



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

POLI 4215 Canadian Political Thought
Fall 2020
Tuesdays 1:00-4:00 pm

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Mathie

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 am – 11:30 am (via Zoom), or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this seminar, we will read and discuss works by important Canadian political actors, thinkers and writers. Some of the writings and speeches we will read have shaped Canadian political and social life in practice, while others provide deep reflections on the nature and significance of that life. By examining these works, we will have an opportunity to think more deeply about Canada's identity as a nation, some of the most important political questions that it has faced, and the strengths and weaknesses to the approaches Canadians have taken in matters involving principles of justice, federalism, democracy, diversity, etc.

Since this seminar will be offered over Zoom, some necessary adjustments may be made as we go along to the format and timing of classes in order to make it possible for everyone to get the most out of it.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts:

1. Leacock, Stephen, *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*
2. Fierlbeck, Katherine (ed.), *The Development of Political Thought in Canada: An Anthology* (University of Toronto Press)

Grading:

Weekly discussion journal: 10%

2 Papers: 40% (20% each)

Final Exam: 30%

Participation: 20%

Weekly Discussion Journal: Every week on Friday morning, students will submit a 1-2 page journal reflection on the assigned reading from Tuesday's class and the discussion that we had of it. Students will discuss two or three questions that were raised about the reading(s) in the seminar that they thought about more deeply after the discussion. Students should identify at least one question they would have liked to discuss or consider more carefully. (We will begin class discussions each Tuesday with a few minutes on these questions.)

Papers: Paper topics will be distributed (one for each reading). Unless otherwise announced, papers are due in class on the date the reading is scheduled. The due dates of the first paper will depend on the topic selected (sign-up sheet to be distributed). The second paper is due on November 24. Late assignments will see a grade deduction of 2% per day. Extensions may be requested in advance of the due date, but not afterwards.

Participation: All students are expected to:

- 1) Read assigned material carefully.
- 2) Be prepared to discuss the readings over Zoom.
- 3) Have hard copies of the readings with them during the Zoom seminar.
- 4) Avoid: (a) excessive absences from or lateness to our seminars; (b) being or appearing inattentive to seminars; (c) engaging in conversations with others outside of the Zoom seminar during class time.

Participation marks are not free:

- Consistently meeting these expectations will earn a mark in the B range (70-79%).
- Consistently meeting these expectations AND regularly participating thoughtfully in our discussions will be required for a mark in the A range (80-100%).
- Failure to follow even one of the expectations may result in an extremely low grade.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is expected of all Lakehead University students. It should go without saying that cheating, collusion, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to make themselves fully familiar with Lakehead's policies in this area. Although all these policies will be enforced in full, it is worth emphasizing the following:

PLAGIARISM INVOLVES PRESENTING ANOTHER'S WORK, IDEAS, THEORIES, OR INTERPRETATION AS ONE'S OWN.

To avoid plagiarism, always:

- 1) Put quotation marks around any words taken from sources.
- 2) Paraphrase material completely; do not simply rearrange words from a source or change them using a thesaurus, etc.
- 3) Whether it is being quoted or paraphrased in your work, always give accurate and complete citations for all material that comes from another source.
- 4) Avoid borrowing entire arguments or ideas from another writer. Your arguments should be original to you.

COURSE OUTLINE

NOTE: Readings and schedule will be adjusted as necessary at the instructor's discretion. Of course, Zoom is an imperfect forum for discussion, so as we proceed with the seminar, I may find it necessary to make changes as needed to the structure of class discussions. I greatly appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

Week 1	09/08	Course Syllabus & Introduction		
Week 2	09/15	Fierlbeck	Ch. 1 – Lord Durham Ch. 2 – Henri Bourassa Ch. 14 – Rene Levesque	p. 15-32 p. 33-40 p. 239-256
Week 3	09/22	Wilfrid Laurier, <i>Speech on Political Liberalism</i> Fierlbeck	Ch. 11 – Pierre Trudeau	p. 155-176
Week 4	09/29	Fierlbeck	Ch. 7 – Lester Pearson Ch. 9 – Kari Levitt Ch. 13 – Gad Horowitz	p. 113-124 p. 125-144 p. 207-238
Week 5	10/06	Fierlbeck Janet Ajzenstat, <i>Liberalism and Nationality</i>	Ch. 6 – C.B. MacPherson	p. 79-98
FALL STUDY WEEK 10/12 – 10/16				
Week 6	10/20	Fierlbeck	Ch. 16 – James Tully Ch. 17 – Will Kymlicka Ch. 18 – Michael Ignatieff	p. 275-294 p. 295-310 p. 311-321
Week 7	10/27	Fierlbeck	Ch. 15 – Charles Taylor Charles Taylor, <i>Politics of Recognition</i>	p. 259-274
Week 8	11/03	George Grant, <i>Politics and Rationality</i>		
Week 9	11/10	Fierlbeck	Ch. 12 – George Grant	p. 177-206
Week 10	11/17	Leacock, <i>Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town</i> , Preface & Ch. 1-3		
Week 11	11/24	Leacock, <i>Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town</i> , Ch. 4-9		
Week 12	12/01	Leacock, <i>Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town</i> , Ch. 10-12		