

CANADIAN POLITICS SUMMER 2004

Instructor: Dr. Ross E. Burkhart
Office: PAAW 126E, 426-3280, rburkha@boisestate.edu
Office Hours: 11:45-1:15 MTWTh, or by appt.

Course: POLS 327
Class Time: 9:40-11:40 MTWTh
Classroom: SN155

Overview: Welcome to Canadian Politics! / Bienvenue à la Politique Canadienne! This course is an upper-division course in the Political Science curriculum. It is designed to be an introduction to the Canadian political system. The course covers the democratic structure, institutions, political behaviors, political culture, and major political issues of Canada and Canadians. No prior experience studying Canadian politics is necessary, though students should have completed POLS 101 (American National Government) prior to enrolling in Canadian Politics, in order to gain an introductory understanding of political structures and processes in a democratic country. We will discover, however, that the Canadian political system differs from the U.S. political system in many important ways. For instance, Canada is a constitutional monarchy, it has a parliamentary form of government, it devolves significant power to the provinces, it is officially bilingual, and it is expressly multilateral in its foreign policy. Canada is different from the United States! / Le Canada est différent des Etats-Unis! I hope you will enjoy learning about Canadian politics.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students should

- have an overview of the Canadian political system including the basic workings of the three major institutions of Canadian federal government (executive, legislative, judicial);
- become familiar with the Canadian electoral system and process;
- be aware of the unique Canadian political culture;
- understand the federalism issues that define the relationship between the federal government in Ottawa and the provincial governments.

Texts (available at BSU Bookstore):

Jackson, Robert J., and Doreen Jackson. 2002. Canadian Government in Transition. 3rd edition. Toronto: Prentice-Hall.

Morton, Desmond. 2001. A Short History of Canada. 5th edition. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.

Grade Assessment:

Three exams, each worth 100 points. Exams will be given **June 16th**, **June 29th**, and **July 8th**. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Study guides will be made available to students at least three days prior to the exam dates.

Criteria for evaluating short answers:

- Does the short answer define the term or phrase in question?
- Does the short answer give the significance of the term or phrase in the study of Canadian politics?

Two short reports, each worth 30 points. Reports will be due **June 21st** and **July 1st**. Each report will be 2-3 typed pages, double-spaced, no smaller than 10 point font, and properly cited with at least three citations. **Late reports will receive a 10% grade deduction for each late day**. Students will write reports on two of the following five topics.

- Choose a current issue that is on the Canadian public agenda. How did the issue come to be on the public agenda? Why is it an important issue for Canadians? How can the issue be settled?
- Choose a single Canadian province. How did the province develop historically? What events helped to create its identity? How politically and economically powerful is the province in comparison to the other provinces of Canada?

- Choose a Canadian political leader, either provincial or national. What makes this leader be important? Charisma, family fortune, intellect, leadership skills, or some combination? What is this person contributing to Canadian politics?
- Choose a particular region of Canada: Atlantic, Québec, Central, Prairies, Western or the Arctic North. How would you describe the region's relationship to the federal government? Is the region close to or alienated from the federal government? Are the provinces and the federal government taking steps to remedy problems with the relationship, and if so, what are the steps?
- Choose an issue that is causing tension between Canada and the U.S. Why do Canadians perceive the issue to be an important one? What are the different perspectives on the issue? What efforts have Canada and the U.S. made to resolve the issue?

In-text citations are meant to show the source of every direct quotation used in the report, as well as when a passage in the report is paraphrased or its substance borrowed. Citations are also needed to make reference to facts that are not "common knowledge." Finally, citations give proper credit to a conclusion reached or an inference made by someone other than the author of the report. When a source is cited within the report, please put the author's last name, year of the publication / document and page number, e.g. (Burkhart 1997, 149).

Examples of bibliographic references are as follows.

Burkhart, Ross E. 1997. "Democracy and Income Distribution: Shape and Direction of the Causal Arrow." *Journal of Politics* 59: 148-64.

CBC News. 2004. "Mad Cow in Canada." <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/madcow/> (Accessed May 25, 2004.)

Woods, Shelton. 2004. *Japan: An Illustrated History*. New York: Hippocrene Books.

Criteria for evaluating the reports:

- Does the report answer the questions posed?
- Does the report provide evidence to support the answers given to the questions posed?
- Is the report written with proper grammar, correct spelling, logical organization, and appropriate sentence structure?

Election Monitoring, worth 20 points. We are fortunate to have a federal election take place during the majority of the course meetings. (The election will occur on June 28th.) Each student will pick a province and will select a newspaper to monitor from the following list of websites:

Alberta: www.edmontonjournal.com, www.calgaryherald.com
 British Columbia: www.vancouversun.com, www.canada.com/victoria/
 Manitoba: www.brandonsun.com
 Ontario: www.thestar.com, www.ottawasun.com
 New Brunswick: www.canadaeast.com
 Newfoundland: www.thetelegram.com
 Nova Scotia: www.herald.ns.ca, www.hfxnews.com
 Prince Edward Island: www.canada.com/maritimes/index.html
 Québec: www.montrealgazette.com, www.ledevoir.com
 Saskatchewan: www.canada.com/saskatoon/starphoenix/index.html

The student will submit **by 1:15pm on July 8th in my office** a two page report, double-spaced and typed, on the coverage of the election in the province. (No outside citations are needed for this assignment.) What issues were covered by the reporters? Which candidates were mentioned the most? Did the reports appear to focus more on the "election process" or the "public policy debate?"

Rules regarding grading criteria and deductions for late submissions are the same as for the short topical papers mentioned earlier in the syllabus.

Grade Points Allocation:

Exam 1 = 100 points

Exam 2 = 100 points

Exam 3 = 100 points

Paper 1 = 30 points

Paper 2 = 30 points

Election monitoring paper = 20 points

Total points in course = 380

Grade Distribution:

A = 342-380 points

B = 304-341

C = 266-303

D = 228-265

F = 0-227

Topics (No class on July 5th):

June 7th – 8th: Stories of Canadian origins. Reading: J & J ch 2, M 1:1-1:4

June 9th – 10th: Canada's democracy. Reading: J & J ch 1, M 1:5-1:7

June 14th – 15th: Canadian Confederation, and constitutional conundrum Reading: J & J ch 3 & Appendix; M 2:1-2:2

June 16th: First exam (first half of class period)

June 16th – 17th: Canada's Divisions: Federalism and Nationalism. Reading: J & J ch. 4 & 5; M 2:3 & 2:4, 3:1 & 3:2

June 21st: First paper due by beginning of class period

June 21st – 22nd: God Save the Queen: Canada's Political Institutions. Reading: J & J chs 6 & 7; M 3:3-3:5

June 23rd – 24th: Elections in Canada: The Spectra of Political Parties and Interest Groups. Reading: J & J chs 10 & 11; M 4:1 & 4:2

June 29th: Second exam (first half of class period)

June 28th – 29th: The Canadian Courts. Reading: J & J ch 9, M 4:3 & 4:4.

June 30th – July 1st: The Canadian Bureaucracy. Reading: J & J ch 8; M 5:1 & 5:2.

July 1st: Second paper due by beginning of class period

July 6th – 7th: Canadian Foreign Policy. Readings to be handed out in class + M 5:3 & 5:4.

July 8th: Reflections on Canada. Readings: M 5:5.

July 8th Third exam (second half of class period)

July 8th Election tracking reports due by end of office hours (1:15pm)

AU REVOIR! / LATER DUDES!