

Political Studies 405.3 (61)
Political Representation in Canada
St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. David McGrane
Time: Mondays, 2:30pm – 5:20pm
Office: 206 St. Thomas More College
Classroom: Murray 271
Phone: 966-8924
E-mail: david.mcgrane@usask.ca
Office Hours: Friday, 1:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment.

Course Description

The concept of political representation is crucial to contemporary democracy. This class will examine the processes and structures of political representation in Canada by focusing on Canadian political parties. The first part of the course is dedicated to exploring the ideology and organization of specific Canadian federal political parties. The second part of the course explores the dynamics and institutions of Canadian federal elections and political parties as well as how political interact with the media and the role that they play in our parliamentary institutions.

Course Requirements for Winter Term

- 1.) 10%- Attendance and Participation.
- 2.) 15%- Oral presentation. It is necessary to complete this assignment in order to pass the course.
- 3.) 45%- 15 page paper on a topic distributed by the instructor or on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. **Due on November 25, 2013.**
- 4.) 30%- Final Exam, date and time to be announced.

Papers should be in hard copy format. E-mailed assignments to the instructor will not be accepted. The Political Studies Department's policy is that late assignments are penalized 10% per week. All assignments must be submitted by the day of the final exam or they will be considered incomplete. Failure to complete all required course work will result in a final grade numeric grade of 49% and the along with the grade comment of INF (Incomplete Failure). All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date and late assignments must be submitted at subsequent classes or the day of the final exam at the very latest. Exceptions may be made, at the instructor's discretion, for students who contact the instructor regarding medical reasons or family emergencies before assignments are due. Documentation will be required in these cases. Please note that computer problems are not considered emergencies, so be sure that the computer you use is in good working order, and that you back up your work on a floppy disc and/or print out rough work and essay drafts.

Concerns about the marking of assignments are welcome. If the student has concerns about the mark that they received for an assignment, they are asked to submit a written memo of a half page to the instructor explaining their concern at the beginning of the class after the assignment has been handed back to the student. The instructor will then report back to the student on their concern.

Plagiarism

The St. Thomas More Faculty Council has adopted the following policy on plagiarism:

“St. Thomas More College follows the rules regarding Academic Dishonesty as delineated in the University of Saskatchewan Calendar. Of these, plagiarism is a particularly serious offence that involves presenting another person’s writing, ideas or creative work as your own. When quoting, paraphrasing, describing, presenting, summarizing or translating the work of others, you must acknowledge the source of the information you use, which includes ensuring that the reader can differentiate between your words and the words of others. Sources may come in print, electronic, digital, visual or oral form, and may be provided by a published author, fellow student, artist, or Internet site. Purchasing papers is not permitted. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism; when in doubt, consult your professor.”

It should also be noted that sub-section C of section 2 of the University of Saskatchewan’s *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct* defines academic misconduct as: "Using work done in one course in fulfilment of any requirement of another course unless approval is obtained from the instructor by whom the material is being evaluated." As such, you need my permission to use substantial portions of a paper that you have handed into another professor for our class’ final paper.

For further information see www.usask.ca/honesty

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student who is registered with the Office of Disability Services for Students, you may apply for unique services or arrangements to complete the requirements for this course. Normally, these services will be provided through the DSS office. If you have not yet registered with that office, please do so as quickly as possible.

Required Texts

Amanda Bittner and Royce Koop (editors), *Parties, Elections, and the Future of Canadian Politics*, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2013).

Jon Pammett and Christopher Dornan (editors), *The Canadian Federal Election of 2011*, (Toronto: Dundurn Publishing, 2011).

**** Lectures will heavily discuss the readings in the textbook but they will not summarize or replicate the readings. In class discussions, you will be expected to critically interact with the assigned readings. Thus, it is imperative for all students to read each of the readings **and bring their textbooks to class**.

Reading Schedule

All readings are required.

PEFCP = Parties, Elections, and the Future of Canadian Politics, CFE = The Canadian Federal Election of 2011

September 9th: Introduction to the study of Canadian political parties

September 16th: Brokerage Politics and the Canadian Party System

Kenneth Carty, "Has Brokerage Politics Ended? Canadian Parties in the New Century", Chapter 1 in PEFCP, Richard Johnston, "Situating the Canadian Case", Chapter 13 in PEFCP, Royce Koop and Amanda Bittner, "Parties and Elections after 2011: The Fifth Canadian Party System?", Chapter 14 in PEFCP.

September 23rd: CCF-NDP

David McGrane, "Political Marketing and the NDP's Historic Breakthrough", Chapter 4 in CFE. Guest: Nettie Wiebe, Former Federal NDP candidate.

September 30th: Conservative Party of Canada

Faron Ellis and Peter Woolstencroft, "The Conservative Campaign: Becoming the New Natural Governing Party", Chapter 2 in CFE, Jim Farney and Jonathan Malloy, "Ideology and Discipline in the Conservative Party of Canada", Chapter 10 in CFE, Lawrence LeDuc and Jon Pammett, "Evolution of the Harper Dynasty", Chapter 12 in CFE. Guest: Brad Trost, MP for Saskatoon-Humboldt.

October 7th: Liberal Party of Canada

Brooke Jefferies, "The Disappearing Liberals: Caught in the Crossfire", Chapter 3 in CFE, Allison Harell, "Revisiting the 'Ethnic' Vote: Liberal Allegiances and Vote Choice among Racialized Minorities", Chapter 7 in PEFCP. Guest: Kevin Seesequasis, Organizer with the Liberal Party of Canada.

October 14th: CLASS CANCELLED. THANKSGIVING

October 21st: Third Parties

Éric Bélanger and Richard Nadeau, "The Bloc Québécois: Capsized by the Orange Wave", Chapter 5 in CFE, Susan Harada, "Party of One: Elizabeth May's Campaign Breakthrough", Chapter 6 in CFE.

October 28th: Voter Behaviour

Harold Clarke, Thomas Scotto, Jason Reifler, and Allan Kornberg, “Winners and Losers in the 2011 Federal Election”, Chapter 11 in CFE, Amanda Bittner, “Coping with Flux: The Impact of Information on Voters’ Perceptions of the Political Landscape, 1988-2011”, Chapter 12 in PEFCP, J. Scott Matthews, “When Partisans are Attacked: Motivated Reasoning and the New Party System”, Chapter 11 in PEFCP.

November 4th: Election Rules

Russell Williams, “Parties, Politics, and Redistribution: The Constitutional and Practical Challenges of Politicized Apportionment”, Chapter 7 in PEFCP, Harold Jansen and Lisa Lambert, “Too little, too soon: State Funding and Electoral District Associations in the Green Party”, Chapter 10 in PEFCP.

November 11th: CLASS CANCELLED. REMEMBRANCE DAY.

November 18th: Party Organization and Women in Partisan Politics

William Cross and Lisa Young, “Candidate Recruitment in Canada: The Role of Political Parties”, Chapter 2 in PEFCP, Alex Marland, “Constituency Campaigning the 2011 Federal Election”, Chapter 7 in CFE, Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, “Women Voters, Candidates, and Legislators: A Gender Perspective on Recent Party and Electoral Politics”, Chapter 6 in PEFCP.

November 25th: Media and Polling

Blake Andrew, Patrick Fournier, and Stuart Soroka, “The Canadian Party System: Trends in Election Campaign Reporting, 1980-2008”, Chapter 8 in PEFCP, Mary Francoli, Josh Greenberg, and Christopher Waddell, “The Campaign in the Digital Media”, Chapter 9 in CFE, André Turcotte, “Polls: Seeing through the Glass Darkly”, Chapter 8 in CFE. **Paper Due.**

December 2nd: Parties in Parliament

Kelly Blidook and Matthew Bryne, “Constant Campaigning and Partisan Discourse in the House of Commons”, Chapter 3 in PEFCP, Munroe Eagles, “Constituency and Personal Determinants of MPs’ Positions on Social Conservative Issues in the 37th and 38th Canadian Parliament”, Chapter 4 in PEFCP, Anthony Sayers, “City Ministers: The Local Politics of Cabinet Selection”

December 6th- December 21st, Final Exam: Exact date, time and location to be announced.