Political Science 224, Section B1 – Canadian Government

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Office Hours:
Mon/Wed
1300-1500 or by appt.

Course Description:
Political Science 224 is one of two core courses in Canadian politics. Pol S 224 and Pol S 225 are normally required as prerequisites for taking Canadian politics courses at the 300 and 400 level. The focus in Pol S 224 is on institutions, primarily at the federal or national level. The institutions examined here include actors (such as the political executive – cabinet and the Prime Minister) and rules (such as the Constitution Acts and the electoral system).

Why consider or read a document such as The Constitution Act of 1867? One answer could be that, if you suffer from insomnia, plodding through the Constitution surely will put you to sleep. However, the answer we’ll consider in this course is that rules such as constitutions matter because of who or what they privilege in political competitions. This point was made powerfully by E.E. Schattschneider long before you were born. He wrote:

“All forms of political organization have a bias in favor of the exploitation of some kinds of conflict and the suppression of others because organization is the mobilization of bias. Some issues are organized into politics while others are organized out.” (E.E. Schattschneider, The Semisoverign People: A Realist’s View of Democracy in America, 71).

Course requirements:
The course requirements are outlined below. Policy regarding missed term work and course outlines may be found in Section 23.4(3) of the University Calendar (http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.4.html#23.4).

Written assignments and the final examination will be assigned a letter grade.

There are two written assignments for this course. The specific format and details of the first assignment will be shared with you by Monday January 11th. Essentially the paper will ask you to develop a policy brief that I propose to send to the Hon. Maryam Monsef, the federal Minister of Democratic Institutions. The brief will examine the issue of changing the federal election system. It will ask you to examine the issue of electoral system change and recommend to the Minister how she could or should address the issue.

The second written assignment also will be a policy brief. In this second assignment you will be a senior advisor to the Prime Minister. The subject of your policy brief to the Prime Minister will be the federal Liberal Party’s 2015 election campaign document Real Change: A Fair and Open Government. Your assignment will be to advise the Prime Minister on which policy changes should be his top priority, which
changes should be introduced later in his first term, and which changes should be abandoned or delayed indefinitely.

The final examination will be three hours long and will consist of one short answer section (where you will discuss 6 of 9 terms/phrases) and two essay sections. Each essay section will pose two questions; you will be asked to answer one essay question from each section.

A study guide for the final examination will be made available to students on the last day of classes, Friday April 8th.

Grade Distribution:

- Electoral System proposal, 6-8 pp. (due – February 26th): 30%
- Paper assessing/prioritizing the changes announced in the federal Liberal Party 2015 document Real Change: A Fair and Open Government, 6-8 pp. (due – March 21st): 30%
- Final examination (Scheduled for Thursday April 14th @ 1400): 40%

Grading:
All work for this class will be graded according to the University’s letter grade/4 point grade scale.

Penalties for late assignments:
Late written assignments will be subject to a 0.3 GPV penalty beginning on the Monday after the due date (for example, a paper submitted on Monday February 29, 2016 will receive a 0.3 GPV deduction). This penalty will be waived or adjusted in the case of illness or other extraordinary circumstances. Assignments not submitted by March 4, 2016 or by March 28, 2016 will receive a grade of zero (unless a valid excuse is offered).

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty:
The University of Alberta is committed to high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodeofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. An important excerpt from the Code of Student Behaviour is appended at the end of this syllabus. Additional information and resources are available through the Dean of Students “Student Conduct and Accountability” link at: http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx.
Students with Disabilities:
If you have a disability that may affect your performance in the class please see me as soon as possible. Also, please discuss your situation and needs with the staff at Student Accessibility Services. They may be contacted at 1-80 Students' Union Building, (780) 492-3381 (phone), or (780) 248-1665 (fax). Their email address for general inquiries is: sasrec@ualberta.ca. Their website is http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/en.aspx.

Another Avenue of Student Support:
The Peer Support Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:
- Call: (780) 492-HELP (780-492-4357)
- Drop in: 2-707 in the S.U.B.
- Visit: http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/psc/

Textbooks and Readings
All readings are required – readings for the sections on the public service and international agreements/treaties have not been selected yet:

Course Outline

January 4th: Course Introduction

Week of January 4th: Principles and Cleavages in Canadian Government/Politics

Week of January 11th: The Constitution Act 1867, Federalism

Week of January 18th: The Constitution Act 1982: Getting It...Living With It

Week of January 25th: Aboriginal Rights and Later Attempts at Mega- Constitutional Change
- Charlton and Barker, Crosscurrents, 39-58.

Week of February 1st: The Electoral System and Financing Political Parties
- Telford, Rules of the Game, 54-73, 43-44.
Week of February 8th: The Canadian Party System and Electoral Politics
- Charlton and Barker, Crosscurrents, 1-38.

Week of February 15th: Winter Term Reading Week

Week of February 22nd: Majority Government, Minority Government – What Values Do They Promote?
- Charlton and Barker, Crosscurrents, 73-100.

Week of February 29th: The Prime Minister and the Political Executive
- Charlton and Barker, Crosscurrents, 101-135.

Week of March 7th: The Public Service
- Readings: To Be Announced

Week of March 14th: Parliament
- Telford, Rules of the Game, 93-117.

Week of March 21st: International Agreements and Treaties
- Readings: To Be Announced

Week of March 28th: Would Institutional Change Improve Canadian Democracy?

Week of April 4th: “Catch-Up” and/or Review
EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism
No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating
30.3.2(2) a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.
30.3.2(2) b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6 (4).
30.3.2(2) c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.
30.3.2(2) d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2) e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts
No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. See also 30.3.2(2) b, c, d and e.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence
No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.
Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENCE

The U of A considers plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence to be serious academic offences. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence can be avoided if students are told what these offences are and if possible sanctions are made clear at the outset. Instructors should understand that the principles embodied in the Code are essential to our academic purpose. For this reason, instructors will be fully supported by Departments, Faculties and the University in their endeavours to rightfully discover and pursue cases of academic dishonesty in accordance with the Code.

At the beginning of each term, we ask you to review with your students the definitions of plagiarism and cheating. We are now also asking you to review with your students the definition of Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence. Your co-operation and assistance in this matter are much appreciated.

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating

30.3.2(2)a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6(4).

Cheating (Continued)

30.3.2(2)c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.

30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts

No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. This includes such acts as the failure to provide pertinent information on an application for admission or the altering of an educational document/transcript.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

The Truth In Education (TIE) project is a campus wide educational campaign on Academic Honesty. This program was created to let people know the limits and consequences of inappropriate academic behaviour. There are helpful tips for Instructors and Students. Please take the time to visit the website at: http://www.ualberta.ca/tie
EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
FOR REVIEW WITH EACH CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY TERM

Procedures for Instructors Regarding

Plagiarism, Cheating,

Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence

The following procedures are drawn from the Code of Student Behaviour as approved by GFC and the Board of Governors. The guidelines summarize what instructors must do when they have reason to believe that a student has plagiarized, cheated, misrepresented facts or participated in an offence. If you have questions about these guidelines, or about the policies, please talk with the senior administrator in your Faculty responsible for dealing with student discipline—usually an Associate Dean or the Appeals and Compliance Officer (Appeals Coordinator), University Governance (2-2655).

30.5.4 Procedures for Instructors in Cases Respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour

30.5.4(1) When an Instructor believes that a Student may have committed an Inappropriate Academic Behaviour Offence [30.3.2] or that there has been Misrepresentation of Facts [30.3.6(4)] or Participation in an Offence [30.3.6(5)] in cases respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour in the course that he or she instructs, the Instructor will meet with the Student. Before such a meeting, the Instructor shall inform the Student of the purpose of the meeting. In the event that the Student refuses or fails to meet with the Instructor within a reasonable period of time specified by the Instructor, the Instructor shall, taking into account the available information, decide whether a report to the Dean is warranted.

30.5.4(2) If the Instructor believes there has been a violation of the Code, the Instructor shall, as soon as possible after the event occurred, report that violation to the Dean and provide a written statement of the details of the case. The instructor may also include a recommendation for sanction.

Possible Sanctions

One or more of the following sanctions given in 30.4.3 (2) and (3) of the Code are commonly used for plagiarism, cheating, participation in an offence, and misrepresentation of facts:

- 30.4.3(2) a.i a mark reduction or a mark of 0 on any term work or examination for reason of Inappropriate Academic Behaviour
- 30.4.3(2) a.ii Reduction of a grade in a course
- 30.4.3(2) a.iii a grade of F for a course
- 30.4.3(2) a.iv a remark on a transcript of 8 (or 9 for failing graduate student grades), indicating Inappropriate Academic Behaviour, in addition to 30.4.3(2)a.i, 30.4.3(2)a.ii or 30.4.3(2)a.iii

- 30.4.3(3) b Expulsion
- 30.4.3(3) c Suspension

The following sanctions may be used in rare cases:

- 30.4.3(3) e Suspension of a Degree already awarded
- 30.4.3(3) f Rescission of a Degree already awarded

30.6.1 Initiation of an Appeal

30.6.1(1) When a Student has been found to have committed an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour or an Applicant is found to have committed an offence under the Code of Applicant Behaviour, whether or not that Student or Applicant has been given a sanction, the Student or Applicant may appeal that decision, except in the case of a decision of the Discipline Officer under 30.5.6(2)c.ii, which remains final and is not subject to appeal. In cases where a severe sanction has been recommended to the Discipline Officer, once the student receives the final decision of the Discipline Officer, the student can appeal the decisions of both Dean and the Discipline Officer at the same time. The written appeal must be presented to the Appeals Coordinator in University Governance within 15 Working Days of the deemed receipt of the decision by the Student or Applicant. The finding that an offence has been committed, the sanction imposed or both may form the basis of appeal. The written appeal must also state the full grounds of appeal and be signed by the Appellant. The appeal shall be heard by the UAB.

PROFESSOR STEVEN PENNEY
CHAIR, CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

DR MARTIN FERGUSON-PELL
ACTING PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

* The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) responsible for the review of the Code of Student Behaviour and of student disciplinary procedures.

Updated: 30/01/2013