

HONOURS ISSUES IN CANADIAN POLITICS AND CANADIAN PUBLIC POLICY

Fall 2018

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Lecture: Mon & Thurs 12:30-1:20pm;
Tuesday 1:30-2:20pm, KTH 104

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Course Description

This course will examine Canadian Political Parties and their role in forming Canadian Public Policy. Of special interest is the June, 2018 General Election in Ontario. Probably the key question about this election is why the Liberal Majority Government was so badly defeated, not only reduced to the third party position but beaten so badly it lost official party status in the Ontario Legislative Assembly?

Each student will examine one of the 124 constituencies in two parts. First, the student will describe the economic, political and social history of the geographical area now included in the modern constituency as well as party candidates up until the day the formal election campaign began.

Second, the final paper will include a revised and abridged restatement of the first report plus an analysis of the election campaign based on understanding the chosen strategy of each major political party. The final report will end with your explanation of why the major parties had the outcomes produced by the election.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should have the following skills:

- A systematic understanding of Canadian political parties and their policy objectives.
- Conceptual understanding to describe and comment on federal and provincial elections, and the role and objectives of political parties.
- An ability to manage your own learning by evaluating scholarly research and political commentary and by gathering primary material.
- Apply methods and techniques such as an actor-centered analysis to your research by carrying out original evidence-based research.
- Critically evaluate arguments, abstract concepts, data collection techniques.
- Communicate information, ideas, and evidence-based generalizations to both specialist and general policy audiences.
- You will develop skills to work in political party organizations and election campaigns that:
 - a) Allow you to exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
 - b) Allow you to make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts.

Required and Recommended Materials and Texts

Required Reading

- Alain –G. Gagnon and Brian Tanguay (editors), Canadian Parties in Transition: Recent Trends and New Paths for Research, (Fourth Edition; Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017).

Recommended Reading

- William P. Cross et. al., Fighting for Votes: Parties, the Media and Voters in an Ontario Election, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2015).
- Tom Flanagan, Winning Power: Canadian Campaigning in the Twenty-First Century, (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014).
- Richard Johnston, The Canadian Party System: An Analytic History, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2017).

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Research Project: Part 1 – 20%, due no later than 4pm, Thursday, October 4, 2018
2. Final Research Project: Part 2 – 40%, due no later than 4pm, Tuesday, December 4, 2018
3. Final Examination – 40%, December examination period

Course Evaluation – Details

Research Project: Part 1 (20%), due October 4

For the major research project each student will select one of the 124 provincial constituencies in Ontario. The goal of the research is to explain the results of the 2018 Ontario General Election in your constituency. In Part 1 you will describe the economic, political and social history of the geographical area now included in the modern provincial constituency as well as the political developments including the selection of party candidates up until the day the formal election campaign began. Your report should be approximately 20 pages in length, double-spaced.

In summary: Constituency Profile: a) Political history (since 1985), provincial and federal; Demographics, major language groups, ethnic origins, religious affiliations, age average and distribution, income (median), education attainment, owner versus renters of residences, major employment patterns. c) 2015 provincial election results (unredistributed versus redistributed). All these characteristics should be compared to the characteristics of the province as a whole. Description of mass media that cover this constituency i.e. newspapers (daily and weekly/community), TV stations and radio stations, English/French and other language media.

Nominated candidates for each of the four major parties; Liberal, Progressive Conservative, New Democratic Party and Greens. Was there an incumbent? Important resume characteristics of each nominated candidate including social background and political history. Describe the nomination process, was there competition, describe it, when did the nomination meeting take place, describe the meeting process.

Final Research Project: Part 2 (40%), due December 4

Your report should be approximately 30 pages, including a revised and abridged version of the first report (approximately 10 pages). The final report should include information on the campaign teams, the campaigning dynamic using an “actor-centered perspective”, and explanations of why the winning candidate won and why the other three major candidates lost.

Final Examination (40%), December examination period

The Final Examination will cover material from our textbook and all information provided in any handouts distributed, and lectures by the instructor and guest speakers

Weekly Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1 (Sept 4 & 6)

Introduction to the course.

Required Readings:

Up to page 43.

Recommended Reading:

Fighting for Votes, Up to page 26.

Week 2 (Sept 10, 11 & 13)

Regional, Ideological Conflict versus Managerial Governance.

Required Readings:

Chapter 3, 6 and 7.

Recommended Reading:

Fighting for Votes, Chapter 3.

Week 3 (17, 18 & 20)

The Nature of Political Party Systems

Required Readings:

Chapter 4.

Recommended Reading:

The Canadian Party Systems, up to page 100.

Optional Reading:

Giovanni Sartori, Parties and Party Systems: A Framework for Analysis, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976), 131-45.

Week 4 (24, 25 & 27)

Are Political Parties Necessary in a Democracy?

Required Readings:

Chapter 5.

Recommended Reading:

Fighting for Votes, Chapter 4.

Optional Reading:

Parties and Party Systems, Chapter 1.

Week 5 (Oct 1, 2 & 4)

**Political Party Leaders, First Ministers, Cabinet and the Permanent State:
“The State Never Sleeps”**

Optional Reading:

Donald J. Savoie, Breaking the Bargain: Public Servants, Ministers and Parliament, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003), Chapter 1, 2 and 3.

Graham White, Cabinets and First Ministers, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2005), Chapter 3.

Guest Speaker: October 2, Chelsea Peet, Senior Manager, International Operations and Protocol, Cabinet Office, Government of Ontario
Phone: 416-325-5733
Email: chelsea.peet@ontario.ca
B.A. McMaster, 2009, Combined Honours in Political Science and Labour Studies

Week 6 (Oct 6, 9 & 11)

Reading Week No Classes

Week 7 (Oct 15, 16 & 18)

Conservative Parties

No Longer Progressive or Deferential to Elites, but Populist and Looking for “The Good Old Days”

Required Readings:

Chapter 9.

Recommended Reading:

Fighting For Votes, Chapters 8 and 10.

The Canadian Party System, Chapter 7.

Week 8 (Oct 29, 30 & Nov 1)

Party Politics and Voting Systems in Canada

Required Readings:

Chapter 10 and 11.

Recommended Reading:

Winning Power, Chapter 2.

Week 9 (Nov 5, 6 & 8)

Political Transitions

Optional Reading:

David R. Cameron and Graham White, Cycling into Saigon: The Conservative Transition in Ontario, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2000).

Connor Bays, "Same But Different: The 2013 Liberal Inter-Party Transition in Ontario", Canadian Parliamentary Reviews, Volume 37, No. 3, (Fall, 2014).

David Zussman, Off and Running: The Prospects and Pitfalls of Government Transition in Canada.

Guest Speaker: November 6, Jonathan Trentadue, Machinery of Government Policy Advisor, Cabinet Office and Executive Council of Ontario, Government of Ontario

M.A. McMaster 2010

Email: jonathan.trentadue@gmail.com

Week 10 (Nov 12, 13 & 15)

Political Campaigning

Required Readings:

Chapter 17.

Recommended Reading:

Fighting For Votes, Chapters 6 and 7.

Winning Power, Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 11 (Nov 19, 20 & 22)

Political Parties and Political Marketing

Required Readings:

Chapter 16.

Optional Reading:

Alex Marland, Thierry Giasson and Jennifer Lees-Marshment, Political Marketing in Canada, (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2012) Chapters 1, 3 and 5.

Week 12 (Nov 26, 27 & 29)

Political Parties and Social Characteristics

Required Readings:

Chapter 19.

Recommended Reading:

Fighting For Votes, Chapter 11.

The Canadian Party System, Chapter 5.

Week 13 (December 3 & 4)

The New World of Canadian Political parties and Overview of the Course

Required Readings:

Chapter 18.

Recommended Reading:

Fighting For Votes, Chapter 12.

The Canadian Party System, Chapters 9 and 10.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments should be typed double-spaced. All assignments must be handed in personally to the instructor or placed in the Department of Political Science Drop Box, 5th Floor, Kenneth Taylor Hall.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-

MARK	GRADE
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

What Grades at McMaster Mean

Grade	Meaning
A+	You are teaching me.
A	Outstanding work.
A-	Excellent work, nearly perfect.
B+	Very good work. This work is good enough for admission to Graduate School at McMaster
B	Good Honours Level work.
B-	Passing Honours work.
Note: All the above grades are Honours Grades at McMaster	
C+	Better than average work.
C	Average undergraduate work at Level III (third year).
C-	Slightly below average work
D+	Considerably below average
D	Very poor work.
D-	Barely Passable work
F	Unacceptable work at undergraduate Level III.

Late Assignments

Late penalties will apply to all work handed in past the due date and time. One percent of the course value per McMaster working day including Fall Mid-Term Reading Week, Tuesday October 9 through Friday, October 12, until the assignment percent value is exhausted.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Successful political and government careers, especially getting that First Job after university is based on the social skill of interacting on a face-to-face basis with professors, visiting speakers, fellow students and potential employers. This skill is necessary to obtain and do well in a Political Science related position. Even in today's communication environment with electronics and digital exchanges, success in political work life and careers are based on personal interactions. Finally, I generally give students a good idea of what will be on the final examination which will be based on the required text, handouts to class, classroom discussions and interactions with guest speakers.

Class Etiquette and Digital and Social Media

Proper decorum during class meetings can be undermined by inappropriate and rude use of digital and social media as well as phone messages. Thus, I expect all digital, phone and social media to be turned off. Second, all this hardware, except for laptops for note-taking, should be out-of-sight and out-of-reach during class time. Leaving the class to read messages, make calls or sent text messages is also considered to be rude by professional standards. Unprofessional behavior will be noted in my letters of reference recommendations for employment, whether written or oral form.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.