuse or death in the family.

Research Proposal – October 31, 2013: 5%

Each student is required to submit a research paper proposal no later than October 31, 2013.

Your proposal should cover:

- (a) Main research topic
- (b) Main research question
- (c) Tentative main argument
- (d) Evidence used to support your argument
- (e) Tentative conclusion
- (f) Bibliography

Research Essays – November 21, 2013

Students are required to write a research paper on a topic of their choosing. Typically, topics will relate to issues and themes we discuss in class. If you would like to research a topic not covered in class, please discuss it with the professor.

The chosen topic **must** be approved no later than October 31, 2013. I will not accept a paper if the topic has not been approved.

The research essay should be a minimum of 2500 words and a maximum 3000 words (10-12 typed, double-spaced numbered pages). Proper Essay Format must be followed

Late papers will be penalized by 3% for each day that they are late. Weekends count as one day. The only exceptions will be in the case of documented medical excuse or death in the family.

Letters to the Editor (or your M.P. or your M.P.P. - October 17 and November 14

Each student is required to write **four Letters to the Editor (or to your MP or MPP)**. Each letter should be a minimum of 300 words.

The letters can be in reference to individual news articles or to issues raised in more than one article.

Proper writing style is required.

Writing your Letters, you can discuss your reaction to the article (was the issue reported correctly? was there a bias that caused you to react? were you happy/upset with the way the issue was reported?)

You should attempt to demonstrate a relationship, wherever possible between the article / or public issue and some topic in the course. (Remember, you don't need to wait for all topics to be covered in class before you're able to connect an article to some relevant topic in our course. You should skim the textbook and look ahead to find the area that may relate to your articles. Remember to use the table of contents and index of the textbook). If you choose to write on an issue not covered in the course, please discuss this with the professor.

[N.B You should aim to use a variety of news sources.]

Proper essay format is required for your letters. Spelling and Grammar count.

The first two letters are due no later than October 17, 2013. The second two are due no later than November 14, 2013. You are strongly encouraged to submit your letters one at a time rather than wait to submit them all at the end.

Late papers will be penalized by 3% for each day that they are late. Weekends count as one day. The only exceptions will be in the case of documented medical excuse or death in the family.

Schedule and Required Readings

You should complete the readings for a given week before the lecture and discussion.

September 10: Introduction

General introduction to the course
Group selection

September 12: Ontario: The Socio Economic Setting

What is the state of economy in Ontario? What are the policy challenges it is currently facing?

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed., Ch 2 “The Socio-Economic Setting of Ontario Politics,” by Rand Dyck

David Cameron, “Post-Modern Ontario and the Laurentian Thesis” in Douglas M. Brown and Janet Hiebert, eds., *Canada: The State of the Federation 1994*, p. 109 – 132.

<http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/pub/archive/SOTF/SOTF1994.pdf>

(optional)CHANGE IN THE ONTARIO STATE 1952 – 2002

Paper Prepared for the Role of Government Panel

Graham White October, 2002

<http://128.100.167.100/investing/reports/rp8.pdf>

September 17 & 19: fiscal policy

Is Ontario unfairly disadvantaged?

Douglas Porter, “Ontario: Biggest province, biggest challenges” *Policy Options*, May 2011

<http://www.irpp.org/assets/po/provincial-deficits-and-debt/porter.pdf>

Noah Zon, “Filling the Gap: Measuring Ontario’s Balance with the Federal Government,”

Mowat Centre <http://www.mowatcentre.ca/pdfs/mowatResearch/79.pdf>

Thomas J. Courchene, “Surplus Recycling and the Canadian Federation: Addressing Horizontal and Vertical Fiscal Imbalances”, *Mowat Centre*

<http://www.mowatcentre.ca/pdfs/mowatResearch/87.pdf>

David Dodge, Peter Burn and Richard Dion, “Federal-provincial Fiscal arrangements: Thinking outside the box” *Policy Options*, August 2012

<http://www.irpp.org/assets/po/policy-challenges-for-2020/dodge.pdf>

September 24 & 26: The Machinery of Ontario Government

What is Ontario’s Role in the Federation?

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed., Ch 4 “The Legislature: Central Symbol of Ontario Democracy,” by Graham White

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed. Ch 7, "Ontario in Confederation: The Not-So-Friendly Giant," by David Cameron and Richard Simeon

Donald J. Savoie, Strengthening the Policy Capacity of Government, October 2003
<http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/investing/reports/rp42.pdf>

October 1 & 3: Electoral Reform

Debate Resolution: The current electoral system in undemocratic, therefore, Ontario should adopt proportional representation?

Tom Kent, "Electoral Reform for Constructive Competition," *Policy Options*, November 2011
<http://www.irpp.org/assets/po/ontario-2007-dalton-mcquinty/kent2.pdf>

Laura B. Stephenson and Brian Tangauy, "Ontario's Referendum on Proportional Representation: Why Citizens Said No." IRPP Policy Choices, 15, no. 10 (September 2009). <http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol15no10.pdf>

Optional: Celine Mulhern, Graham White and David Cameron, "Democracy in Ontario" <http://www.law-lib.toronto.edu/investing/reports/rp35.pdf>

October 8 & 10: Ontario Politics in the Nineties

A changing landscape?

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed. Ch. 9, "Ontario Party Politics in the 1990s: Comfort Meets Conviction," by Robert Williams

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed. Ch 11, "Judging Women's Political Success in the 1990s," by Cheryl Collier

Hugh Segal "The Evolution of Ontario's Confederal Stance in the Nineties: Ideology or Continuity," in Telford and Lazar (eds): *Canada: State of the Federation, 2001*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002
<http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/pub/archive/SOTF/SOTF2001-part1.pdf>

October 15 & 17: Ontario politics in 2000s

Revolution and Counterrevolution in Ontario: old wine in a new bottle?

Robin V. Sears, "How Ontario Got a One Issue Campaign," *Policy Options*, November, 2007
<http://www.irpp.org/assets/po/ontario-2007-dalton-mcquinty/sears.pdf>

Kendra Coulter, "Deep Neoliberal Integration: The production of Third Way Politics in Ontario," in *Studies in Political Economy Spring 2009* (**GET Article and put on reserve**)

October 22 & 24: Education

What is Ontario's role in this time of austerity?

W. Craig Riddell, *The Role of Government in Post-Secondary Education in Ontario*, August, 2003, pp 7-26

128.100.167.100/investing/reports/rp29.pdf *(copy and paste the link)*

Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, *Public Services for Ontarians: A Path to Sustainability and Excellence*, pp 240-261

www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/reformcommission/chapters/report.pdf

Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, *Public Services for Ontarians: A Path to Sustainability and Excellence, Executive Summary*, pp 1-7; 24-31

www.cpco.on.ca/ResourceLibrary/Drummond/ExecutiveSummary.pdf

Society for Quality Education, *Education Highlights from the Ontario Drummond Report*

www.societyforqualityeducation.org/parents/Drummond.pdf

OCUFA, *OCUFA Analysis of the Drummond Report: Long on cuts, short on insight*,

www.ocufa.on.ca/wordpress/assets/OCUFA-Drummond-Report-Analysis-Feb.-22-2012Final.pdf

October 29 & 31: Government and Ethics

Debate Resolution: The Gas Plant scandal was no scandal at all. Rather it was an issue that was blown up by the media and the opposition parties

Jackson, Robert and Jackson, Doreen, *Canadian Government and Politics 5th ed*, "Ch 11: Ethics in Canadian Government and Politics," Toronto: Pearson Canada, 2010. **On Reserve**

<http://www.liberal scandals.com/>

ADRIAN MORROW AND KAREN HOWLETT, "Gas plant scandal won't go away for Ontario Liberals" *The Globe and Mail*, Feb 21, 2013

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/gas-plant-scandal-wont-go-away-for-ontario-liberals/article8912877/>

Keith Leslie, "Former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty resigning as MPP for Ottawa South" (*The Canadian Press*) *Macleans Magazine*, Wednesday, June 12, 2013,

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/06/12/former-ontario-premier-dalton-mcguinty-resigning-as-mpp-for-ottawa-south/>

Sue-Ann Levy, "Ontario Liberal e-mail scandal an 'elaborate coverup'" *Sun News Network*, July 29th, 2013

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/straighttalk/archives/2013/07/20130729-073009.html>

The Huffington Post Canada, "Dalton McGuinty Resigns: Six Scandals That Hurt The Ontario Liberals," *The Huffington Post Canada*, October 15, 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/10/15/dalton-mcguinty-resigns-scandal_n_1968899.html

Karen Howlett, "Behind the curtain: Ontario Liberal e-mails offer rare glimpse into backrooms of power," *The Globe and Mail*, August 10, 2013

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/a-glimpse-into-backrooms-of-power/article13701432/>

Keith Leslie, "Senior Ontario Liberals broke law by deleting gas plant emails: Privacy commissioner" *National Post*, June 05, 2013

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/06/05/senior-ontario-liberals-broke-law-by-deleting-gas-plant-emails-ontario-privacy-commissioner/>

Sonya Bell, "Ontario gas plant scandal gets fresh life ahead of byelections as Tories release damaging emails," *IPolitics*, July 29, 2013

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2013/07/29/ontario-tories-release-damaging-emails-ahead-of-provincial-byelections/>

November 5 & 7: Ontario Identity and Culture

Does Ontario have a distinct (from the rest of Canada) identity and political culture?

Matthew Mendelsohn and Scott Matthews, *The New Ontario: The Shifting Attitudes of Ontarians toward the Federation*, Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation, February 2010.

<http://www.mowatcentre.ca/pdfs/mowatResearch/57.pdf>

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed. Ch 3, "The Ontario Political Culture: An Interpretation," by Sid Noel.

November 12 & 14: Municipal Politics

The growing importance of cities: what role do they serve in the province?

Thomas J. Courchene "Global Futures for Canada's Global Cities", *Policy Matters*, June 2007. <http://www.irpp.org/pm/archive/pmvol8no2.pdf>

Enid Slack and Richard Bird, "Cities in Canadian Federalism," *Policy Options*, January 2008.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/mcis/imfg/ArticlesPapersPublications/BirdSlackCities%20in%20Canada%20Federalism-PolicyOptions2008.pdf>

The Economist, "The Charms of Calgary, And the Gloom in Toronto," *The Economist*, March 18, 2010.

http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15726687

November 19 & 21: Regionalism in the province:

Debate Resolution: Should Toronto become its own province?

Andrew Moran, "MPP: Toronto should separate from Ontario, become own province", *Digital Journal*, March 16, 2010

<http://digitaljournal.com/article/289150>

Andrew Moran, "City Councillor floats idea of Toronto becoming its own province,:", *Digital Journal*, October 5, 2011

<http://digitaljournal.com/article/312403>

Should Toronto be a province?, *Toronto Star*, March 18, 2010

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2010/03/18/should_toronto_be_a_province.html

Christopher Hume, "Toronto needs 'powers of a province'" *Toronto Star*, May 02, 2009

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/columnists/2009/05/02/toronto_needs_powers_of_a_province.html

Andrew Steele, Progressive Conservative separatists, *Toronto Star*, March 17, 2010

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/second-reading/progressive-conservative-separatists/article1365777/>

Art Sinclair, "Solving problems of rural and northern Ontario," *Business Times*, April 4, 2010

<http://www.united-way-kw.org/assets/Uploads/PDFs/communityintelligenceapr10.pdf>

Edward Keenan, "Welcome to the Republic of Toronto," *The Grid*, September 24, 2012.

<http://www.thegridto.com/city/opinion/welcome-to-the-republic-of-toronto/>

Mark Brosens, "Rural Ontario: A Place or a Culture?," *The Inside Agenda Blog*, February 7, 2013

<http://theagenda.tv.org/blog/agenda-blogs/rural-ontario-place-or-culture>

Richard Brennan, "Gap between urban and rural Ontario has widened under Liberals, Tim Hudak says," *Toronto Star*, March 14, 2013.

Jim Merriam, "Is rural Ontario mad enough to separate?" *Chatham Daily News*, July 12, 2013.

<http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2013/07/12/merriam-is-rural-ontario-mad-enough-to-separate>

OFIA, "Media Release," April 5, 2011

<http://www.ofia.com/files/OFIA%20%20%20Media%20Release%20April%205%202011%20Ontario%20Government%20Ignores%20Northern%20and%20Rural%20Ontario.pdf>

David Siegel, "Recent Changes in Provincial-Municipal Relations in Ontario: A New Era or a Missed Opportunity?" in *Canada State of the Federation, 1994*, **On reserve**

November 26 & 28: Indigenous Peoples and Northern Ontario

Does the government continue to neglect the North?

Graham White, *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th ed. Ch 12, "Politics and Policy in the North," by Geoffrey Weller

Government of Ontario, *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011: Aboriginal Peoples*

https://www.placestogrow.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=368&Itemid=65#7

Noelle Spotton, A PROFILE OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN ONTARIO

http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/inquiries/ipperwash/policy_part/research/pdf/Spotton_Profile-of-Aboriginal-Peoples-in-Ontario.pdf

OTF and Ontario's Aboriginal Communities: Learnings and Opportunities

http://www.otf.ca/en/knowledgeSharingCentre/resources/First_First_Nation.pdf

Ontario First Nations Map

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100020331/1100100020335>

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Course outline is subject to change