Instructor: **Normand Perreault** (Department of Political Science)

Classroom: RB 3044

Class time: Monday and Wednesday 5:30 – 7:00

Office: RB 2035

Email: nperreault@lakeheadu.ca

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 14:30 – 15:00, or by appointment

**Course description:**

This course provides a broad survey of Quebec society and politics. During the course of the semester, we will examine a number of key historical moments and important political issues that have defined the politics of Quebec, and have had a profound impact on the politics of Canada.

We will begin by addressing the question of agency in Quebec politics. How do communities come to see themselves as the active subject of their own political actions? How are historical narratives constructed and to what effect? How do those historical narratives evolve in reaction to encounters with ‘others’ and in reaction to new events and new historical interpretations? This line of questioning will allow us to examine how Quebec identity has taken form, over a period of 400 years, and how it has dealt with changing circumstances.

In the next portion of the course, we will explore the Canadian constitutional debate as it is perceived within Quebec society, and we will examine how this debate has shaped and reshaped the Canadian political landscape. We will then examine the processes of state-building and institution-building, and some the issues related to linguistic politics, immigration, modernization and globalization.
Evaluation:

The evaluation will consist of three (3) short essay papers, each 1,500 words maximum, and each worth 20% of the total grade.

- The first short paper is due in class on October 1st
- The second short paper is due in class on November 12th
- The third short paper is due in class on December 1st

There will also be one (1) longer midterm research paper (4,000 words maximum) worth 40% of the total grade.

- This longer research paper is due in class on November 3rd

Late assignments are not accepted.

Grading scale:

All components of this course will receive numerical grades. Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to the following Grade Conversion Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Course Average (Range)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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**Required readings:**


- Additional readings will be distributed to the class during the course of the semester.

**Outline of weekly lectures and readings**

**Week 1 (8 and 10 September)**

*What history is and what it isn’t. A Quebec identity based on a common vision of history.*


**Week 2 (15 and 17 September)**

*Narrative and counter-narrative, continuity and discontinuity in Quebec’s historical discourse.*


**Week 3 (22 and 24 September)**

*Modern re-interpretations of history. Quebec within the narrative of Canadian history.*


**Week 4 (29 September and 1 October) (The first short paper is due in class on October 1st)**

*New ‘others’ and forgotten ‘others’: pluralism v. dualism.*

Week 5 (6 and 8 October)

Writing a new past in order to make sense of the future. The dialectic of empowerment. A quintessential Canadian story.

- Jocelyn Letourneau, A History for the Future: Rewriting Memory and Identity in Quebec, pp. 100-150.

Week 6 (15 October)

The constitutional debate: part I.

- Guy Laforest, “Making sense of Canada as a federal system: the relevance of historical legacies (in honour of the late Richard Simeon, 1943-2013)”. (by permission of the author)

Week 7 (20 and 22 October)

The constitutional debate: part II.


Week 8 (27 and 29 October)

State-building and institution-building in Quebec: the challenge of globalization and liberalization.

Week 9 (3 and 5 November) *(The midterm research paper is due in class on November 3rd)*

Political institutions in Quebec: a uniquely ‘American’ version of democracy?


Week 10 (10 and 12 November) *(The second short paper is due in class on November 12th)*

Linguistic politics in Quebec: never in solitude.


Week 11 (17 and 19 November)

Immigration and modernization: democratic renewal.


Week 12 (24 and 26 November)

New regional arrangements in a globalizing world: a new East-West dream?


Week 13 (1 December) *(The third short paper is due in class on December 1st)*

Struggling to have a voice on the world stage.