

**Political Science 2130 Canadian Government & Politics**  
**Brescia University College, UWO**  
**2011-2012**

Instructor: Paul Barker  
Office: Merici Wing, Room 212  
Tel: 519-432-8353 ext. 28278; email: [pfbarker@uwo.ca](mailto:pfbarker@uwo.ca)  
Class: Tues. 8:30-10:30 & Fri. 11:30-12:30, MRW 153  
Office Hours: After class or by appointment

**Description**

A course which explores the rudiments of Canadian government and politics – the prime minister, the constitution, political parties, the media, and other aspects that form the basic working parts of the political process in Canada. The course employs a special topics approach to serve its purpose. This means that the course uses debates, controversies, and various pedagogical devices (simulations, for example) in order to grasp the subject matter.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Know the basic institutions and processes which make up the Canadian political system.
- Appreciate that many debates and controversies swirl around any consideration of politics in Canada – in other words, few things are certain in this particular area of political science.
- Be able to carry out duties associated with key responsibilities in government – writing briefing notes, composing ministerial letters, and drafting memoranda for cabinet’s consideration.
- Possess the knowledge necessary for engaging in an enlightened conversation about future prospects for politics in Canada.

**Texts**

Heather MacIvor, *Parameters of Power: Canada’s Political Institutions*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Nelson, 2010)  
Custom Course Book, *Selected Readings in Canadian Politics*, September 2011

**Grading**

Briefing for Mr. Harper (Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> )	10%
Test (Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup> )	30%
Simulation (Mar. 13 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> )	10%
Participation	10%
Final Exam (exam period)	40%

## Weekly Outline

### Week 1A

#### Sept 9: Administration & Overview

### Week 1

#### Sept 13 & 16: A contest: predicting the Ontario election (bonus marks)

Materials will be handed out in class.

### Week 2

#### Sept 20 & 23: Constitution (the rule book)

Heather MacIvor, *Parameters of Power: Canada's Political Institutions* (hereinafter called MacIvor, *Parameters*), ch. 3

### Week 3

#### Sept. 27 & 30: Conservatism in Canadian Politics

Reading 1: "A Dead End: Conservatism and the Conservative Party"

Reading 2: The Conservative Party Strikes Back: (1) 2011 Election Results at <http://www.sfu.ca/~aheard/elections/results.html>, (2) Tom Flanagan, "The Emerging Conservative Coalition," *Policy Options* June-July 2011, 104-08, (3) Andrew Coyne, "A new power couple," *Maclean's* 16 May 2011, 60-63, (4) Jeffrey Simpson, "It's Conservatives who changed to fit Canada," *Globe and Mail* July 15. 2011, A13

### Week 4

#### Oct. 4 & 7: Conservatism (cont'd) ... *A Briefing for Mr. Harper*

Reading 3: Tom Flanagan, "Incremental Conservatism: Mr. Harper Goes to Ottawa," *C2C Canada's Journal of Ideas*, Tom Flanagan, "Thou shalt not lean too far to the right," *Globe and Mail* Sept. 22, 2007, F1

Reading 4: "Components of a Policy Briefing"

### Week 5

#### Oct. 11 & 14: Charter of Rights & Freedoms

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 6

Reading 5: Withler v. Canada (Attorney General)

## Week 6

### Oct. 18 & 21: Charter (cont'd)

Reading 6: Zero BAC Law Unconstitutional? YES: “Zero Tolerance for Discrimination: A Constitutional Critique of Ontario’s Road Safety Act (2009) v. NO: BAC to Zero: Defending the Constitutionality of Ontario’s Road Safety Act (2009)  
 Reading 7: “The Queen v. Oakes” in Peter Russell et al., *The Court and the Constitution: Leading Cases* (Toronto: Edmond, 2008)

## Week 7

### Oct. 25 & 28: Permanent Executive (or Bureaucracy)

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 9  
 YES, PM

## Week 8

### Nov. 1 & 4: Bureaucracy & LHINs (cont'd)

Reading 8: Writing in the Public Service: “How to Write Briefing Notes”, “Briefing Notes for the Minister: Standing Report Committee on Raising Adult Literacy” and “How to Write Ministerial Correspondence”  
 Reading 9: P. Barker, “Local Health Integration Networks: The Arrival of Regional Health Authorities in Ontario” (these are the LHINs)

## Week 9

### Nov. 8 & 10: The Media

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 14

## Week 10

### Nov. 15 & 18: The Media (cont'd)

Reading 10: Media Politically Biased: YES: “Political Bias in the Media” v. “No Political Bias, but ...” FLIP and do GP

## Week 11

### Nov. 22 & 25: The Legislature

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 7 & TEST Review

## **Week 12**

**Nov. 29 TEST**

### **Dec. 2: Legislature (cont'd)**

What to do with the House of Commons?

## **Week 13**

### **Dec. 6: Legislature (cont'd)**

Reading 11: A debate: Majority v. Minority governments

## **Week 14**

### **Jan. 10 & 13: PM and the Cabinet**

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 8

Reading 13: Lawrence Martin, *Harperland* (Toronto: Viking Canada, 2011), ch. 5.

## **Week 15**

### **Jan. 17 & Jan. 20: PM (cont'd)**

Reading 12: Government of Canada, Memorandum to Cabinet: Framework Policies for the Canadian Broadcasting System"

Writing a Memorandum to Cabinet - YOU

## **Week 16**

### **Jan. 24 & 27: Federalism**

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 4

P. Russell, *Anti-Inflation Act case (handout)*

## **Week 17**

### **Jan. 31 & Feb. 3: Federalism & Fiscal Relations**

Reading 14: Department of Finance, Ottawa *Personal Income Tax: Coordination: The Federal-Provincial Tax Collection Agreements*, June 1991, 1-17.

## Week 18

### Feb. 7 & 10: Fiscal Relations (cont'd)

Reading 15: "Federal Transfers"

Reading 16: Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Finance, *Achieving a National Purpose: Putting Equalization Back on Track*, Equalization 101

Reading 17: M. Charlton & P. Barker, eds., *Crosscurrents*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Issue 5: Heard & Cohn v. Barker

## Week 19 & 20

### Feb. 14, 17, 28 & Mar. 2: Groups & Parties

MacIvor, *Parameters*, chs. 11 & 13

## Week 21

### Mar. 6 & 9: Budgeting

Reading 19: Eddie Goldberg, *The Way It Works: Inside Ottawa*, ch. 8

## Week 22

### Mar. 13 & 16: Budget Simulation

Reading 18: Institute of Public Administration of Canada, Case Program in Canadian Public Administration, Paul Leger, *Resource Allocation in a Provincial Government*

## Week 23

### Mar. 20 & 23: The Courts

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 10

Reading 20: M. Charlton & P. Barker eds., *Crosscurrents*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Issue 8 (only Introduction and Hogg article)

Reading 21: Supreme Court and its Cases: Kirk Makin, "Supreme Court under the microscope," June 6, 2011, A8

## Week 24

### Mar. 27 & 30: Elections

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 12

Reading 22: Paul Wells et al., *Maclean's* May 16, 2011 election coverage:

**Week 25****Apr. 3 & 5: Political Culture**

MacIvor, *Parameters*, ch. 2

Reading 23: Gad Horowitz, "Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism in Canada," in R.S. Blair & J. McLeod, eds., *The Canadian Political Tradition* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

**Week 26****Apr. 10: Review**

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a

test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

#### **4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

## **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## **7. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html).

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

---

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.