

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

THE CANADIAN POLITY: POWER, PERSUASION, AND POLICY

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2221G (550)

2019

Dr. P.W. Nesbitt-Larking
Room A301
Tel.: 438-7224 ext. 286
pnesbitt@uwo.ca

Lecture: Thursday 15:30 -17: 30 W18

Complementary Hour: Tuesday 14:30 -15:30 W18

Office Hours: Monday 16:30 – 17:30 Tuesday 12:30 -13:30

Antirequisite(s): Political Science 2103A/B, 2130, 2133A/B, 2230E.

Prerequisite(s): Political Science 1020E

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Peter Russell, Francois Rocher, Debra Thompson, and Amanda Bittner (eds.)
(2016) *Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics* 2nd ed. Toronto:
Emond Montgomery

Miriam Smith (ed.) (2014) *Group Politics and Social Movements in Canada*
Toronto: University of Toronto Press

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Canadian Polity: Power, Persuasion, and Policy examines the dynamics of Canadian political life: What we believe, how come to believe it, how we are influenced, how we mobilize for political action, and what are the consequences. Topics include: Canadian political organizations and political associations, notably political parties and organized interests; the role of mediated politics and political communications; indigenous politics; the politics of diversity, notably in terms of gender, sexual identity, religion, and race; and elections and electoral behavior in Canada. The course concludes in an exploration of important Canadian policy issues.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Satisfactory achievement in this course is measured by the degree to which students demonstrate competence in the following assessable categories of expectation:

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge demonstrated both orally and in written form, through description, explanation, critical understanding and analysis of core course concepts, including: the 1969 White Paper, agrarian movements, Arctic sovereignty, the bias of communication, brokerage politics, business and politics, campaign dynamics, Canada in the world, Canada as an international actor, Canada-US relations, Canadian political organizations (parties, interest groups, social movements), Canadian medicare, multiculturalism in Canada, gender politics in Canada, race and ethnic politics in Canada, indigenous politics in Canada, democracy in Canada, Canadian political attitudes and opinions, elections and referenda in Canada, the Canadian electoral system, the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, Canadian voting behavior, Christian evangelical movements, communications technology, disability rights movement, diversity, environmental social movements, health social movements, human rights in Canada, Idle No More, immigration, Indigenous movements, interculturalism, the LGTB movement, the Occupy movement, organized labour and politics, party and class in Canada, parties as franchise organizations, race and political analysis, Reasonable Accommodation, religion and the vote, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, same sex marriage, social media, sound bites, Wasasc, women in political party organizations, .

Knowledge and understanding of the principal theories of Canadian political analysis: pluralism, elite theory, environmentalism, gender and ideology, Marxism, feminism, corporatism, neo-institutionalism, social movement theory, structuralism, postmodernism, rational choice theory, fragment theory, formative events theory, brokerage theory, populism.

Communication Skills: An ability to communicate Canadian political scientific information, arguments, and analyses with precision, relevance, and adequate style in writing and orally. An ability to write in the Canadian political science essay format and to address set questions under time-limited examination conditions. An ability to understand and apply scholarly documentation techniques appropriate to Canadian political science. A capacity to engage in reasoned dialogue and debate with others over theories, issues, and perspectives on Canadian politics and government.

EXPECTATIONS

Assignment drop-off

Essays and other written assignments must be handed to the instructor directly or placed in the essay drop-off box.

What Your Grades mean

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

- A+ 90-100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- A 80-89% Superior work which is clearly above average
- B 70-79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C 60-69% Competent work, meeting requirements
- D 50-59% Fair work, minimally acceptable
- F below 50% Fail

Course expectations and aspirations

- An expectation of self-directed, independent and active learning.
- An expectation of routine attendance in scheduled meetings.
- An expectation that assigned readings will be read thoroughly and annotated prior to scheduled meetings.
- An expectation that each student will participate in an active and relevant manner, contributing ideas and insights derived from the assigned reading.
- An aspiration toward precision, accuracy and clarity in oral communication, including active listening skills.
- An aspiration toward enhanced depth and breadth of learning as the course proceeds.
- An aspiration toward more critical and analytical thinking as the course proceeds and assignments are completed.
- An aspiration toward a continued curiosity toward new ideas and an openness toward others and their ideas.

Political Science Department Regulations

Late Penalties: It is the policy of the Department of Political Science to exact a penalty of 2 marks (i.e. 2 per cent of the grade on the assignment) per working day for late papers. Papers will not be accepted by instructors if they are more than two weeks late.

Documentation: Students must follow the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* Editorial Style Guidelines. Internet Documentation: All information obtained through the Internet must be cited in footnotes/endnotes and bibliographies. Internet citations must include all of the same information that is provided when citing a book or article. This includes the name of the author, name of the organisation that has posted the website, the title, the date the website was consulted, and the website address. For more details on proper electronic citation, consult the information desk at the Huron University College library. Assignment Drop-off: Essays and other written assignments must be handed to the instructor directly or placed in the essay drop-off box.

Class Attendance: You are strongly advised not to miss any class meetings. Important material, detailed instructions, information and insights on course themes, examinations, written work, course objectives and other essential matters will be presented in these hours.

ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES:

1. Participation. Ongoing assessment of the quantity and quality of student participation and background preparation: **20 per cent**
2. Weekly Responsive Assessment on Assigned Readings: **30 per cent** (starting in week 3)
3. Complementary Assignment (due March 4, 2019) **15 per cent**
4. Course Essay. An Assigned Essay (due April 1, 2019) : **35 per cent**

COURSE METHODS:

Course methods comprise assigned reading and essay reading research, formal essay composition, personal/journalistic/opinion-based writing, instructor-based exposition, large group seminar participation, small group seminar participation, and reader recognition/response written assignments under time-limited conditions.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Note: Each of the readings listed below is **REQUIRED**. Readings should be completed before the start of the specified week.

Week Beginning:

1. Jan. 7 **Acting and Thinking: Public Opinion and Political Movements**

Reading:

Smith, Introduction

2. Jan. 14

***Déjà vu* All Over Again! Political Parties**

Reading:

Russell et al., Chapters 21, 22, 24, 28

3. Jan. 21

Persuasion, Pressure and Passion: Social Movements in Canada

Reading:

Smith, Chapters 5, 12

4. Jan. 28

Bites, Tweets, and Election Nights: The Media and Politics

Reading:

Russell et al., Chapters 31, 32, 33, 34

5. Feb. 4

Nobody's Baby: Sex, Gender and Politics

Reading:

Smith, Chapters 7, 8

Russell et al., Chapters 20, 27, 29, 57, 60

6. Feb. 11

Still the Great White North?: Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism in Canada

Reading:

Smith, Chapter 6

Russell et al., Chapters 59, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70

7. Feb. 25

High Fidelity?: Religion and Politics in Canada

Reading:

Smith, Chapter 9

Russell et al., Chapters 28, 30

8. Mar. 4

Polls are for Dogs!: Elections and Electoral Behaviour

Reading:

Russell et al., Chapters 19, 23, 26, 30

9. Mar. 11

A Tribe Called Red: Indigenous Politics

Reading:

Smith, Chapter 10

Russell et al., Chapters 10, 58, 61, 62, 63, 64

10. Mar. 18

The Bosses and the Workers: Business and Labour in Canadian Politics

Reading:

Smith, Chapters 1, 2, 3

11 Mar. 25

Physical and Psychological Scars: Health and Ability Politics in Canada

Reading:

Smith, Chapters 13, 14

12. Apr. 1

The Global Boy Scout?: Canada in the World

Reading:

Russell et al., Chapters 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56