

**CANADIAN POLITICS**  
**Political Science 327 (Section 001)**  
**Spring 2009**

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Office Hours: Tu, Th. 10:35-11:35AM  
Tues 1:30-2:30PM  
and by appointment

This course is an introduction to Canadian politics at the national level. The class provides an overview of the Canadian Constitution and the structure and function of its institutions. We also examine the actors involved in the Canadian political system and the links between Canadians and their government. Throughout the course we will adopt a comparative perspective focusing primarily on the similarities and differences between Canada and the United States.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:**

This class has several objectives. First, it should provide students with an understanding of how government and politics are organized in Canada, how the political process operates in practice and what role various actors play in that process. Second, it should help students recognize and understand different positions and arguments about the difficult political questions being asked in Canada today. The course should also help students understand the similarities and differences between the United States and Canada and how each country is important to the other's interests. Finally, it should help students develop skills in analyzing political issues and determining the impact different political systems have on both the questions being asked and how those questions are answered.

**REQUIRED READING:**

Patrick Malcolmson and Richard Myers. 2005. *The Canadian Regime: An Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada*. Peterborough: Broadview Press.

David M. Thomas and Barbara Boyle Torrey, eds. 2008. *Canada and the United States: Differences that Count, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* Peterborough: Broadview Press.

Various handouts that will be provided throughout the session.

The lecture and reading materials are meant to complement each other. *The Canadian Regime* provides the necessary background material that you should be familiar with

**BEFORE coming to class.** It provides more detail than is possible in lecture. *Canada and the United States* provides an in depth analysis of some of the different issues we examine and will be the basis of some of our discussions. Some of what you read will not be discussed in class and much of what we discuss in class will not be found in your reading. You are responsible for all the material. The exams will include **questions from BOTH lecture and the readings.**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

US/Canada issue paper	15%	February 24, 2009 (due in class)
Midterm Exam	25%	March 10, 2009
Canada Week participation/paper	25%	April 28, 2009 (due in class)
Final Exam	25%	May 12, 2009 (1-3PM)
Current Event Participation/Cdn blog	10%	

### **GRADING SCALE:**

A	94% and above	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

In addition to taking the exams and turning in the assigned papers, students are required to read the assigned pages, to keep up with Canadian news, to be prepared for discussion and to attend class on time and for the duration of the class.

**Exams:** The exams will consist of multiple choice and essay questions and will cover material from both lecture and readings. They will not be cumulative exams.

**I will only make special arrangements for students who miss an exam for a compelling reason** (serious illness, family crisis etc.) and who notify me and receive my permission **PRIOR** to the exam (or in the case of emergency as soon as possible). Documentation will be required. If you **do not meet these conditions** you will **earn a zero**. If **you do meet these conditions**, an **ALL ESSAY MAKEUP** exam will be administered. The due date for the papers will NOT be flexible and scores on late papers will be lowered one grade for each day they are late.

**Canada Week Paper:** A separate handout will be provided detailing the requirements for this paper. You will be responsible for attending 3 different events during Canada Week, April 6-10th. There will be events happening every day of the week as well as evening

events. You will need to do a short writeup describing and analyzing each event. You will then choose one of the event issue areas and delve deeper into the area. The paper will be approximately 12-15 pages in length.

**US/Canada Issue Paper:** A separate handout will also be provided detailing the requirements for this paper as well. It will be approximately 5-6 pages in length and will involve research into an issue relevant to both countries that is being handled differently in each (e.g. same sex marriage; abortion, healthcare, international relations). You will be required to document the different approaches of the US and Canadian governments on the issue, and will then provide analysis.

**Canadian News:** Students are expected to keep up with what is going on in Canada during the class. **Each week you are responsible for discussing Canadian news** (this will count towards your participation grade). You can access news on Canada at [www.cbc.ca/news](http://www.cbc.ca/news) or [www.theglobeandmail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com) or [www.canada.com/nationalpost](http://www.canada.com/nationalpost). In particular, pay attention to Canadian politics news at the national level. You should also note how the Canadian news sites cover U.S. and international news. Do you notice a difference in how the same story is covered in Canada and the United States?

**Class Attendance/ Participation:** Students should regularly both attend class and participate in class discussion. Students must participate significantly each week (see Canadian News section above) in order to get the full points and fulfill the requirements for an A in the course. (Those uncomfortable with participating in class discussion can hand in written questions/comments on Canadian news/class topics or come to office hours.) Students will also be required to participate in a Canadian blog at various points in the semester – posing questions to Canadians and monitoring the feedback from Canadians. More information will be provided on this in a separate handout. Take your participation points seriously as it will make the difference between an A and a B.

**Extra Credit:** There will be an opportunity for students to earn extra credit points towards their final grade. This will involve participation at various events during Canada Week April 6-10th (in addition to what is required for the Canada Week paper). More information will be provided throughout the semester.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and handled according to university policy. Please refer to <http://www2.boisestate.edu/studentconduct>

## TOPICS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS

January 20-29	Introduction to the course and to Canada
Jan. 29-Feb. 10	Canadian Society and the Canadian State Malcolmson&Myers: Chapter 1

Thomas&Torrey: Chapters 1,2,3 & 4

Feb. 12-19 Canadian Constitution  
Malcolmson&Myers: Chapters 2, 3 & 5  
Thomas&Torrey: Chapter 5

**Feb. 24 US/CANADA CONTRAST PAPER DUE**

Feb. 24-March 3 Federalism  
Malcolmson&Myers: Chapter 4  
Thomas&Torrey: Chapter 13

**March 10 MIDTERM EXAM**

March 5-31 The Executive Branch  
Malcolmson&Myers: Chapter 6  
Thomas&Torrey: Chapter 15

**March 24-26 SPRINGBREAK**

April 2-16 The Legislative Branch  
Malcolmson&Myers: Chapter 7  
Thomas&Torrey: Chapter 14

**\*\*\*APRIL 6-10 CANADA WEEK\*\*\***

April 21-23 The Judicial Branch  
Malcolmson&Myers: Chapter 8  
Thomas&Torrey: Chapters 9&10

**APRIL 28 CANADA WEEK WRITEUP DUE**

April 28-30 Elections  
Malcolmson&Myers: Chapter 9  
Thomas&Torrey: Chapter 16

April 30-May 5 Political Parties and Interest Groups  
Malcolmson&Myers: Chapters 10 & 11

May 7 Canadian Issues & Canada in the World  
Readings to be announced

**May 12 FINAL EXAM, 1-3PM**