

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
ONTARIO POLITICS
POLI 3215 WAO
WINTER 2017

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:

The Government and Politics of Ontario, 5th Edition, ed. by Graham White

Fighting For Votes: Parties, The Media and Voters in an Ontario Election, Willam 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?

Or

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
- ii.) Main Research Question
- iii.) Tentative Main Argument
- iv.) Evidence and/or Method Used to Support Argument
- v.) Tentative Conclusion
- vi.) 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*

<http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.iigrwww/files/files/pub/archive/SOTF/SOTF1994.pdf>

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>

Jan. 27—The Machinery of Ontario Government cont.

G. White, ch. 5

D. Savoie, *Strengthening The Policy Capacity of Government*, Oct. 2013

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

TVO, *The Agenda* “What is Rural Ontario?” March 14, 2013

<http://tvo.org/video/programs/the-agenda-with-steve-paikin/what-is-rural-ontario>

Feb. 3---The Regionalism of Ontario Politics cont.

Provincial Policy Report, 2004 Ontario Government

Provincial Policy Report 2014 (Key policy Updates) Ontario Government

Suggested Reading:

U. Lehrer, “Urban Development and the Creative Class in the Neoliberal Age: Two Case Studies in Toronto,” *Neoliberal Urbanism and its Contestations: Crossing Theoretical Boundaries*

Growth Plan for the Golden Horseshoe 2016

Feb. 8 ---The Ontario Municipal Board---A Detailed Study

B. Krushelnicki, *A Practical Guide to the Ontario Municipal Board*, 2nd edition, ch. 1, ch. 2. (course reserves)

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 Classes

Feb. 24—No Class

March 1—Ontario Politics in the 2000s

K. Coulter, “Deep Neoliberal Integration: The production of Third Way Politics in Ontario,” *Studies in Political Economy*, Spring 2009

R. Sears, “How Ontario Got a One-Issue Campaign” Policy Options

<http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/ontario-2007-dalton-mcguinty/how-ontario-got-a-one-issue-campaign/>

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

March 15---Ontario Electoral Politics—2011: A Case Study cont.

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

March 17---Ontario Electoral Politics---2011: A Case Study cont.

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

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

Oakville Power Plant Cancellation Costs: Special Report, Office of the Auditor General, 2013

http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/specialreports/specialreports/oakville_en.pdf

D. Porter, "Ontario: Biggest Province, Biggest Challenges", Policy Options, 2011

<http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/provincial-deficits-and-debt/ontario-biggest-province-biggest-challenges/>

N. Zon, "Filling the Gap: Measuring Ontario's Balance with the Federation", The Mowat Centre

https://mowatcentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/62_filling_the_gap.pdf

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

N. Bakht, "Family Arbitration Using Family Law: Examining Ontario's Arbitration Act and its Impact on Women", *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights*, Issue 1, 2004

A. Korteweg, "The Sharia Debate in Ontario: Gender, Islam and Representation of Muslim Women's Agency", *Gender and Society*, August 2008

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

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-friday-edition-1.3786140/i-m-not-a-bigot-meet-the-u-of-t-prof-who-refuses-to-use-genderless-pronouns-1.3786144>

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

“Wynne Liberals Move to Remove Father and Mother from Ontario Laws”, *The Rebel Media*, Oct. 18, 2016

<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

“Durham Cops Appealing Racial Profiling Ruling”, *The Toronto Sun*, Jan. 16, 2016

“Kingston Police Confirm Use of Racial Profiling”, *Ontario Birchbark: The Aboriginal Newspaper of Ontario*

<http://www.ammsa.com/publications/ontario-birchbark/kingston-police-confirm-use-racial-profiling>

“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

M. Mendolsohn, “The New Ontario: The Shifting Attitudes of Ontarians Towards Federation”

The Mowat Centre