

# **POLITICAL SCIENCE 527: *THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM***

[Class number: 24478]

**Winter Quarter, 2012**

**Instructor: Randall Ripley**  
2116 Derby Hall  
[Ripley.1@osu.edu](mailto:Ripley.1@osu.edu)  
614-292-4392

**Purpose of course:** to analyze and understand the political system of Canada, often in comparison with the political system of the United States. Political systems contain institutional, behavioral, socio-economic, cultural, and ideological components.

Students should have some knowledge of the political system of the United States. No prior knowledge of Canadian politics is assumed.

**Students are responsible for all material contained in the required reading, presented in class, and covered in class discussions. They are also responsible for contributing to class discussion.**

**Class meetings:** Winter Quarter, 2012, Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 3 through March 8, 2:30-4:18, in Scott Lab, 201 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Room 50.

**Instructor Availability:** after class; during open office hours [1-2 on Tuesdays and Thursdays]; or by appointment.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Books required for purchase** [all three are in paperback; all will be read in their entirety]:

**Brooks, Stephen, Canadian Democracy, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2009). ISBN: 978-0-19-543103-2** [See the note on the CD-ROM that comes with this book on page 11 of this syllabus.]

**James, Patrick and Mark Kasoff, eds., Canadian Studies in the New Millennium (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008). ISBN: 978-0-8020-9468-1**

**Bickerton, James and Alain-G. Gagnon, eds., Canadian Politics, 5<sup>h</sup> edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009). ISBN: 978-1-4426-0121-5**

\*\*\*\*\*

In addition, students are required to skim The Globe and Mail, Canada's leading national newspaper, and The Toronto Star daily online for current political news. The Globe is published six days a week [never on Sunday]. The Star is published seven days a week.

The website for the Globe is <http://www.theglobeandmail.com>. When the website comes up, go to "News" and then to "National" and "Politics" to get the best summary of stories that will contain political news, both national and provincial. You will be required to register on the website the first time you use it, but registration is free. Columnists often worth reading include John Ibbitson, Roy MacGregor, Lawrence Martin, Jeffrey Simpson, and Lysiane Gagnon. You can get to their columns through "Commentary" and then "Columnists."

The website for the Star is <http://www.thestar.com>. When the website comes up, go to "News" and then to "Canada." A number of the Star columnists are worth reading and can be reached through "Columns" and "Columnist Finder" [oddly enough, alphabetized by first name]. Pay particular attention to columns by Chantal Hébert [the best political columnist in Canada] and Thomas Walkom.

Also worth skimming weekly for political news is Canada's major weekly newsmagazine, Macleans. <http://www.macleans.ca>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Other newspapers are also worth skimming for political news, both national and provincial. There will be lots of identical stories on national news, however, since a large number of papers are owned by Postmedia, Inc., successor to CanWest Global Communications Corp., and they print the same national stories. Major CanWest/Postmedia newspapers include:

- [National Post](#)
- [Montreal Gazette](#)
- [Ottawa Citizen](#)
- [Windsor Star](#)
- [Regina Leader-Post](#)
- [Saskatoon StarPhoenix](#)
- [Calgary Herald](#)
- [Edmonton Journal](#)
- [Vancouver Sun](#)
- [Vancouver Province](#)
- [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

Also, a number of stories in many papers come from Canadian Press, the Canadian equivalent of the Associated Press in the U.S.

Some additional newspaper websites:

National Post <http://www.canada.com/national/nationalpost>

Ottawa Citizen <http://www.canada.com/Ottawa/ottawacitizen>  
The Gazette <http://www.canada.com/montreal/montrealgazette>  
Le Devoir <http://www.ledevoir.com> and La Presse <http://www.cyberpresse.ca> if you read French.

There are, of course, a number of other newspapers throughout the country that can be skimmed for regional/provincial perspectives. For browsing the full array [hundreds] of Canadian newspapers with websites go to <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/canada.htm>.

Finally, radio and television websites can also be skimmed for late news and, in the case of CPAC, live coverage of Parliamentary sessions and other political events:

<http://www.cpac.ca/forms/index.asp> [public affairs broadcasting provided by the cable industry; the Canadian equivalent of C-SPAN in the U.S.]

<http://www.cbc.ca> [the CBC, a Crown Corporation, has both radio and television networks in English and French].

<http://www.ctv.ca> & <http://www.globaltv.com> [commercial television]

### **OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES**

<http://canadianbiodiversity.mcgill.ca/english/ecozones/ecozones.htm>

<http://www.liberal.ca>

<http://conservative.ca>

<http://www.ndp.ca>

<http://www.blocquebecois.org>

<http://www.greenparty.ca>

### **Structure of course:**

Each week of the course will focus on one or more substantive topics. The assigned readings, lectures, and discussion will all address those topics. There will also be ample opportunities for discussion. The last part of class on Tuesdays will be devoted to a discussion of topics covered the previous week. The last part of class on Thursdays will be devoted to discussing the week's political news in Canada in the context of our exploration of the general nature of the political system.

### **Work in course:**

Students are expected to be prepared to discuss the assigned reading as outlined below. They are also expected to be able to identify and discuss major current developments in Canadian politics.

There will be a midterm exam [20% of the final grade], a paper [40% of the final grade], and a final exam [40% of the final grade]. The final exam will cover the entire course.

*The midterm* [one hour] will be in class the first hour on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and will cover material—both assigned reading and material presented in class, including discussion—through Week 5. The exam will be a mix of essays and short identification items. The exact design of the exam will be discussed in class nearer Feb. 7.

The final exam [one hour & fifty minutes] is scheduled by the University for Tuesday, March 13, 1:30-3:20 in the classroom **[note the time change from the regular class time]**. This exam will cover all of the assigned reading and material presented and discussed in class for the entire course. It will be a mix of essays and short identification items. The exact design of the exam will be discussed in class nearer the time. **No early final exams will be given. All finals will be given at the specified time.**

The paper for the course will be an analysis of some specific topic in Canadian politics. The text of the paper should be double spaced, about 10-15 pages of standard size, with normal margins, and normal size type [11 or 12 point]. Tables, graphs, and bibliographic material do not count against the 10-15 pages. Use of good websites is fine. Be wary of Wikipedia. You **must** also use some materials in the library. **A good paper will include explanation of the phenomena described, not just description. A good paper will also include political variables in that explanation.**

Material on closed reserve in the main [Thompson] library that may be helpful for individual papers is listed in Appendix I to this syllabus. **Also note that David Lincove, an excellent librarian who specializes in political science materials and also has a specific interest in Canada, can be consulted if you need help in using library resources.** His office is in the main [Thompson] library, room 222B. His phone is 292-2393. His e-mail address is [Lincove.1@osu.edu](mailto:Lincove.1@osu.edu).

**The paper must be fully and accurately referenced.** The easiest style to use is a parenthesis in the paper itself referring to a full citation in a separate References section at the end. The page numbers, if you are quoting or making a specific reference, should be in the text parenthesis. For example: *As Lipset (1990, 130) says, "Canada has anticombines legislation, but it has been weakly enforced compared to that in the United States."* In the references section you would have: Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1990. Continental Divide: The Values and Institutions of the United States and Canada. New York: Routledge. Choose a standard form for the references section and be consistent in using it. When in doubt, give more information about a source, either printed or web-based, rather than less.

**A one to two page proposal for your paper is due on Thursday, Jan. 26, by 4 p.m. at the latest.** This proposal should include a tentative title, a brief description of the topic, a rough outline of your major subheads/subtopics, the essence of how you will approach the topic, and some of the major sources [both printed and on the web] that you intend to use.

**The paper is due by 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 8 [last class].** Late papers will be penalized one full grade. No paper will be accepted after the final exam begins at 1:30 on March 13.

Some possible topics follow. You are not restricted to these topics, but this list gives you a sense of the appropriate scope for the paper. If you want to talk with the instructor about your paper topic and ideas, please make arrangements to do so.

1. Center-Periphery Tensions in Canadian Politics: a Focus on [choose one: Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, or Atlantic Canada].
2. The Changing status of Native Peoples.
3. Relations between Provincial and Federal Political Parties [choose one: Liberal; Conservative; New Democratic Party].
4. Current political divisions and policy issues in [choose one: Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, or British Columbia].
5. The participation of women **or** visible minorities **or** native peoples in Canadian national politics.
6. A comparison of major national policies and programs on [insert one topic: e.g., health care, environmental protection, support for the arts] in Canada and the United States.
7. The evolution of and future national prospects for a major national party [choose Liberal or Conservative or New Democratic].
8. A comparison of current broad spending priorities on the part of the federal government of Canada with broad spending priorities on the part of the federal government of the United States.
9. A comparison of the tax systems of Canada and the United States.
10. An analysis of the roots of Canadian political culture: a comparison of the views of Lipset, Hartz/McRae, and Grabb & Curtis.
11. Ideological and political incentives and restraints driving current budget decisions and other programmatic priorities on the part of the federal government of Canada. Among other topics, how is the balance between fiscal responsibility and the desire for policy and program initiatives being struck?
12. The importance of the reference process to the Supreme Court of Canada in the overall development, both past and future, of the Canadian constitution.
13. The importance of interest groups “lobbying” the Supreme Court of Canada and other national and provincial courts. What methods are used in the “lobbying”? What effect do they seem to have?
14. An analysis of one or more major issues involving relations between Canada and the United States [e.g., border security; missile defense; trade].

15. The impact of NAFTA on Canada.

## **Schedule: topics and reading assignments:**

### **WEEK 1: JANUARY 3 and 5**

**Topics: Introduction to the Course; Introduction to Canada; the Context for Canadian Political Life**

Rdg: Brooks, skim chpt. 1; read chpt. 2  
James/Kasoff, [J/K] chpts. 1 [Broadway], 5 [Holman/Thacker], 8 [Kasoff /Drennen]  
Bickerton/Gagnon, [B/G] chpts. 1 [Laselva] & 3 [Brooks]

### **WEEK 2: JANUARY 10 and 12**

**Topics: The Context for Canadian Political Life; Constitutional Framework**

Rdg: Brooks, chpts. 3-5  
J/K, chpts. 2 [Thompson/Richard], 3 [Eagles/Manna]  
B/G, chpts. 2 [Kymlicka] & 5 [Gibbins]

### **WEEK 3: JANUARY 17 and 19**

**Topics: Rights and Freedoms; Federalism**

Rdg: Brooks, chpts. 6, 7  
B/G, chpts 4, [Bickerton/Gagnon], 8 [Simeon/Robinson], & 10 [Bazkowski]

### **WEEK 4: JANUARY 24 and 26**

**Topics: Parliament; The Executive**

Rdg: Brooks, chpt. 8 [pp.230-51, 257-69, 274-76]  
B/G, chpts. 6 [Savoie] & 7 [Smith]

### **WEEK 5: JANUARY 31 and FEBRUARY 2**

**Topics: Bureaucracy; Courts**

Rdg: Brooks, chpt. 8 [pp. 251-57, 269-74]

### **WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 7 and 9**

**Topics: Political Parties; Elections; Interest Groups**

Rdg: Brooks, chpts. 9, 10  
B/G, chpts 12 [Cross] & 13 [Montpetit]

**WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 14 and 16**

**Topics: Media; Public Opinion**

Rdg: Brooks, chpt. 11  
B/G, chpt. 7 [Tanguay]

**WEEK 8: FEBRUARY 21 and 23**

**Topics: Quebec and Language Politics; Minorities, Aboriginals, & Women**

Rdg: Brooks, chpts. 12, 13, 14  
J/K, chpts. 6 [Bélanger/Doran], 4 [Lusztig], 7 [LeClerc]  
B/G, chpts 9 [Papillon], 14 [Young], & 15 [Abu-Laban]

**WEEK 9: FEBRUARY 28 and MARCH 1**

**Topic: Canadian Domestic Policy**

**WEEK 10: MARCH 6 and 8**

**Topics: Canada & the World; U.S. Relations; Concluding Thoughts**

Rdg: Brooks, chpt. 15  
J/K, chpts. 9 [Kite/Nord], 10 [Kasoff /James]  
B/G, chpts 16 [Brawley], 17 [Stoett], & 18 [Cooper]

**Academic Misconduct: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct:  
([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp))**

**Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.**

# **APPENDIX I**

## **MATERIALS ON LIBRARY RESERVE**

**2 hour closed reserve; no overnight; in main [Thompson] library; [OSU call number]**

Abu-Laban, Yasmeeen, Radha Jhappan, and François Rocher, eds., Politics in North America (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2008). [JJ1010.P64 2008]

Adams, Michael, Fire and Ice: the United States, Canada and the Myth of Converging Values (Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2004). [F1029.5 U6 A3 2004]

Banting, Keith, Thomas J. Courchene, and F. Leslie Seidle, eds., Belonging? Diversity, Recognition and Shared Citizenship in Canada (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy, 2007). [F1035.A1 B32 2007]

Bell, David V.J., The Roots of Disunity: a Study of Canadian Political Culture, rev. ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992). [JL651992.B455 1992]

Bickerton, James, and Alain-G. Gagnon, eds., Canadian Politics, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009). [JL65.C35 2009]

Blais, Andre, et al., Anatomy of a Liberal Victory: Making Sense of the Vote in the 2000 Canadian Election (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2002). [JL193.A58 2002]

Brooks, Stephen, Canadian Democracy, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2009). [JL65.B76 2009]

Brooks, Stephen, CD-ROM accompanying the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Canadian Democracy (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2009). See note below. [JL65.B76 2009]

Bumsted, J.M., A History of the Canadian Peoples, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2003). [F1026.B9515 2003]

Carment, David, Fen Osler Hampson, and Norman Hillmer, eds., Canada among Nations, 2004: Setting Priorities Straight (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004). [F1034.2.C25 2004]

Carty, R. Kenneth, et al., Rebuilding Canadian Party Politics (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2000). [JL195.C35 2000]

Carty, R. Kenneth, and Munroe Eagles, Politics is Local: National Politics at the Grassroots (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2005). [JL186.5.C37 2005]

Cellucci, Paul, Unquiet Diplomacy (Toronto: Key Porter, 2007). [E901.1 C45 2007]

Clarke, Harold D., Allan Kornberg, and Thomas J. Scotto, Making Political Choices: Canada and the United States (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009). [JL193.C53 2009]

Clarkson, Stephen, The Big Red Machine: How the Liberal Party Dominates Canadian Politics (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2005). [JL197.L5 C52 2005]

Clarkson, Stephen, Uncle Sam and Us: Globalism, Neoconservatism, and the Canadian State (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002). [HC115.C56 2002]

- Cross, William, ed., Political Parties, Representation, and Electoral Democracy in Canada (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002). [JL195.P67 2002]
- Docherty, David C., Legislatures (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2005). [JL136.D62 2005 c. 2]
- Dunn, Christopher, ed., Provinces, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2006) [JL198.P745 2006]
- Everitt, Joanna, and Brenda O'Neill, eds., Citizen Politics: Research and Theory in Canadian Political Behaviour (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002). [JL186.SC57 2006]
- Gagnon, Alain-G., ed., Contemporary Canadian Federalism (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009). [JL27.F4313 2009]
- Gagnon, Alain-G., ed., Quebec: State and Society, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2004). [FC2926.Q42 2004]
- Gidengil, Elizabeth, et al., Citizens (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004). [JL187.C55 2004]
- Grabb, Edward, and James Curtis, Regions Apart: The Four Societies of Canada and the United States (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2005). [HN50.G72 2005]
- Hartz, Louis, The Founding of New Societies (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964). See chapter 7 by Kenneth McRae, "The Structure of Canadian History." [HM101.H35]
- Hébert, Chantal, French Kiss: Stephen Harper's Blind Date with Quebec (Toronto: Knopf Canada, 2007). [F1034.2.H434 2007]
- Hillmer, Norman, and J.L. Granatstein, For Better or for Worse: Canada and the United States into the Twenty-First Century (Toronto: Thomson Nelson, 2007). [F1029.5 U6 H55 2007]
- Hoberg, George, Capacity for Choice: Canada in a New North America (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002). [HN103.5 C36 2002]
- Hufbauer, Gary Clyde, and Jeffrey J. Schott, NAFTA Revisited: Achievements and Challenges (Washington: Institute for International Economics, 2005). [HF1746.H85 2005]
- James, Patrick, and Mark Kasoff, eds., Canadian Studies in the New Millennium (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008). [F1008.C36 2008]
- Johnston, Richard, et al., Letting the People Decide: Dynamics of a Canadian Election (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1992). [JL193.L48 2002]
- LeDuc, Lawrence, et al., Dynasties and Interludes: Past and Present in Canadian Electoral Politics (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2010). [JL65.D96 2010]
- Lipset, Seymour Martin, Continental Divide (New York: Routledge, 1990). [E169.1.L624 1991]
- MacIvor, Heather, Canadian Politics and Government in the Charter Era (Toronto: Thomson Nelson, 2006). [KE4381.5.M28 2005]
- MacIvor, Heather, Parameters of Power: Canada's Political Institutions, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: Nelson Education, 2010). [JL65.P37 2010]
- Maioni, Antonia, Parting at the Crossroads: The Emergence of Health Insurance in the United States and Canada (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998). [HD7102.U4.M32 1998]

- Miljan, Lydia, Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2008). [JL86.P64 B76 2008]
- Morton, Desmond, A Short History of Canada, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 2006). [F1026.M73 2006]
- Nevitte, Neil, The Decline of Deference: Canadian Value Change in Cross-National Perspective (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 1996). [F1034.2.N37 1996]
- Pammett, Jon H., and Christopher Dornan, eds., The Canadian General Election of 2004 (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2004). [JL193.C3533 2004]
- Pammett, Jon H., and Christopher Dornan, eds., The Canadian Federal Election of 2006 (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2006). [JL193.C352 2006]
- Pammett, Jon H., and Christopher Dornan, eds. The Canadian Federal Election of 2008 (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2009). [JL193.C352 2009]
- Pammett, Jon H., and Christopher Dornan, eds. The Canadian Federal Election of 2011 (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2011). [JL193.C352 2011]
- Patterson, Samuel C., and Anthony Mughan, eds., Senates: Bicameralism in the Contemporary World (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1999). See chapter by C.E.S. Franks, "Not Dead Yet, But Should It Be Resurrected? The Canadian Senate." [JF541.S43 1999]
- Porter, John A. The Vertical Mosaic: An Analysis of Social Class and Power in Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1965). [HN.103.5.P6]
- Pross, A. Paul, Group Politics and Public Policy, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992). [JL148.5.P76 1992]
- Romanow, W.I., and Walter C. Soderlund, Media Canada: An Introductory Analysis (Mississauga, Ontario: Copp Clark Pittman, 1992). [P92.C3.R65 1992]
- Savoie, Donald J., Breaking the Bargain: Public Servants, Ministers, and Parliament (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003). [JL75.S384 2003]
- Savoie, Donald J., Court Government and the Collapse of Accountability in Canada and the United Kingdom (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008). [JF51.S28 2008]
- Savoie, Donald J., Governing from the Centre: The Concentration of Power in Canadian Politics (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999). [JL75.S386 1999]
- Sayers, Anthony M., Parties, Candidates, and Constituency Campaigns in Canadian Elections (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1999). [JL193.S29 1999]
- Soroka, Stuart Neil, Agenda-Setting Dynamics in Canada, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2002). [P96.P83.S67 2002]
- Thomas, David M., ed., Canada and the United States: Differences that Count, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2000). [HC115.C196 2000]
- Thomas, David M. and Barbara Boyle Torrey, Canada and the United States: Differences that Count, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2008). [E169.12.C255 2008]
- Thompson, John Herd, and Stephen J. Randall, Canada and the United States: Ambivalent Allies, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2008). [E183.8 C2 T46 2008]

Thorburn, Hugh G., and Alan Whitehorn, eds., Party Politics in Canada, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: Prentice-Hall, 2001). [JL195.T45 2001]

Tremblay, Manon, and Linda Trimble, eds., Women and Electoral Politics in Canada (Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press, 2003). HQ1236.5.C2 W54 2003]

Whittington, Michael, and Glen Williams, eds., Canadian Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: Thomson/Nelson, 2008). [JL65.C39 2008]

Young, Lisa, and Keith Archer, eds., Regionalism and Party Politics in Canada (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press Canada, 2002). [JL195.R43 2003]

\*\*\*\*\*

Note that one copy of each of the three required texts is also on closed reserve. Especially note that the CD-ROM that comes with new copies of the Brooks text is on closed reserve as a separate item. In case you got a second-hand copy of Brooks with the CD-ROM missing, you could use the CD-ROM in the library. You should not count on the reserve copies of the 3 required books for doing the required reading. The CD-ROM runs for about 2 hours and 20 minutes. It features interviews with 8 Canadian political scientists and one senior politician [Frank McKenna, who was Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. when he was interviewed]. The topics include Federalism; Trust and Public Opinion; Political Participation; Media; Political Parties; Women and Politics; Quebec; Public Administration; and Canada-U.S. Relations.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **OUTLINE OF LECTURE TOPICS**

#### I. Goals and Organization of Course

- A. Goals, Topics, Work
- B. Logistics
- C. Basic geography
- D. Why study Canadian politics?

#### II. Canada and U.S.: Major Similarities and Differences

- A. Geography
- B. Demography/Population
- C. Economics
- D. Political systems
- E. Culture
- F. Relations between U.S. and Canada

#### III. The Context for Canadian Political Life

- A. Canada as a nation
- B. The interactive evolution of Canada and the United States
- C. The persistence of Canadian origins
- D. Enduring Fault Lines in Canadian Society and Politics
- E. The most salient features of Canadian ideology
- F. Key historical events that helped shape Canadian politics & political culture

#### IV. The Constitutional Framework

- A. The nature of the Canadian constitution
- B. Constitutional relationships
  - 1. The state and individuals
  - 2. Government entities at the national level
  - 3. The national government and the provinces
- C. The amending process
- D. General observations on the Canadian constitution

#### V. Rights and Freedoms

- A. Introduction to rights and freedoms
- B. From common law to the Bill of Rights to the Charter
- C. Balancing rights and restrictions—The Oakes test
- D. Examples of issues addressed
- E. The interaction of legislatures, courts, and public opinion
  - 1. Same-sex marriage
  - 2. Quebec Medicare, 2005

#### VI. Federalism

- A. A loose federation
- B. Asymmetrical federalism
- C. Regionalism
- D. Interprovincial trade and labor barriers
- E. Conferences of federal and provincial officials
- F. Constant negotiations

#### VII. Parliament

- A. General importance; introduction
- B. Senate
- C. House of Commons
- D. Types of majority and minority governments
- E. Debate
- F. Committees
- G. The current Parliament
- H. Concluding thought

#### VIII. The Executive

- A. Overview
- B. The ceremonial executive: The Crown (Governor General)
- C. The political executive
  - 1. Prime Minister
  - 2. Cabinet
  - 3. Prime Minister's Office [also a central agency]
- D. Permanent executive/central agencies
  - 1. Privy Council Office
  - 2. Department of Finance

### 3. Treasury Board Secretariat

#### IX. Bureaucracy

- A. Overview: functions, size, structure
- B. Development of the Civil Service
- C. Geographical decentralization
- D. Central agency control

#### X. Courts

- A. Court structure and general importance
- B. Parliamentary vs. Constitutional [Judicial?] supremacy
- C. The appointment of judges
- D. Examples of important supreme court decisions
  - 1. Rights
  - 2. Other constitutional decisions
- E. Continuing issues

#### XI. Parties and Elections

- A. Major contextual factors
- B. Nature of the parties
- C. Regionalism and parties
- D. Campaign limitations—time, finance
- E. The 2008 Election
- F. The state of the parties and future elections

#### XII. Interest Groups

- A. Growth
- B. Diversity
- C. System bias
- D. Policy communities
- E. Government-funded groups
- F. Targets of lobbying activities
  - 1. Federal bureaucracies
  - 2. Provincial bureaucracies
  - 3. Courts
  - 4. Parliament [committees; MPs]
  - 5. Prime Minister & Cabinet
- G. Regulation

#### XIII. Media

- A. Judgments on quality
- B. Description of media systems
- C. Issues
  - 1. Freedom of the press
  - 2. Media ownership
  - 3. Foreign media penetration

- XIV. Public Opinion
  - A. Public attitudes toward issues, institutions, and leaders
  - B. Canadian public's attitudes about the U.S.
  - C. U.S. Public's attitudes about Canada
  - D. Basic Canadian values
  - E. Current Canadian Opinion
  
- XV. Quebec and Language Politics
  - A. Quebec and separatism
  - B. Historical mileposts
  - C. Quebec provincial politics
  - D. Quebec's place in Canada
  
- XVI. Status of Visible Minorities, Aboriginals, and Women
  - A. Multiculturalism [visible minorities]
  - B. Aboriginals/Natives/First Nations
  - C. Women
  
- XVII. Domestic Policy I
  - A. Agenda-Building
  - B. Current domestic agendas
  
- XVIII. Domestic Policy II
  - A. Economic policy
  - B. Taxation and debt
  - C. Health care policy
  - D. Immigration policy
  
- XIX. Canada and the World; U.S. Relations
  - A. Canada and the world
  - B. Relations with the U.S.
    - 1. Trade
    - 2. Defense/security
    - 3. Other issues
  
- XX. Final Thoughts on the Canadian Political System

## **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES**

*Thursday, Jan. 26, paper topic proposal submitted to instructor by 4 p.m.*

*Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2:30-3:30, midterm exam in classroom*

*Thursday, March 8, research paper submitted by 3 p.m. [last class]*

*Tuesday, March 13, late research papers submitted by 1: 30 p.m. [not accepted after that]*

*Tuesday, March 13, 1:30-3:20, final exam in classroom*