

**STUDY GUIDE FOR MIDTERM EXAM, FEB. 10, 2009**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE 590.03: THE CANADIAN**  
**POLITICAL SYSTEM**

**[Note: Save this study guide for additional use before the final exam.]**

**CANADA AND THE U.S.**

**Broad Themes:**

- Major similarities and differences between the two countries observed thus far.
- Major similarities and differences in the dominant political ideologies in the two countries.

**Terms and Concepts:**

- Mosaic versus melting pot
- U.S./Canadian trading relationship

**CANADIAN CONTEXT**

**Broad Themes:**

- The evolution of Canada as a fully independent nation. Is it a nation?
- The nature of Canadian political culture. The relevance of Lipset's major arguments ["formative events"] in explaining Canadian political culture. The relevance of "founding fragment" arguments [Hartz, McRae] in explaining Canadian political culture. The relevance of the "deep structures" analysis of Grabb and Curtis.
- The meaning of "democracy" in Canada.

**Terms and Concepts:**

- Major enduring fault lines in Canadian society and politics
- "Revolutionary origins" ["formative events"] theory of the development of political culture and institutions
- "Founding fragments" theory of the development of political culture and institutions
- "Deep structures" theory of the development of political culture and institutions
- Confederation
- Canada in World War I
- Canada in World War II
- Political identities
- 1759
- The Quebec Act of 1774

**CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK/RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

**Broad Themes:**

- What is the Canadian constitution?
- What is the status of individual rights in Canada?
- What communal rights are important, especially those of language rights and aboriginals?

- The importance of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Judicial review under the Charter

### **Terms and Concepts:**

- References to the Supreme Court of Canada
- The “notwithstanding” clause of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms [section 33]
- Federal bilingualism
- Multi-culturalism
- The British North America Act [1867]
- The Statute of Westminster [1931]
- Meech Lake Accord
- Charlottetown Accord
- The Quebec Secession Reference [1998]
- The Clarity Act
- Quebec referenda [1980, 1995]
- The *Oakes* test
- Law Society of Upper Canada v. Skapinker*
- Parliamentary supremacy vs. constitutional/judicial supremacy
- The federal Bill of Rights [1960]
- Morgentaler* cases

## **FEDERALISM**

### **Broad Themes:**

- The nature of Canadian federalism: centralization and decentralization; division of powers; center-periphery relations.
- Comparison of Canadian federalism with U.S. federalism.

### **Terms and Concepts:**

- Assymetrical federalism
- Executive federalism
- First ministers conferences; other federal-provincial conferences
- Interprovincial trade and labor barriers
- Western alienation
- Quebec separatism
- Equalization payments
- Regionalism
- Parti Quebecois
- Canadian Pacific Railroad
- Social Framework Agreement
- Contract and compact theories of federalism
- Council of the Federation

## **PARLIAMENT**

### **Broad Themes:**

- The role of the House of Commons in Canadian political life.

**Terms and Concepts:**

- Parliamentary supremacy
- Responsible government
- Party discipline in Parliament
- Ministerial accountability
- Question Period
- Canadian Senate
- Types of majority and minority governments
- Votes of confidence in the House of Commons
- Parliamentary committees
- “12 member rule”
- Apportionment of seats for Parliament
- Deciding boundaries of ridings [“districting”]

**THE EXECUTIVE**

**Broad Themes:**

- Does the role of the Executive change depending on whether the government has a majority or a plurality in the House of Commons? If so, how? If not, why not?

**Terms and Concepts:**

- The Governor General
- The Speech from the Throne
- The Prime Minister
- The Privy Council Office
- Clerk of the Privy Council
- The Prime Minister’s Office
- The Department of Finance
- The Treasury Board Secretariat
- Cabinet
- Quebec sponsorship program and scandal

**THE BUREAUCRACY**

**Broad Themes:**

- The nature of Canadian bureaucracy, including the relationship of transitory political appointees to permanent civil servants.
- The role of Canadian bureaucracy in the polity.

**Terms and Concepts:**

- Cabinet ministers
- Central agency control of the bureaucracy
- policy communities

## **THE COURTS**

### **Broad Themes:**

- The role of the judiciary in Canadian political life.
- Judicial review under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

### **Terms and Concepts:**

- Basic court structure: federal and provincial
- Appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada

## **IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS**

- Stephen Harper
- Michael Ignatieff
- Stéphane Dion
- Gilles Duceppe
- Jack Layton
- Jean Charest
- Paul Martin
- Jean Chretien
- Brian Mulroney
- John A. McDonald
- Pierre Trudeau
- Louis Riel
- Michaëlle Jean
- Kevin Lynch
- Marshall Rothstein
- Thomas Cromwell
- Michael Wilson
- Jim Flaherty
- Peter MacKay
- Dalton McGuinty
- Beverly McLachlin
- Danny Williams
- Pauline Marois
- Bob Rae