

Grande Prairie Regional College

PO 2210 (Section T2 & TC): Introduction to the Canadian Political Environment

Course Dates/Times: Friday 11:30 am – 12:50 pm
Monday: 1:00 – 2:20 pm
Term: Fall 2009

Instructor: Dawn Moffat McMaster
Office: C405
Phone: 539-2894

Email: dmcmaster@gprc.ab.ca

Office hours: Tues., 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Wed., 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

I am also available outside these hours by appointment.

Course Credit: 3 credits

Student Contact Hours:

Transferability: UA, UC, UL, AU, CUC,
KUC, Other¹

Delivery Mode: Lecture – live & via
videoconference

Prerequisites: None

College Calendar Course Description:

This course examines the cultural, social and economic context in which political actors in Canada seek to protect and advance their interests and power. Attention is given to divisions or cleavages as well as unifying elements. Topics will include language, culture, political culture, economic class cleavages, gender, ethnic diversity, political socialization and social movements, interest groups and Canada's external political environment provided by the United States and the rest of the world.

Course Objectives:

This course, along with PO2220: Introduction to Canadian Political Institutions, Federalism and the Constitution, constitutes a full year introduction to Canadian politics. The two courses provide preparation for further studies in Canadian politics at the post secondary level.

Required Texts:

- Rand Dyck. Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 5th edition. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson, 2008.
- Will Ferguson. Why I Hate Canadians, 10th Anniversary Edition. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2007.
- Course Package to be purchased from the bookstore.
- Internet and database readings as listed in the syllabus.
- Occasional readings assigned by instructor in class.

¹ Please note that transfer to some institutions requires that you complete both PO 2210 & 2220. Please consult your advisor to ensure you have the correct requirements for the institution you plan to transfer to.

Course Policies:

Full participation in class will require:

- Demonstration that you have completed the assigned readings.
- An active role in group work and class discussions.
- Completion of all course requirements on time.
 - You are expected to reference sources fully and properly for your papers. My preferred style is MLA (a guide is available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>), but any proper citation style (i.e. Chicago, APA) will be accepted.
 - Assignments will be submitted on paper in class, and electronically by 5 p.m. on the due date. Paper copies are easier for me to read, and allow me to provide you with notes on specific elements of your assignment. Electronic copies provide me with the option of submission to an online plagiarism detection service in the case that plagiarism is suspected. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE COPY WHICH IS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY MATCHES THE PAPER COPY RECEIVED IN CLASS.
 - Late assignments will be docked 3% for each day they are late. If extenuating circumstances necessitate an extension on an assignment, you are required to speak with me AHEAD OF TIME, and appropriate paperwork (i.e. a medical note) may be required. Also, please note that you are required to write the final exam on the date scheduled by the College. You should take this into account when making any travel plans.

For information on key dates and other important matters, please refer to the GPRC Calendar.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences (i.e. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: A Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty) and/or suspension or expulsion from the College).

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Rights & Responsibilities section of the GPRC Calendar, available online at www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/.

If I suspect plagiarism on assignments, I reserve the right to submit these to an online plagiarism detection service, as specified on p. 49 of the GPRC Calendar.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a physical, sensory or learning disability, please let me know. We can contact the designated advisor in Student Services to arrange and facilitate a variety of accommodations, on an individual case basis, to make this class work for you. For more information, please visit www.gprc.ab.ca/students/disabilities/.

Classroom Conduct:

GPRC has committed to promote an environment free of harassment or discrimination where respect will be given to ethnic, cultural, religious, and lifestyle diversity, and expects individuals will conduct themselves with respect for one another. This means your behavior should exhibit respect for yourselves, each other, the instructor, and the course material. As such:

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared.
- Laptops and cellphones are permitted in class, with a few caveats.
 - Cellphones should be on silent or vibrate mode, and I expect you wait to check calls or messages until after class. If an emergency requires otherwise, I expect you to advise me at the beginning of class.
 - Laptops are to be used for class work ONLY. Students carrying out other activities will be asked to leave their laptops at home.
- Working on assignments for other courses is not permitted. Students doing so will be asked to leave the class.
- Expressing criticism or annoyance with a view expressed by another person, either through a comment, audible noise, facial expression or body language, unless you are prepared to debate your position openly in class.
- Regular attendance. If you know you are going to be absent from class, I expect you to contact me prior to class with a reason. Students who miss an excessive number of classes may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar on p. 45.

Course Evaluation Requirements:

Participation	10%
Group Presentation	15%
Midterm Exam.....	20%
Term Paper.....	25%
Final Exam.....	30%

Participation: You will be required to complete 5 in-class quizzes or assignments at random throughout the semester. Each assignment will be worth 2% the participation grade.

Group Presentation:

Students will be divided into groups of 3 – 5 people and choose a presentation date on the first day of class. You will work with your fellow students to create a 10 – 15 minute presentation on an political event of significance to Canadian political culture. You will receive a handout in class with further details on this assignment.

Term Paper: You will be required write an 8 – 10 page paper on topic within the broad category of Canadian political culture. I will supply you with a handout in class which will outline in greater detail what I expect from this paper. The paper will be **due on Mon., Nov. 23** at the beginning of class.

Midterm & Final Exam: My exams generally have short and long answer questions, as well as some multiple choice or matching questions. The mid-term will obviously deal with material covered to date. The final exam will be cumulative, although emphasis will be on the second half of the semester.

Marks will be given in percentages before being converted to a letter grade.

Conversion table:

A+	90 – 100%	B+	76 – 79%	C+	67 – 69%	D+	55 – 59%
A	85 – 89%	B	73 – 75%	C	64 – 66%	D	50 – 54%
A-	80 – 84%	B-	70 – 72%	C-	60 – 63%	F	0 – 49%

For conversion to the 4-point grading scale, please see the Academic Regulations and Grading section of the GPRC Calendar, available online at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/>.

Schedule of Lectures & Readings (subject to alteration, upon consent of instructor and students)	
Sept. 3 – 4 (Week 1)	Unit I: Overview of Canadian Political System A. Introduction
Sept. 7 – 11 *Mon., Sept. 7 – Labour Day (Week 2)	B. Studying Canada Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text. Ch. 1 “Approaching the Study of Politics.”
Sept. 14 – 18 (Week 3)	C. Inventing Canada: Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 2 “Institutional Foundations and the Evolution of the State.”
Sept. 21 – 25 (Week 4)	Unit II – Canadian Political Landscape A. Canadian Political Culture Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text. Ch. 11, p. 239 – 57 “The Canadian Political Culture.” • Ferguson text. Ch. 6 “Voyageurs & Habitants,” 7 “Loyalists & Other Losers,” & 11 “America is Sexy” • Wikipedia, “Canadian Identity.” Approx. 9 pages.
Sept. 28 – Oct. 2 (Week 5)	B. Cleavages: Class, Age, Region & Location Readings: Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 8 “Class Cleavages”, Age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 9, p. 201 – 204 “Age” • Ferguson text, Ch. 5 “Disco Nationalism.” • David K. Foot. “Canadian Priorities Agenda: Population Aging.” <u>Policy Options</u>. Sept. 2008. (Retrieve from Library Database.) • CP: C. Richard Tindal, “Shoring Up the Safety Net.” P. 273-86, 298-300.

	<p>Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 3 “Regionalism” • CP: J.M.S. Careless, "The Myth of the Downtrodden West." P. 30-4, 36 • CP: David Elton, "Federalism & the Canadian West." P. 346-62 <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 9, p. 191 – 196 “Urban/Rural Location.”
<p>Oct. 5 – 9</p> <p>(Week 6)</p>	<p>C. Aboriginal Peoples</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 4 “Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples.” • Ferguson text, Ch. 12 “Our Home on Native Land,” and 13 “A Few Choice Words.” • CP: Georges Erasmus & Joe Sanders, "Canadian History: An Aboriginal Perspective." P. 365-70 • CP: Townshend, Roger & Thomas Flanagan, “Can Native Sovereignty Coexist with Canadian Sovereignty?” P. 34 – 53.
<p>Oct. 12 – 16</p> <p>*Mon., Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving</p> <p>(Week 7)</p>	<p>D. French Canada & Quebec</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 5 “French Canada and the Quebec question.” • Ferguson text, Ch. 2 “Project Megapôle...” (p. 44 – end only), 15 “Death by Niceness,” & 16 “Giving Canada a Goose...” • Robert Sheppard, “Quebec nationalism, a long history,” CBC News, 23 November 2006. Also has title, “CBC News In Depth: The 39th Parliament – Harper at the helm,” at www.cbc.ca/news/background/parliament39/quebecnation-history.html • CP: Seymour, Michel & Michael Chong. “Is Recognition of Quebec as a Distinct Nation a Positive Step for Canada?” P. 135 – 157.
<p>Oct 19 – 23</p> <p>(Week 7 cont.)</p>	<p>E. French Canada & Quebec (cont.)</p> <p>Wed., Oct. 21: MIDTERM</p>
<p>Oct. 26 – 30</p> <p>(Week 8)</p>	<p>E. Ethnic groups, Multiculturalism, immigration & religion</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 6 “Ethnocultural Minorities” and Ch. 9, p. 197 – 200 “Religion.” • Ferguson text, Ch. 23 “In Praise of Hyphens...” • CP: Daiva Stasiulis and Yasmeen Abu-Laban, “Unequal Relations and the Struggle for Equality: Race and Ethnicity in Canadian Politics.” P. 371-97 • Possibly something from Russell Peters
<p>Nov. 2 – 6</p> <p>(Week 9)</p>	<p>F. Women & politics in Canada</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 7 Gender • Andrew Heard, “Women and Elections.” 8 pages at

	<p>www.sfu.ca/~aheard/elections/women.html.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP: Trimble, Linda. "The Politics of Feminism: An Introduction." P. 92 – 103 • CP: Trimble, Linda and Jane Arscott. "Counting for Something: Women in Politics Can Make a Difference." P. 123 – 156.
<p>Nov. 9 – 13 *Wed., Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day (Week 10)</p>	<p>G. Political participation & socialization Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 11, p. 258 – 62 "Political Participation," and Ch. 12, p. 269 – 74 "Political Socialization." • Ferguson text, Ch. 3 "Canada World Youth" & 4 "The Katimavik Generation." • Elections Canada, "Youth Electoral Participation – Survey and Analysis of Canadian Trends (October 2003)" 4 pages plus notes at http://www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=med&document=survey&ir=eveyou/forum&lang=e&textonly=false
<p>Nov. 16 – 20 (Week 11)</p>	<p>H. The Media Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 12, p. 274 – 86 "The Mass Media." • CP: Robert Hackett, "The News Media & Civic Equality: Watch Dogs, Mad Dogs, or Lap Dogs?" P. 197-212
<p>Nov. 23 – 27 (Week 12)</p>	<p>Unit III – Canada and the World A. Culture & politics Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyck text, Ch. 10 "Canada's External Environment: The United States and the World." • Simon Brault. "Arts and Culture as New Engines of Economic and Social Development." <u>Policy Options</u>. March-April 2005. (Retrieve from Library Database) <p>B. Economics, foreign ownership & trade agreements Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaine Haggart, Economics Division, Library of Parliament. "Canada and the United States: Trade, Investment, Integration and the Future." Available at http://dsp-psd.tpsgc.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/prb013-e.htm. • CBC News In Depth, "Security and Prosperity Partnership." 20 August 2007. 4 pages at http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/spp/. • Earl H. Fry. "Canada's Economic Relationship with the United States." <u>Policy Options</u>. April 2009. (Retrieve from Library Database) <p>Mon., Nov. 3 - Term Paper DUE</p>
<p>Nov. 30 – Dec. 4 (Week 13)</p>	<p>C. Security at home & abroad Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferguson text, Ch. 9 "From Suez to Somalia." • CP. Janice Gross Stein and Eugene Lang, "Canada in Kandahar: Making Choices," and endnotes. P. 284-304. 324-26). • "Why Are We There?" <u>Canada and the World Backgrounder</u>, May 2006. Approx. 6 pages. (Retrieve from Library database – CBCA).

	<p>D. Environment</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CP: Adkin, Laurie. "Ch. 18: Environmental Politics." P 237-49.• Gordon McBean. "The Environment and Energy Security: Obama and Harper Have Different Takes." <u>Policy Options</u>. April 2009. (Retrieve from Library Database)•
Dec. 7	Exam review