

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

POLITICAL STUDIES 2210

(Also the first half of PO2200 and POLS320)

INTRODUCTION TO THE CANADIAN POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

September - December 2005

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD

Office: C303

Telephone: 539-2996

e-mail: enders@gprc.ab.ca

Office hours: (fall term): Wed. 4-5 p.m.; Thurs. 1:30-3 p.m. and by appointment

Room:

Time: T/Th 11:30-12:50

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.

This course along with PO2210, Introduction to Canadian Political Institutions, Federalism and the Constitution, constitutes a full year introduction to Canadian politics. The two courses provide preparation [and serve as a prerequisite] for further studies in Canadian Politics at the postsecondary level.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation	10%
Midterm exam	30%
Essay	30%
Final exam	30%

NOTE: You are required to write the final exam on the date scheduled by the College. Take this into account when making any December travel plans.

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Required texts:

1. Rand Dyck, Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 4th edition. Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson, 2004.
2. Course Package.
3. Readings from the internet and data bases.

PLEASE NOTE: The details of this course outline are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

Topics

I. Introduction.

- A. What is Political Science. Approaches to study of Politics. Related job opportunities.
- B. Overview of Canadian Political System. How governments are formed. Amounts and distribution of government revenues, spending.

II. The Canadian Landscape.

- A. Canadian demographics - language, ethnicity, religion, population distribution, etc.
- B. Class cleavages and social programs.
- C. Regional cleavages. The West and western alienation. Ontario. Atlantic Canada. Regional economic development and equalization.
- D. Aboriginal peoples. Demographics. Social and cultural conditions. History in Canada. Land claims. Self-government.
- E. French Canada and Quebec. Demographics. Language and culture. Historical grievances. Quebec nationalism.
- F. Ethnic groups, multiculturalism and immigration.
- G. Women and politics in Canada.
- H. Canadian political culture. Political values. Democracy. Canadian identity.
- I. Political participation and socialization.
- J. Interest groups.
- K. The news media, diversity and unity, class and democracy.

[Note: Topics in Part III will be dealt with on a time-permitting basis.]

III. Canada and the World.

- A. Culture and politics. Broadcasting policy. Film. Magazine publishing.
- B. Foreign ownership and trade agreements.
- C. The military and Defence. The Canadian military. Peacekeeping. Other roles. Canada and the U.S. NATO and NORAD. Missile defence.
- D. Global warming and environmental policy.

Readings

Note that Policy Options articles from 1997 and after are available at www.irpp.org. Go to Policy Options and then back issues.

I. Introduction.

- A. What is Political Science. Approaches to study of Politics. Related job opportunities.
- Dyck, Chapter 1: "Approaching the Study of Politics"
- B. Overview of Canadian Political System. How governments are formed. Amounts and

distribution of government revenues, spending.
- Dyck, Chapter 2: "Institutional Foundations"

II. The Canadian Landscape.

A. Canadian demographics - language, ethnicity, religion, population distribution, etc.
- Dyck, Chapter 3, pp. 45-53. "Distance and Division."

B. Class cleavages and social programs.
- Dyck, Chapter 8: "Class Cleavages"
- (CP) C. Richard Tindal, "Shoring Up the Safety Net," pp. 273-86, 298-300.

C. Regional cleavages. The West and western alienation. Ontario. Atlantic Canada. Regional economic development and equalization.
- Dyck, ch. 3, pp. 53-65, "Regional Economic Differences," "Regional Economic Conflicts" and "Regional Economic Disparities"
- (CP) J.M.S. Careless, "The Myth of the Downtrodden West," pp. 30-4, 36
- (CP) David Elton, "Federalism & the Canadian West," pp. 346-62
- handout on the west in Canada
- (CP) Robert Krause, "Ontario: Canada Writ Small," pp. 102-4, 112-15.
- (CP) Charlton & Barker, first edition, Issue 23, "Is the Market the Solution to Regional Disparities?" pp. 414-29. Includes: Thomas Courchene, "A Market Perspective on Regional Disparities," and Donald Savoie, "Beyond the Market Approach"

D. Aboriginal peoples. Demographics. Social and cultural conditions. History in Canada. Land claims. Self-government.
- Dyck, Chapter 4: "Canada's Aboriginal Peoples"
- (CP) Georges Erasmus & Joe Sanders, "Canadian History: An Aboriginal Perspective," pp. 365-70
- Tom Flanagan, "The Inherent Problems of Aboriginal Self-Government" at www.conservativeforum.org/EssaysForm.asp?ID=6113
- (CP) John Olthius & Roger Townshend, "The Case for Native Sovereignty," pp. 81-4
- Alex McClean, "Review Essay: Aboriginal Peoples and Democracy in Canada" (especially re: Alan Cairn's book, Citizens Plus) at www.usask.ca/native_studies/NSR/Frames/Book%20Reviews/13-2/13-2REMcLean.html

E. French Canada and Quebec. Demographics. Language and culture. Historical grievances. Quebec nationalism.
- Dyck, Chapter 5: "The French-English Cleavage and the Quebec Question"
- (CP) David Bercuson, "Why Quebec & Canada Must Part," pp. 203-9
- (CP) David Koysis, "Why Political Divorce Must Be Averted," pp. 211-17

Recommended:

- Paul de Villers, "Why We Must Entrench Quebec's Francophone Heritage," Canadian

Speeches, April 1997, pp. 7-8

- Line Maheux, "Why the Distinct Society Idea is Tearing Canada Apart," Canadian Speeches, April 1997, pp. 3-7

(Access Canadian Speeches through CBCA database.)

F. Ethnic groups, multiculturalism and immigration.

- Dyck, Chapter 6: "Other Ethnic Groups and Multiculturalism"
- (CP) Yasmeen Abu-Laban & Christina Gabriel, "Security, Immigration and Post-September 11 Canada," pp. 290-305
- Elizabeth McIsaac, "Immigrants in Canadian Cities: Census 2001" in Policy Options, May 2003, pp. 58-63

G. Women and politics in Canada.

- Dyck, Chapter 7
- (CP) Sandra Burt, "Women and Canadian Politics," pp. 347-70

H. Canadian political culture. Political values. Democracy. Canadian identity.

- Dyck, Chapter 10, pp. 209-27
- (CP) Anthony Peacock, "Socialism as Nationalism," pp. 22-35
- David Montgomery, "Whoa, Canada," Washington Post, reprinted in the Edmonton Journal, 12 July 2003. Retrieve from ProQuest database.

I. Political participation and socialization.

- Dyck, Chapter 10, "Political Participation," pp. 227-31; Chapter 11, "Political Socialization," pp. 239-43

J. Interest groups.

- Dyck, Chapter 15: "Pressure Groups & lobbying"

K. The news media, diversity and unity, class and democracy.

- Dyck, Chapter 11, pp. 244-55
- (CP) Robert Hackett, "The News Media & Civic Equality: Watch Dogs, Mad Dogs, or Lap Dogs?" pp. 197-212
- Tom Kent, "Concentration with Convergence - Goodbye Freedom of the Press," Policy Options, October 2002, pp. 26-8

III. Canada and the World.

A. Culture and politics. Broadcasting policy. Film. Magazine publishing.

- Dyck, Chapter 9, "Global Influences on Canadian Culture," pp. 194-9
- TBA

B. Foreign ownership and trade agreements. NAFTA. WTO.

- Dyck, Chapter 9, "The Global Setting," pp. 176-181 and "Global Economic Influences on

Canada," pp. 184-91, 193-4
- TBA

C. The military and Defence. The Canadian military. Peacekeeping. Other roles. Canada and the U.S. NATO and NORAD. Missile defence.

- Dyck, Chapter 9, "Global Influences in Defence, Foreign, and Border Policies," pages 181-4
- J.L. Granatstein, "Canada's Army: A Profession Built in the Wars of One Century, Neglected for the Challenges of the Next," Policy Options, February 2003, pp. 80-85
- David Rudd, "Missile Defence Revisited: A Reality Check for Canada." 4 pages at www.ciss.ca/Comment_MissileDefence.htm
- Scot Robertson, "The Missile Defence Debate: Beyond the Dialogue of the Deaf." Policy Options, August 2003. 6 pp.
- Robert Harrison, "National Missile Defence: It is Rocket Science." Policy Options, November 2003. 3 pages.
- Ernie Regehr, "BMD - Pragmatic Issues Which Canada Must Address." 6 pages at www.ploughshares.ca/CONTENT/ABOLISH%20N.../DFAIT-NACDconsultations.htm

D. Global warming and environmental policy.

- Elizabeth May, "From Montreal to Kyoto," Policy Options, Dec. 2002/Jan. 2003, pp. 14-18
- Thomas d'Aquino, "A Business Case for Responsible Climate Change," Policy Options, Dec. 2002/Jan. 2003, pp. 50-2
- Debora Vannijatten & Douglas Macdonald, "Reconciling Energy & Climate Change Policies: How Ottawa Blends," pp. 72-88
- Douglas Macdonald and Debora VanNijnatten, "Sustainable Development and Kyoto Implementation in Canada: The Road Not Taken," Policy Options, July-August 2005, pp. 13-19.

Recommended:

- Lee-Anne Broadhead, "Canada as a rogue state: its shameful performance on climate change." International Journal Summer 2001, pp. 461-80.