Instructor: Dr. Douglas Jarvis  
Classroom: OA2019  
Class Schedule: Wednesday and Friday, 8:30am-10:00am  
Email: TBD  
Office Location & Hours: TBD

Course Description:

This course will examine the politics of Ontario in a comprehensive manner. The course will initially survey Ontario’s traditional place in the Canadian national fabric. The regional diversity of Ontario and the challenges this issue brings to properly governing the province will be analyzed. Electoral politics in the province from the 1990s onward, and how the ideological trajectory of the Provinces’ political parties has changed over the last twenty five years, will be assessed. The course will then comparatively explore the co-relationship between the Ontario Power Plants scandal and current discontent over the Province’s fiscal health under the current Liberal Government with the apparent implosion of solid conservative leadership, as exemplified by former Mayor Rob Ford and former Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak. The course will conclude with an intensive study of the core ideological divides being witnessed in Ontarian society over the Province’s future cultural direction, and how these issues have affected our status as a stable political community. Students will gain a full understanding of Ontarian politics in both historical and contemporary terms. Throughout the course, special emphasis will be placed on the role of quasi-judicial bodies in Ontario politics, with discussions centered on the democratic issues surrounding the Ontario Municipal Board and Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Required Texts:


_Fighting For Votes: Parties, The Media and Voters in an Ontario Election_, William Cross, Jonathan Malloy, Tamara Small, Laura Stephenson

Grading Evaluation:
Short Essay: Due Feb. 10 (20%)  
7 to 10 pages double spaced

Is Ontario’s geographical size and diversity an asset or burden for good governance in the Province? If our geographical diversity and size is an asset, why are the political divisions in the Province drawn on such geographical terms? If it is a burden, why is partition of the Province apparently unfeasible?
Is the “post-modern” turn for Ontario in Canadian confederation a good or worrisome issue for continued prosperity and stability in the Province?

Final Paper Research Proposal: Due March 1 (10%)
The proposal should include the following items:
i.) Name and Email Address
ii.)Main research topic
iii.)Main Research Question
iv.) Tentative Main Argument
v.) Evidence and/or Method Used to Support Argument
vi.) Tentative Conclusion
vii.) Preliminary Bibliography (include scholarly literature outside course reading list)

Final Research Paper: Due April 7 (30%)
15-20 pages (double spaced)
Participation: (15%)
Take Home Exam (25%)

Course Schedule

Jan. 11—Intro

Jan. 13—No Class

Jan. 18—Ontario in Context
G. White, ch. 1 ch. 2,

Jan. 20—Ontario in Context cont..
G. White, ch. 7
D. Cameron, “Post-Modern Ontario and the Laurentian Thesis” in Canada: The State of the Federation

Jan. 25—The Machinery of Ontario Government
G. White, ch. 4,
G. White, Change in the Ontario State 1952-2002
http://govdocs.ourontario.ca/node/20705

G. White, ch. 5
Feb. 1——The Regionalism of Ontario Politics
G. White, ch. 12,
*Growth Plan for Northern Ontario 2011*  
https://www.placestogrow.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=65

Suggested Watching

Feb. 3——The Regionalism of Ontario Politics cont.
*Provincial Policy Report 2014 (Key policy Updates)* Ontario Government

Suggested Reading:
*Growth Plan for the Golden Horseshoe 2016*

Feb. 8——The Ontario Municipal Board—A Detailed Study
I. Miligan, “‘The Board Has A Duty to Intervene’: Challenging the Spadina Expressway through the Ontario Municipal Board”, *Urban History Review,* Jan. 2011

Feb. 10——The Ontario Municipal Board—A Detailed Study cont.
J. Chipman, *A Law Unto Itself: How the Ontario Municipal Board Has Developed and Applied Land-Use Planning Policy,* ch. 4. Ch. 6 (course reserves)

Feb 15——Ontario Politics in the 1990s
G. White, ch. 9, ch. 11, ch. 14

Feb. 17——Ontario Politics in the 1990s cont.
G. White, Ch. 15, ch. 16, ch. 17

Feb. 22——No Class

Feb. 24——No Class

March 1——Ontario Politics in the 2000s
R. Sears, “How Ontario Got a One-Issue Campaign” Policy Options  

March 3——Ontario Politics in the 2000s cont.
W. Cross et al., ch. 1, ch. 2, ch. 3
March 8—Ontario Electoral Politics
G. White, ch. 8, ch. 9
W. Cross et al, ch. 4

March 10—Ontario Electoral Politics—2011: A Case Study
W. Cross et al, ch. 5, 6

W. Cross et al, ch. 7, 8, 9, 10

W. Cross et al, ch. 11, ch. 12

March 22: The Gas Plant Scandal and Ontario’s Fiscal Health


N. Zon, “Filling the Gap: Measuring Ontario’s Balance with the Federation”, The Mowat Centre

March 24: Rob Ford and the Fall of Tim Hudak in the 2014 Provincial Election—What is going on with Conservatism in Urban Ontario?
“Us, Them and Rob Ford”, TVO’s *The Agenda*, (available on youtube)
“Rob Ford and the Media”, TVO’s *The Agenda* (available on youtube)
“Recreating Tory Toronto”, TVO’s *The Agenda* (available at tvo.org)

March 29—Society and Culture in 21st Century Ontario Politics—Multicultural Liberalism and The Limits of Toleration
*Sharia in Canada* (Parts 1 and 2), National Film Board of Canada, www.nfb.ca

March 31—Society and Culture in 21st Century Ontario Politics—Social Progressivism and the Limits of Toleration
*Policy on Preventing Discrimination Because of Gender Identity and Gender Expression*, Ontario Human Rights Commission
S. W. Underwood, B. Vincent, “Why We Should Stand Up for Trans Rights and Expression at the University of Toronto”, *The Torontoist*, Oct. 4, 2016
C. Selley, “Stop Being a Jerk over Someone’s Pronoun Preference—They’re Human Beings, Not Issues”,
The National Post, Oct. 5, 2016
“I’m Not a Bigot’ Meet the U of T Prof Who Refuses to Use Genderless Pronouns” As It Happens—CBC Radio Sept. 30, 2016

“Gender, Rights and Freedom of Speech”, TVO’s The Agenda (available at youtube)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpJg0BbnrPc

April 5---Society and Culture in 21st Century Ontario Politics---Race and Ethnicity
Policy and Guidelines on Racism and Racial Discrimination, Ontario Human Rights Commission
Strategy for a Safer Ontario, Ontario Human Rights Commission

“Black Lives Matter Got Attention, but did its Pride Tactics Help or Hurt its Cause”, CBC, Jul. 5, 2016
“Ontario Court Denies Bid To Block Cleveland Indians Name and Logo”, The Globe and Mail, Oct. 17, 2016

April 7---Ontario and the Future
G. White, ch. 3
The Mowat Centre