

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 3215 WA  
ONTARIO POLITICS  
Monday and Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 P.M. AT 2019**

**Professor:** Saku Pinta  
**Email:** sapinta@lakeheadu.ca  
**Office Hours:** Monday 3:00 – 5:00 P.M. or by appointment  
**Office:** RB 2031

**Required Textbook:** Graham White (ed.), The Government and Politics of Ontario, Fifth Edition, University of Toronto Press, 1997.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is provide you with an in-depth overview of Ontario political history (1943-2003) and the evolving ideological underpinnings of the major political actors. While emphasis will be placed on parliamentary politics on the provincial level and the three major political parties, attention will also be devoted to the contributions of labour and social movements to political discourse in Ontario. The first part of the course, up to the midterm break, will be focused on various themes related to the socio-economic and institutional setting of politics in Ontario. The second half will be concerned primarily with examining the performance and policies of four different Ontario governments: the Progressive Conservative Party during the 'Big Blue Machine' era (1943-1985), the Liberal Party (1985-1990), the New Democratic Party and the 'Social Contract' (1990-1995), and the 'Common Sense Revolution' of the Progressive Conservatives (1995-2003).

### **GRADING**

**Research Paper** (due April 4, 2011 12 PM): 50%

The research paper will be 10 pages in length, double spaced. The preferred method of submission is by email as a Word attachment. A list of sample topics will be provided prior to the midterm break. You may also choose your own topic as long as it relates to Ontario politics and the themes discussed in the course, but are strongly encouraged to speak to me about your choice of research question. Research papers are expected to adhere to the standards of academic writing, including proper referencing and a bibliography. As per university regulations, plagiarism or other instances of academic misconduct will be graded with a zero. The penalty for late papers is 5% per day.

**Participation:** 10%

You will be assigned a participation grade based on two components. First, attendance, which will be determined by use of a regularly circulated (although not necessarily for every class) attendance sheet. Second, participation in classroom discussions and questions posed to guest speakers will be noted. There will be no fewer than 3 guest speakers. Attendance during these sessions is critical for your participation grade.

**Final Exam** (date to be determined): 40%

## **LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: Course Introduction**

### **Week 2: Ontario Politics: The Historical and Socio-Economic Setting**

#### *Required Reading*

Ch.2: The Socio-Economic Setting of Ontario Politics, Rand Dyck

Ch.3: *Sic Permanent*: Ontario People and Their Politics, Desmond Morton

### **Week 3: The Legislature**

January 17: Guest Speaker, MPP Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines

#### *Required Reading*

Ch. 4: The Legislature: Central Symbol of Ontario Democracy, Graham White

### **Week 4: The Electoral System and Public Administration**

#### *Required Reading*

Ch.5: Making and Implementing the Decisions: Issues of Public Administration in the Ontario Government, Richard Loreto

Ch.8: Elections and Campaigning: 'The Blew Our Doors Off on the Buy', Robert Drummond and Robert MacDermid

### **Week 5: Regionalism and Political Culture**

January 31: Guest Speaker, Journalist and Writer Jon Thompson discusses Northern Alienation

#### *Required reading*

Ch.3: The Ontario Political Culture: An Interpretation, Sid Noel

Ch.12: Politics and Policy in the North, Geoffrey Weller

### **Week 6: Local Government and the Role of the Media**

#### *Required reading*

Ch.6: Local Government in Ontario, David Siegel

Ch.10: Spinning Tales: Politics and the News in Ontario, Fred Fletcher and Rose Sottile

### **Week 7: Labour and Social Movements in Ontario**

February 16: Guest Speaker, Paul Pugh, McKellar Ward City Councillor and President of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 1075, discusses the labour movement in Ontario

### **Week 8: Midterm Break (February 21-25)**

### **Week 9: The Progressive Conservative Party, Red Toryism, and the Big Blue Machine (1943-1985)**

### **Week 10: The Liberal-NDP Accord and David Peterson's Liberals (1985-1990)**

### **Week 11: The NDP and the Social Contract (1990-1995)**

#### *Required Reading*

Ch.14: An Insiders' View of the NDP Government of Ontario: The Politics of Permanent Opposition Meets the Economics of Permanent Recession, Chuck Rachlis and David Wolfe

### **Week 12: The Progressive Conservative Party and Mike Harris' 'Common Sense Revolution' (1995-2003)**

#### *Required Reading*

Ch.15: Reclaiming the 'Pink Palace': The Progressive Conservative Party Comes in from the Cold, Peter Woolstencroft

Ch. 16: The Harris Government: Restoration or Revolution?, Thomas Walkom

### **Week 13: Dalton McGuinty's Liberals: A Preliminary Evaluation**

### **Week 14: Exam Review – Research Papers Due**