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Fall 9-1-1994

PSC 324.01: Canadian Government and Politics

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

324
PSc 395 Canadian Government
and Politics
Autumn 1994

M. Laslovich
Office: LA 350
Hrs.: MW 1-2:00,
TR 10-11:00, and by
app't (5202)

Course Description

The course surveys the Canadian political system and assesses issues dominating its politics. Emphasis will be placed upon federal institutions and policy-making, along with the economic, social, and cultural underpinnings of Canadian politics. Policy issues, including Quebec nationalism, western alienation, and Canadian-American relations, will be analyzed within their historical and cultural context to develop an understanding of contemporary Canadian politics.

Texts

Students are required to read the following texts which are available at the University Bookstore:

Bell, David V.J. The Roots of Disunity. A Study of Canadian Political Culture. Revised edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992;

Jackson, Robert J. and Doreen Jackson. Politics in Canada. Culture, Institutions, Behaviour and Public Policy. Third edition. Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice Hall Canada, 1994; and

Pal, Leslie A. Interests of State. The Politics of Language, Multiculturalism, and Feminism in Canada. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam 1 (Sept. 22) Topics I-II	20%
Exam 2 (Oct. 27) Topics III-V	20%
Research Essay (DUE Nov. 22)	30%
Final Exam (Dec. 19, 10:10-12:10) Topics VI-VIII	30%

Drop/Add and Grading Change Deadlines

- Sept. 15 - Last day to add courses.
- Sept. 29 - Last day to drop courses or change grading option.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students who are excused from a scheduled exam may write a makeup examination. In fairness to all students, exam absences must be approved by the instructor.

Research Essays

Students are invited to choose a research topic. However, topics must be approved by the instructor to ensure its proper scope and focus, as well as provide an opportunity to offer suggestions. Paper topics should be approved by Oct. 6.

Please note that this is to be a research paper. The amount of research undertaken, and the ability to marshal that information effectively, will be crucial in the evaluation of the paper.

The paper should range between 10 to 15 double-spaced typed pages. Papers are DUE NOV. 15 IN CLASS. Late papers will be penalized 2 points per day, including weekends.

The Classroom Learning Environment (authored by Dr. Ronald Perrin, Professor of Political Theory)

Wherever the learning process takes place (for example, in the library or the seclusion of one's study) it does so best when there are a minimum of distractions. This requirement poses special challenges for the learning that takes place in the lecture hall or the classroom, where the possibility of distractions is the greatest.

In order to establish and maintain a supportive learning environment for my students I will not tolerate the few individuals who might be prone to a) come to class late or leave early, b) carry on private conversations during class, or c) use the lecture hall/classroom as an opportunity to read material, such as the Kaimin, that is not relevant to the subject matter under consideration.

The only exception to these conditions concern students whose work schedules or unanticipated appointments require them to arrive for class late or leave early. In these instances I would appreciate knowing of the circumstance before it occurs and, in all such instances, request that students do so as unobtrusively as possible. Thank you.

Lecture Topics and Readings

- I Introduction
Jackson and Jackson, chapters 1 and 2.
- II Canadian Political Culture
Jackson and Jackson, chapter 3; and
Bell.
- III The Canadian Constitution and Constitutional Politics
Jackson and Jackson, chapter 5.
- IV Federalism and the Challenges of Nationalism and Regionalism
Jackson and Jackson, chapter 6.
- V Parliamentary Government
Jackson and Jackson, chapters 7, 8, and 9.

- VI Parties and Elections
Jackson and Jackson, chapters 10 and 11.
- VII Interest Groups
Jackson and Jackson, chapter 12; and
Pal.
- VIII Canada-U.S. Relations
Jackson and Jackson, chapter 14.

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