

PS 2213
Canadian Political Processes
Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
BB 1075

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Objective of course

The objective of this course is to introduce the student to Canadian Civics and Canadian political processes in order to better grasp the pertinent issues facing Canadians today. This course focuses on issues related to Canadian governance and its impact on you as a member of the Canadian society. We will be looking at Canadian institutions including the Constitution, Charter of Rights and Freedoms, federalism. Further, we will explore the electoral system, public policy making and how these and other processes affect Canadians and governance in Canada.

Format

The course will be comprised of lectures and class discussion. The readings and class discussions complement rather than substitute for the lectures. All students are expected to do the readings for each class and be prepared to present arguments and general findings, as well as to provide constructive comments and criticisms. A final exam will be held during the exam period where the student will be tested on all the material covered in class.

Required Text

Rand Dyck and Christopher Cochrane, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches*, 7th ed. Toronto:

Nelson Education, 2014

There is a student resource website that accompanies this textbook. It includes text updates, practice test questions and other useful information. See

http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780176509460&template=NELSTON

Other items have been placed on reserve at the Library

Evaluation

Chapter Review/Analysis I (750 words) Due date varies	10%
Chapter Review/Analysis II (750 words) Due date varies	10%
Mid-term exam (in class, October 17, 2013)	20%
Research Paper Proposal Due November 5, 2013	5%
Research paper (2000-2500 words) Due November 19, 2013	25%
Final Exam (during the formal exam period)	30%

Schedule and Required Readings

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

September 10 & 12: Introduction, Studying Politics

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 1 “Approaching the Study of Politics”

September 17 & 19: Institutional Foundations and the State

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 2: “Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State”

September 24 & 26: Elections

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 13: “Elections and the Electoral System.”

October 1 & 3: The Election Campaign

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 15: “Voting and Elections Campaign.”

N.B. Additional readings may be added

October 8 &10: Parties and Party Systems

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 14: “Political Parties and the Party System.”

October 15: Governing

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 21: “The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet”

October 17: In class mid-term

October 22 & 24: Governing II

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 21: "The Executive: Crown, Prime Minister, and Cabinet"
Dyck and Cochrance ch. 22: "The Bureaucracy."

October 29 & 31: Governing III

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 23: "Parliament"
Dyck and Cochrance ch. 24: "The Judiciary"

November 5 & 7: Policy Making

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 20: "The Policy Making Process and Policy Instruments"

November 12 & 14: Federalism

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 18: "The Federal System."

November 19, 21, & 26: The Canadian Constitution and Civil Rights

Dyck and Cochrance ch. 17 "The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Change
Dyck and Cochrance Ch 19 "The Charter of Rights and Freedoms"

November 28: Wrap up and review

Participation and Attendance:

All students are expected to attend class. In addition, all students are expected to carefully prepare for each class by reading 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.

Chapter Review/Analysis: 10%

Due dates vary. Please consult the Schedule and Required Readings for specific due dates.

Chapter Reviews I & II

At the end of each chapter, a list of discussion questions is provided by the author. One question (chosen by the professor) for each chapter are listed below.

You are required to choose one chapter for each Chapter Review Assignment and answer the question listed for that chapter.

For Chapter Review I, you can choose, chapter 2, 13, or 15.

For Chapter Review II, you can choose chapter 24, 20, or 18.

Be mindful of the due date. Each chapter has a different due date.

The chapter reviews are not simply summaries. Rather each review should be a critical analysis of the issues raised in the assigned readings and class discussion.

Proper essay format must be followed. You must construct a clear and concise thesis statement (main argument) for each answer to the questions and support it with clear and logical arguments.

Each chapter review should be approximately 750 words. You should use 12" font (times new roman), 1" margin. Do not tinker with font size, margin and/or spacing. Such manipulations are obvious.

Spelling and grammar count.

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 document medical excuse or death in the family.

Chapter Review Essay 1: 10% Due dates vary (see below)

Choose ONE chapter and answer the question listed:

**(1) Chapter 2, “Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State”:
Due September 24, 2013**

Is there an inherent contradiction between the British parliamentary system and the American federal system? Explain.

(2) Chapter 13, “Elections and the Electoral System”: Due October 1, 2013

Given the peculiar distribution of the Canadian population, to what extent should we adhere to the principle of “representation by population”?

(3) Chapter 15, “Voting and Elections Campaign”: Due October 8, 2013

Is the distribution of media time during election campaigns fair? If not, how could it be improved?

Chapter Review Essay 2: 10% Due dates vary (see below)

Choose ONE chapter and answer the question listed:

(1) Chapter 24, “The Judiciary”: Due November 4, 2013

Should all vestiges of patronage be removed from the appointment of judges, or have existing reforms in this area gone far enough?

**(2) Chapter 20, “The Policy Making Process and Policy Instruments”:
Due November 12, 2013**

Do all demands have an equal chance of coming to the attention of the prime minister and the Cabinet? Why? Why not?

(3) Chapter 18, “The Federal System”: Due November 21, 2013

Are you a centralist or a decentralist? Why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of centralisation and decentralisation in Canadian federalism?

The paper should be handed in to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Mid Term Exam: 20%

In class: October 17, 2013

There will be a one hour and 15 minute mid-term exam held during class on October 24, 2013. The required exam will cover all reading materials, lectures and discussion.

Research Paper Proposal 5%

Due no later than November 9, 2013

Each student is required to submit a research paper proposal no later than March 18th 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

Term Paper Assignment: 25%

Due no later than November 19, 2013

Essays must be 8 – 10 double spaced pages (2000 – 2500 words). You should use 12 pt font (times new roman), 1" margin. Do not tinker with font size, margin and/or spacing. Such manipulations are obvious. Spelling and grammar count.

This is an academic paper. You are required to have a minimum of three academic sources (this does not include the required readings). Non-academic sources (newsmagazines, newspapers, etc.) are permissible, but only to bolster the academic sources. Do not use Wikipedia or dictionary.com.

The introduction should outline the organizational structure of the paper and your main argument. The conclusion should briefly summarize the argument(s) presented.

You must present a clearly defined thesis. Your thesis statement must be supported by logically constructed arguments. Anticipate and address criticisms of your main arguments and defend them against the opposing arguments.

Proper essay format is required. If in doubt, consult a style guide on the proper format for bibliography and footnotes.

The first person ("I") may be used sparingly.

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

Include a clear introduction and conclusion.

Submit your paper to me in person in class or during my office hours.

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.

Essay topics will be distributed in class.

Please keep a copy of your paper.

Final Exam

There will be a two-three hour exam held during the formal exam period. The required exam will cover all reading materials, lectures and discussion.

Please note, the course outline is subject to change.