

POLI 636 – Approches théoriques à la politique québécoise

Professor: **Éric Bélanger**
3610 McTavish, room 26-3
eric.belanger3@mcgill.ca

Thursdays
2:35-5:25 PM
Leacock 541

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 PM, or by appointment

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 is required in order to register for this seminar.*

Evaluation

Participation in class: 25%.

Essays on two of the twelve topics covered in class: 2 x 20%. In a short paper (maximum of 2,500 words), students will critically review the readings of a single week and submit the essay on MyCourses before the start of that day's class. The essay should highlight strengths and weaknesses of the readings' argumentation and point to similarities and differences between the authors' viewpoints, as well as briefly identify questions left unanswered by the readings. (Students may wish to concentrate on only some aspects of the readings, provided that these are treated in depth.)

OR Empirical research paper (in lieu of the two essays): 40%. Due on April 4 before midnight, to be submitted on MyCourses. Must be on a topic to be approved by the instructor and be around 5,000 words.

Final exam (take-home): 35%. Due on April 25, to be submitted on MyCourses before midnight. Details regarding the format, as well as the actual exam questions, will all be provided in class on April 4.

Language of Submission

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Academic Integrity

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 [McGill's Guide to Academic Honesty](#) for more information).

Extraordinary Circumstances

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Required Readings

Many of the readings are journal articles that can be found online, either via the links embedded in this syllabus or as downloadable documents on MyCourses. The remaining readings are to be found in the following **four books**: Éric Bélanger et al., [Le nouvel électeur québécois](#), PUM, 2022; Frédéric Boily, [La Coalition avenir Québec](#), PUL, 2018; Andrew McDougall, [Sleeping Dogs: Quebec and the Stabilization of Canadian Federalism after 1995](#), UofT Press, 2023; and Ian Morrison, [Moments of Crisis: Religion and National Identity in Quebec](#), UBC Press, 2019 (all books are available as electronic versions and can also be accessed through McGill WorldCat; paperback versions are available for purchase at the Le James Bookstore at 680 Sherbrooke Street West).

Course Outline

- Week 1: Introduction and Organization** (January 4)
- Week 2: Understanding Quebec Nationalism** (January 11)
- Taylor, "[Why Do Nations Have to Become States?](#)," in *Reconciling the Solitudes* (1993)
- Béland and Lecours, "[Sub-State Nationalism and the Welfare State: Québec and Canadian Federalism](#)," *Nations and Nationalism* 12:1 (2006)
- Rocher, "[Transformations in Contemporary Quebec Nationalism](#)," *Nations and Nationalism* 29:1 (2023)
- Salée, "[The New Face of Quebec Nationalism](#)," *American Review of Canadian Studies* 52:2 (2022)
- Week 3: Interpreting Quebec's Political Past** (January 18)
- Bouchard, "[The Small Nation with a Big Dream](#)", in *National Myths: Constructed Pasts, Contested Presents* (2013)

Belliveau and Boily, "[Deux révolutions tranquilles? Transformations politiques et sociales au Québec et au Nouveau-Brunswick](#)", *Recherches Sociographiques* 46:1 (2005)

Rouillard, "[L'énigme de la devise du Québec](#)", *Bulletin d'Histoire Politique* 13:2 (2005)

Pratte, "[Wiping the Slate Clean](#)", in *Reconquering Canada* (2012)

Week 4: Interculturalism and Ethnocultural Integration (January 25)

Bouchard, "[Qu'est-ce que l'interculturalisme?](#)", *Revue de droit de McGill* 56:2 (2011)

Lamy and Mathieu, "[Les quatre temps de l'interculturalisme au Québec](#)", *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 53:4 (2020)

Salée, "[Penser l'aménagement de la diversité ethnoculturelle au Québec](#)", *Politique et Sociétés* 29:1 (2010)

Renaud and Salée, "[L'univers idéologico-politique des peuples autochtones au Québec](#)", *Bulletin d'Histoire Politique* 30:3 (2023)

Week 5: The Secularism Debate (February 1st)

Morrison, *Moments of Crisis* (2019)

Bilodeau and Turgeon, "[Débats sur la laïcité et sentiment d'appartenance chez les immigrants racisés au Québec](#)", *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 56:2 (2023)

Week 6: Provincial Electoral Behaviour (February 8)

Bélanger et al., *Le nouvel électeur québécois* (2022)

Week 7: Federal Electoral Behaviour (February 15)

Gagnon and Boucher, "[Two Eras of Block Voting in Quebec](#)", in *Canadian Parties in Transition 4th ed.* (2017)

Fournier et al., "[Riding the Orange Wave](#)", *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 46:4 (2013)

Bosworth, "[Discursive Negotiation of Identity and Construction of Affiliation in the 2019 Canadian Federal Election Party Leader Debates](#)", *Québec Studies* 72 (2021)

Montigny, "[The Bloc Québécois as a Safe Bet](#)", in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2021*

- Week 8: Mass Support for Quebec Sovereignty** (February 22)
- Langlois, “[Évolution de l’appui à l’indépendance du Québec de 1995 à 2015](#)”, in *La démocratie référendaire dans les ensembles plurinationaux* (2018)
- Vallée-Dubois, Dassonneville and Godbout, “[About Time: Age, Period, and Cohort Effects on Support for Quebec Sovereignty](#),” *Nations and Nationalism* 26:2 (2020)
- Mendelsohn, “[Rational Choice and Socio-Psychological Explanation for Opinion on Quebec Sovereignty](#),” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 36:3 (2003)
- Mendelsohn, “[Measuring National Identity and Patterns of Attachment in Quebec](#),” *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 8:3 (2002)
- Week 9: Left and Right in Quebec Politics** (February 29)
- Boily, *La Coalition avenir Québec* (2018)
- Dufour and Savoie, “[Quand les mouvements sociaux changent le politique: le cas du mouvement étudiant de 2012 au Québec](#),” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 47:3 (2014)
- Collombat and Lafrance, “[Recomposition de la gauche québécoise et rôle politique du syndicalisme](#),” *Recherches Sociographiques* 63:1-2 (2023)
- Week 10: Study break**
- Week 11: The Quebec Model of Governance** (March 14)
- Paquin, “[Qu’est-ce que le modèle québécois?](#)”, in *La Révolution tranquille 60 ans après* (2022)
- Noël, “[Quebec’s New Politics of Redistribution Meets Austerity](#)”, in *Federalism and the Welfare State in a Multicultural World* (2018)
- Béland, Dinan, Jacques et Marier, “[The Right and the \(Provincial\) Welfare State: The Case of the Coalition Avenir Québec Government](#),” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 56:3 (2023)
- Beaulieu and Lalancette, “[Analyse de l’image politique de François Legault sur Instagram pendant la crise de la COVID-19](#),” *Canadian Journal of Communication* 48:3 (2023)
- Week 12: Relationships with Canada** (March 21)
- McDougall, *Sleeping Dogs* (2023)
- Lluch, “[Autonomism and Federalism](#),” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 42:1 (2012)

Week 13:

Relationships with Foreign States (March 28)

L. Bélanger, "[The Domestic Politics of Quebec's Quest for External Distinctiveness](#)," *American Review of Canadian Studies* 32:2 (2002)

Paquin, "[Identity Paradiplomacy in Québec](#)," *Québec Studies* 66 (2018)

Massie and Lamontagne, "[Par-delà les champs de compétence](#)," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51:3 (2018)

Haglund and Massie, "[L'abandon de l'abandon](#)," *Québec Studies* 49 (2010)

Week 14:

Political Science in Quebec/in French (April 4)

Abu-Laban, "[Narrating Canadian Political Science: History Revisited](#)," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 50:1 (2017)

Godbout, "[Les cinquante ans de la RCSP: le bilinguisme en déclin?](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 50:1 (2017)

Cardinal and Bernier, "[La gouvernance francophone de la RCSP et la diffusion des connaissances en français, de 1968 à 2015](#)," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 50:1 (2017)

Daoust, Gagnon and Galipeau, "[Language Matters: The Study of Canadian Politics through an Exploration of Syllabi and Comprehensive Exams](#)," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 55:4 (2022)

Final exam (take-home) to be submitted by April 25 on MyCourses before midnight