

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

POLS 9531B

Canadian Politics

Winter Term 2022-23

**INSTRUCTOR:** Cameron D. Anderson

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**OFFICE LOCATION:** SSC 7312

**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursday 1:00pm-2:00pm (or by appointment) on Zoom (meeting id will be posted on OWL course site)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an introductory overview of how political scientists study the politics of Canada. Rather than focusing solely on the details of particular institutions, actors, histories, or events, we will instead consider the main theoretical and methodological approaches used in the literature to analyze Canadian politics. Each week, the instructor and students will focus on a particular approach and discuss its analytical utility by assessing its underlying assumptions and its empirical applications to a variety of Canadian political phenomena and trends. Class discussion will also focus on the main themes and forces that characterize our domestic politics. No prior knowledge of Canadian politics is necessary, although having such knowledge would be an asset.

**COURSE READINGS:**

Selection of articles and book chapters available on OWL or online through the UWO Library system.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

25% Participation

25% Weekly Reading Summaries (8)

50% Written Work (see below)

**DISCUSSION OF COURSEWORK:**

**a) Class Participation** - As this is a graduate seminar course, there will be no lectures and students are expected to actively participate each week. **There is no grade for attendance.** The participation grade will be based on the quality of comment, evidence of preparation, willingness to challenge accepted ideas and concern for the views expressed by others. Students will be

given a preliminary grade for participation in the seventh week of the course. The final participation grade may change based on whether performance improves, declines or stays the same. Please note that it is expected that students attend every week. **Further, attending at least ten classes is a condition of passing the course.** If unable to attend, please inform the instructor in advance.

**b) Reading Summaries** - All students will be required to complete **eight** reading summaries from weeks two through twelve. These summaries should be used as a means of preparing for each week's class and are intended to provide you with an opportunity, in advance of class, to read, interact with and comment on the readings. The summary should be composed of three parts. The first part should state, in your view, the most important two or three themes arising from that week's readings. The second part should outline two or three insights gained from these readings. This is to say, what did you learn that you didn't previously know or understand? The final part of the summary should articulate questions that were generated from the readings. The summaries should not be longer than two double-spaced pages and will be due at the beginning of each class. **Please submit summaries through the OWL course page.** Depending on class size and progress of the term, each week students may be asked to provide a very brief oral report of their reading summary at the beginning of each class. Late summaries will not be accepted. Summaries will be graded on a 'check system'. Acceptable summaries will receive a '√'. Unacceptable or late summaries will receive a '√-'. On occasion, an unusually perceptive summary may receive a '√+'. For the term, an average of '√' will be equivalent to an 'A-' grade of 82%.

**c) Written Assignments –**

**MA Students – Option A – Theory Analysis Papers** - You are required to write three theory analysis papers: one from each of Weeks 3 to 4, Weeks 5 to 8 and Weeks 9 to 12. These papers should compare and apply two analytical/theoretical approaches to an issue or problem in Canadian politics of your choosing. Your paper will respond to the following question: Which theoretical approach provides the best analytical leverage to understanding your chosen issue/problem? The papers should include a discussion of the theoretical approaches (up to 2 pages), the problem in Canadian politics (up to 2 pages) and an application of the theoretical approaches to the issue/problem and a discussion of which theoretical approach provides the best analytical leverage (up to 4 pages). The papers should be 7-8 (double-spaced) pages long. These papers are due **February 7** (Weeks 3 to 4), **March 14** (Weeks 4 to 8) and **April 14** (Weeks 9 to 12). You are expected to write this paper relying only on course readings. You may, however, consider additional sources for this paper but it is neither required nor expected. Each paper will be worth 16.67% of your final grade.

**Option B:** Alternatively, in lieu of the three Theory Analysis papers, MA students may choose to write one Theory Analysis paper (7-8 pages) and a Research Note (14-16 pages). As listed on the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* website, "Research notes are shorter academic pieces.....that advance a new theoretical perspective, methodological approach, conceptualization, operationalization or descriptive analysis in political science." For this assignment, you should read the assigned course materials with an eye to identifying intellectual openings in the literature on Canadian Politics. There may be conceptual, empirical or theoretical gaps that you identify which could be the basis of this paper. Alternatively, you might

look to draw upon intellectual insights in other areas of political science (such as Comparative Politics, International Relations or Political Theory) to apply to our understanding of Canadian politics. Recent examples of Research Notes in the CJPS include:

- Jacques, O., & Bélanger, É. (2022). Deficit or Austerity Bias? The Changing Nature of Canadians' Opinion of Fiscal Policies. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 55(2), 404-417.
- Rivard, A., & Lockhart, M. (2022). Government Preferences, Vote Choice and Strategic Voting in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 55(3), 721-733.
- Sevi, S., Mendoza Aviña, M., & Blais, A. (2022). Reassessing Local Candidate Effects. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 55(2), 480-485.
- Wallace, R., Lawlor, A., & Tolley, E. 2021. "Out of an Abundance of Caution: COVID-19 and Health Risk Frames in Canadian News Media." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 54(2), 449-462.

Due dates for Option B will be as follows. The first Theory Analysis paper that you choose to do will be due on the due date for that paper as listed above. The due date for the Research Note will be the same date as the third Theory Analysis paper (**April 14**). Under Option B, the Theory Analysis paper will be worth 16.67% of your final grade and the Research Note will be worth 33.33%.

**PhD Students** – PhD students will complete Option B as described above.

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

### *Submission of Assignments:*

Assignments (both reading summaries and papers) are due at the beginning of class and must be submitted through the OWL course page. The third Theory Analysis paper and Research Note paper will be due at **12pm on April 14**.

### *Academic Offences:*

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf). All papers must be submitted through the turnitin program portal on the OWL course page.

### *Late penalty:*

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day. Assignments that are more than 1 week late will **not be accepted** for grading.

### *Extensions:*

Extensions are not given. However, when there are genuine and unavoidable family or medical circumstances an extension may be granted at the discretion of the professor.

## **Class Topics**

### **Week 1. January 10 – Course Introduction**

#### **Week 2. January 17 – State of the Discipline**

- Lucas, Jack. 2013. "A Century of Political Science in Canada." *Journal of Canadian Studies* 47 (2): 89-118.
- LaSelva, Samuel. 2017. "The Canadian Charter, the British Connection, and the Americanization Thesis: Toward a Montesquieuan Analysis of Rights and Their Protection." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 50 (4): 1061-1081.
- Rocher, Francois. 2019. "The Life and Death of an Issue: Canadian Political Science and Quebec Politics". *CJPS* 52 (4): 631-655.
- Starblanket, Gina. 2019. "The Numbered Treaties and the Politics of Incoherency." *CJPS* 52 (3): 443-459.
- Smith, Miriam. 2005. "Institutionalism in the Study of Canadian Politics: The English-Canadian Tradition." In Andre Lecours, ed, *New Institutionalism: Theory and Analysis*, UofT Press, pp. 101-127.
- Turgeon, Luc. 2014. "Introduction" In Turgeon, Papillon, Wallner, and White, Eds. *Comparing Canada: Methods and Perspectives on Canadian Politics*. Vancouver: UBC Press: 3-19.

#### **Week 3. January 24 – Rational Choice and Game Theory**

- Green, Donald and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *The Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory*. Yale University Press. Chapter 2.
- Belanger, Eric and Francois Petry, 2005. "The Rational Public? A Canadian Test of the Page and Shapiro Argument." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 17: 190-212.
- Blais, Andre. 2002. "Why is there so little strategic voting in Canadian plurality rule elections?" *Political Studies* 50: 445-454.
- Godbout, JF and Bjorn Hoyland. 2011. "Legislative Voting and the Canadian Parliament", *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 44 (2): 367-388.
- Flanagan, Tom. *Game Theory and Canadian Politics*. Toronto: UTP Chapter 2.
- Manfredi, Christopher 2003. "Strategic Behaviour and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms." In Patrick James et al., *The Myth of the Sacred: The Charter, the Courts, and the Politics of the Constitution in Canada*. McGill-Queens University Press.

#### **Week 4. January 31 – Institutions and Historical Institutionalism**

- Hodgson, Geoffrey M. 2006. "What are Institutions?" *Journal of Economic Issues* XL (1): 1-25.
- Fioretos, Orfeo and Tullia G. Falletti and Adam Shingate. 2016. "Historical Institutionalism in Political Science." *Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism* Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199662814.013.1
- Segatto, Catarina Ianni, Daniel Beland, and Gregory P. Marchildon. 2020. "Federalism, Physicians, and Public Policy: A Comparison of Health Care Reform in Canada and Brazil." *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* 22 (3): 250-265.
- Maioni, Antonia. 1997. Parting at the crossroads: The development of health insurance in Canada and the United States, 1940-1965. *Comparative Politics*, 29 (4): 411-431.

Allsop, Corrine and Emmanuelle Richez. 2021. "Representational commissions and policy making on Indigenous and women's issues: A case-study of the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party of Canada." *Canadian Public Administration*. 64 (1): 51-73.

### **Week 5. February 7 – Discursive Institutionalism**

- Schmidt, Vivian. 2008. "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse." *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 303-326.
- Alcantara, Christopher. 2013. "Ideas, Executive Federalism and Institutional Change: Explaining Territorial Inclusion in Canadian First Ministers' Conferences." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 46 (1): 27-48.
- Bradford, Neil. 2016. "Ideas and Collaborative Governance: A Discursive Localism Approach." *Urban Affairs Review* 52 (5): 659-684.
- Morden, Michael. 2016. "Theorizing the resilience of the Indian Act." *Canadian Public Administration* 59 (1): 113-133.
- Bhatia, Vandna and William Coleman. 2003. "Ideas and Discourse: Reform and Resistance in the Canadian and German Health Systems." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 36 (4): 715-739.

### **Week 6. February 14 – Sociological Institutionalism**

- Mackay, Fiona and Surya Monro and Georgina Waylen. 2009. "The Feminist Potential of Sociological Institutionalism." *Gender and Politics* Vol. 5 No. 2: 253-262.
- Basta, Karlo. 2020. "Performing Canadian State Nationalism through Federal Symmetry." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 26 (1): 66-84.
- Collier, Cheryl and Tracey Raney. 2018. "Canada's Member-to-Member Code of Conduct on Sexual Harassment in the House of Commons: Progress or Regress?" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51 (4): 795-815.
- Wiseman, Nelson. 2007. *In Search of Canadian Political Culture*. Vancouver: UBC Press, Chapters 1.
- McGrane, David and Loleen Berdahl. 2020. "Reconceptualizing Canadian Federal Political Culture: Examining Differences between Quebec and the Rest of Canada." *Publius: Journal of Federalism* 50 (1): 109-34.

\*\*\*\*\* February 21 - No Class - Reading Week \*\*\*\*\*

### **Week 7. February 28 – Regionalism**

- Cochrane, Christopher and Andrea Perrella. 2012. "Regions, Regionalism and Regional Differences in Canada: Mapping Economic Opinions." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 27: 829-854.
- Rocher, Francois. 2002. "The Evolving Parameters of Quebec Nationalism." *International Journal on Multicultural Societies* 4 (1): 1-21.
- Daoust, JF and Ruth Dassonneville. 2018. "Beyond Nationalism and Regionalism: The Stability of Economic Voting in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51 (3): 553-571.
- Diepeeven, Benjamin. 2018. "The Atlantic Challenge: How Political Science Understands Canada's Smallest Region." *American Review of Canadian Studies* 48 (4): 353-370.
- Henderson, Ailsa. 2004. "Regional Political Cultures in Canada". *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 37 (3): 595-615.

Banack, Clark. 2020. "Ethnography and Political Opinion: Identity, Alienation and Antiestablishmentarianism in Rural Alberta." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 54 (1): 1-22.

### **Week 8. March 7 – Canadian Political Economy**

Mahon, Rianne. 1993. "The New Canadian Political Economy Revisited: Production, Space, Identity," In R. Mahon, et al., eds., *Production, Space, Identity: Political Economy Faces the 21st Century*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, pp. 1-21.

Pilon, Dennis. 2006. "Explaining Voting System Reform in Canada: 1874 to 1960," *Journal of Canadian Studies*, 40 (3): 135-61.

Pilon, Dennis. 2017. "The Contested Origins of Canadian Democracy." *Studies in Political Economy* 98 (2): 1-19.

McBride, Stephen. 2003. "Quiet Constitutionalism in Canada: The International Political Economy of Domestic Institutional Change." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 36:2, pp. 251-274.

Graefe, Peter. 2018. "State rescaling, institutionalized state-citizen relationships and Canadian health policy." *Studies in Political Economy* 99 (2): 175-193.

### **Week 9. March 14 – "Old" Identities**

Cochrane, Christopher. 2010. "Left/Right Ideology and Canadian Politics." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 43 (3): 583-605.

Stewart, Marianne and Harold Clarke. 1998. "The Dynamics of Party Identification in Federal Systems: The Canadian Case." *American Journal of Political Science* 42 (1): 97-116.

Merkley, E. (2021). *Ideological and Partisan Bias in the Canadian Public*. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 54(2), 267-291.

Goodyear-Grant, Elizabeth and Julie Croskill. 2011. "Gender Affinity Effects in Vote Choice in Westminster Systems: Assessing "Flexible" Voters in Canada." *Politics & Gender* 7 (2): 223-250.

Sevi, Semra, V. Arel-Bundock and A. Blais. 2019. "Do Women Get Fewer Votes? No." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 52 (1), 201-210.

### **Week 10. March 21 – "New" Identities**

Nath, Nisha, Ethel Tungohan and Megan Gaucher. 2018. "The Future of Canadian Political Science: Boundary Transgressions, Gender and Anti-Oppression Frameworks." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51 (3): 619-642.

Sabin, Jerald. 2014. "Contested Colonialism: Responsible Government and Political Development in Yukon." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 47 (2): 375-396.

McCrossan, Michael and Kiera Ladner. 2016. "Eliminating Indigenous Jurisdictions: Federalism, The Supreme Court of Canada, and Territorial Rationalities of Power." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 49 (3): 411-431.

Cole, Peter. 2002. "Aboriginalizing Methodology: Considering the Canoe." *Qualitative Studies in Education* 15: 447-459.

Leblanc, Deanne Aline Marie. 2021. "The Roles of Settler Canadians within Decolonization: Reevaluating Invitation, Belonging and Rights." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 54 (2): 356-373.

### **Week 11. March 28 – Immigration**

- Banting, K. and Soroka, S., 2020. A distinctive culture? The sources of public support for immigration in Canada, 1980–2019. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 53(4), pp.821-838.
- Bastien, F., The news media organizations and public opinion on political issues. In Anderson and Turgeon (eds.) *Comparative Public Opinion* (pp. 310-330). Routledge.
- Besco, R. and Tolley, E., 2018. Does everyone cheer? The politics of immigration and multiculturalism in Canada. *Federalism and the welfare state in a multicultural world*, pp.291-318.
- Harell, A., Soroka, S., Iyengar, S. and Valentino, N., 2012. The impact of economic and cultural cues on support for immigration in Canada and the United States. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 45(3), pp.499-530.
- Paquet, M., 2019. Province building and the federalization of immigration in Canada. University of Toronto Press. Introduction and Chapter 1.

### **Week 12. April 4 – Canadian Democracy**

- Cross, William. Ed. 2010. *Auditing Canadian Democracy*. Vancouver: UBC Press. Chapters 1, 3-8.
- Hogg, Peter H. and Allison Bushell. 1997. "The Charter Dialogue Between Courts and Legislatures (Or Perhaps the Charter Of Rights Isn't Such a Bad Thing)". *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 35: 75-105.