

POLI 636 – Approches théoriques à la politique québécoise

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Thursdays
9:35 AM-12:25 PM
Leacock 520

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 PM

Description

This seminar offers a critical examination of some major approaches to the study of Quebec politics and society, with particular emphasis on issues of nationalism, social and political movements, ethnicity, language and class conflicts, federal-provincial relations, as well as an analysis of the role of intellectuals and party politics in the deliberation process. The underlying general theme to the various topics addressed in the seminar is that of the relationship between state and society in contemporary Quebec.

Structure

There will be no lectures, as students are expected to participate actively in the seminar. That means that students must be prepared before class to discuss the readings, to read, think and discuss critically the readings, and to take seriously the views presented by the other students in the class. *Listening and writing comprehension of French and English are required in order to register for this seminar.*

The October 2 class will consist of a visit of the Nouvelle France exhibit at Musée Pointe-à-Callière, and will be followed by a lunch-discussion of the exhibit and readings.

Evaluation

Participation: 20%.

Essays on two of the eleven topics covered in class: 20% each. In a short paper (maximum of 8 pages, double-spaced), students will critically review the readings of a single week and turn in the essay at the start of that day's meeting.

Final exam (take-home): 40%. Due on December 12. Details regarding the format, as well as the actual exam questions, will all be provided in class on November 27.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

Required readings

Some of the readings are journal articles, the links for which are provided in WebCT (*). The remaining readings are to be found in a **coursepack** and in the following **four volumes**: Michael Murphy (ed.), *Quebec and Canada in the New Century*, IIGR, 2007; Éric Montpetit, *Le fédéralisme d'ouverture*, Septentrion, 2007; Alain-G. Gagnon and Raffaele Iacovino, *Federalism, Citizenship, and Quebec*, UofT Press, 2007; and Jacques Beauchemin, *L'histoire en trop*, VLB, 2002 (coursepack and volumes available for purchase at the McGill bookstore and for three-hour loan at the Redpath Reserve).

Course outline

- Week 1:** **Introduction and organization** (September 4)
- Week 2:** *[No class]* (September 11)
- Week 3:** **Québécois identity and nationalism** (September 18)
Beauchemin, *L'histoire en trop* (2002)
Mendelsohn, "Measuring National Identity and Patterns of Attachment in Quebec", *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 8:3 (2002) *
Meadwell, "The Politics of Nationalism in Quebec", *World Politics* 45:2 (1993) *
- Week 4:** **Interculturalism and immigrant integration** (September 25)
Salée, "The Quebec State and the Management of Ethnocultural Diversity", followed by McAndrew, "Quebec's Interculturalism Policy: An Alternative Vision – Commentary", in *Belonging? Diversity, Recognition and Shared Citizenship in Canada* (2007)
Report from the Bouchard-Taylor Commission *
- Week 5:** **Interpreting Quebec's political past** (October 2 at the Museum)
Rouillard, "L'énigme de la devise du Québec", *Bulletin d'histoire politique* 13:2 (2005)
Létourneau and Moisan, "Mémoire et récit de l'aventure historique du Québec chez les jeunes Québécois d'héritage canadien-français", *Canadian Historical Review* 85:2 (2004) *
Pratte, "Faire table rase", in *Reconquérir le Canada* (2007)
Comeau, "La Révolution tranquille: une invention?", in *La Révolution tranquille 40 ans plus tard: un bilan* (2000)

Linteau, “Un débat historiographique: l’entrée du Québec dans la modernité et la signification de la Révolution tranquille”, in *La Révolution tranquille 40 ans plus tard: un bilan* (2000)

Week 6: The dimensions of party competition in Quebec (October 9)

Lemieux, “Partis politiques et vie politique”, in *Le Québec en jeu* (1992)

Pétry, “Comparaison chiffrée des plateformes électorales”, in *Le Parti libéral: enquête sur les réalisations du gouvernement Charest* (2006)

Crête, “La popularité du gouvernement Charest”, in *Le Parti libéral: enquête sur les réalisations du gouvernement Charest* (2006)

Bickerton, “Crime et châtement”, *Politique et sociétés* 16:2 (1997)

Week 7: The ADQ: on the verge of a party realignment? (October 16)

Murphy: chapter 4

Allan and Vengroff, “The Changing Party System in Quebec”, *Québec Studies* 37 (2004) ★

Pinard, Rafail, Mendelsohn and Parkin, “The Sudden Upsurge and Rapid Decline of the ADQ in 2002” (2007) ★

Drouilly, “Une élection de réalignment?”, in *L’Annuaire du Québec*

Week 8: The Bloc Québécois: here to stay? (October 23)

Drouilly, “Les élections du 23 janvier 2006”, in *L’Annuaire du Québec*

Bélanger and Nadeau, “The Bloc Québécois: A Sour-Tasting Victory”, in *The Canadian General Election of 2006* (2006)

Pinard and Rafail, “L’énigme des succès de la droite à Québec”, in *Droite et démocratie au Québec* (2007)

Young and Bélanger, “BQ in the House: The Nature of Sovereignist Representation in the Canadian Parliament”, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 14:4 (2008) ★

Week 9: Mass support for Quebec sovereignty (October 30)

Murphy: chapter 2

Gagné and Langlois, “La mobilisation de 1995”, in *Les raisons fortes* (2002)

Clarke, Kornberg and Stewart, “Referendum Voting as Political Choice”, *British Journal of Political Science* 34:2 (2004) ★

Mendelsohn, “Rational Choice and Socio-Psychological Explanation for Opinion on Quebec Sovereignty”, *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 36:3 (2003) ★

Bélanger and Perrella, “Facteurs d’appui à la souveraineté du Québec chez les jeunes,” *Politique et sociétés* 27:3 (2008) ★

Week 10: The “Quebec model” of governance (November 6)

Murphy: chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8

Rouillard et al., “Sur la dimension historique de la gouvernance québécoise”, in *La réingénierie de l’État* (2004)

Week 11: Relationships with Canada I (November 13)

Murphy: chapters 3 and 10

Gagnon and Iacovino, *Federalism, Citizenship, and Quebec* (2007)

Week 12: Relationships with Canada II (November 20)

Murphy: chapter 9

Montpetit, *Le fédéralisme d’ouverture* (2007)

Noël, “Promises and Pitfalls of Open Federalism”, in *Open Federalism: Interpretations, Significance* (2006)

Balthazar, “Quebec and the Ideal of Federalism”, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 538 (1995) ★

Week 13: Relationships with foreign states (November 27)

Lecours, “Paradiplomacy: Reflections on the Foreign Policy and International Relations of Regions”, *International Negotiation* 7:1 (2002) ★

L. Bélanger, “The Domestic Politics of Quebec’s Quest for External Distinctiveness”, *American Review of Canadian Studies* 32:2 (2002) ★

Michaud, “Le bilan du gouvernement Charest en matière de relations internationales”, in *Le Parti libéral: enquête sur les réalisations du gouvernement Charest* (2006)

Martin, “When Nationalism Meets Continentalism”, in *The Political Economy of Regionalism* (1997)

Final exam (take-home) to be handed on December 12
(by email before 4:00 PM, with a hard copy that can be handed later in my box)