POLI 222: Political Process and Behaviour in Canada  
CRN 1685  
Winter 2019

Class Time: 10:05 am to 11:25 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Class Location: McConnell Engineering 304  
Conferences: As of January 21

Professor: Christa Scholtz  
Office: 424 Ferrier  
Tel: 514-398-6144  
Email: christa.scholtz@mcgill.ca. Please note that I usually do not check email if I am out of the office. Please adjust your expectations accordingly.  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2 pm

McGill University is on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee Nations and a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst various Indigenous nations.

Class communication: I will use the news feature on mycourses to make any announcements to the class. Please sign up for notifications on mycourses. If you do not do so, you will only receive the announcement when you log into mycourses, and not when I actually send it.

TAs: Rose Chabot (rose.chabot@mail.mcgill.ca)  
Gaby Gonzalez-Sirois (gaby.gonzalez-sirois@mail.mcgill.ca)

Course Description

This is a large introductory course with a very wide profile of students. For some this will be their first and only elective credit in political science. For some, this will be a course which introduces them to a life-long love affair with Canadian politics (#ithappens). This course will introduce you to some of the core questions in political science, and explore how Canadians have addressed these questions in their political institutions, behaviours, and processes. We examine how demands are formulated and conducted through the political system. We scratch the surface of political culture and the role of ideas, interest group and social movement activism, judicial behavior, electoral rules, political parties and partisan politics, public opinion formation, and the bureaucracy and the policy process. I introduce you to foundational writings in Canadian politics, and encourage you to tackle journal articles which present more contemporary research in Canadian politics.

This is my philosophy about introductory courses. The most important skill you will develop in this course is how to read. By learning to read I mean: how to read with a purpose, and that purpose is to read for arguments. An argument is made up of a conclusion (the point the author wants to make in the piece) and premises (the reasons the author offers in support of the conclusion). Actively identify the question an author asks, their argument about how to answer it, and with whom they are in dialogue (ie. arguing with or against). Training yourself to read in this analytical way is the first step to being able to develop your own arguments in
future term papers. So consider this fair warning: I make you read a lot in this course, and I test your understanding of what you have read.

The course involves class periods twice a week and a weekly conference conducted by teaching assistants. Once conferences begin, the lecture will last the standard 50 minutes. In the event of in-class exams, movies, guest speakers, or because we have to make up some class time, we will take advantage of the fact that we have a room booked and go right until the end of the scheduled class time.

**Plagiarism**

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 www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information). L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

**Course Evaluation**

Midterm exam: 40%
- First Exam (in class on February 5)
- Second Exam (in class on March 12)
Final Exam: 45%
Conference Participation: 15% (split between attendance and participation)

“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.” (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

**With respect to the midterm exams:** There are two midterm exams. 40% of the course grade will be calculated on the basis of the higher midterm score. For example, if you fall apart on the first midterm and score 35%, but pull yourself together and score 75% on the second midterm, I will use the 75% in the calculation of the course grade. If you do not write an exam, your score for that exam will be 0%. It will not be scored a J (incomplete assignment).

There is no make-up midterm exam. There is one exception to this no make-up midterm rule: if you missed BOTH midterms due to two documented and serious absences. Documented and serious causes for absence include illness (with a doctor’s note) or a death in the family (with confirmation from a funeral home, for example). In the decidedly unfortunate event that you miss both midterms for such reasons, you will have the opportunity to write one make-up midterm before the final exam date.

**With respect to the final exam:** The final exam will be held during the formal examination period. The final exam will be cumulative. Exam questions will be based on any material covered in the assigned readings, conferences, and class lectures. According to Senate
regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations at www.mcgill.ca.

**With respect to conferences:** Conferences will begin during the week of January 21. The conference schedule is at the end of this syllabus. You will need to register on Minerva for a conference with one of our teaching assistants. The grade for conference participation will be assigned by the teaching assistant. It is the responsibility of the teaching assistant to set out in the first conference how that grade will be determined. Also, the teaching assistant is responsible for giving you a report of how you are doing half way through the course. If you have serious concerns about your conference grade, please address them at that time, with myself and your TA if necessary.

**Course Readings**

Two textbooks are available for purchase at the university bookstore. Digital readings are available on mycourses. The readings which are available electronically are marked with an asterisk in this syllabus.

Required textbooks are:


( Denoted ER in the lecture outline below)


**Lecture Outline**

**Jan. 8:** Introduction to the Course, plus substantive lecture on the ways of thinking about the political process. There are no assigned readings. **Class will last the full scheduled period.**

**Part I: Political Culture**

Jan. 10: Political Culture: Do our ideas/values mark us as different?
- *George Grant. Lament for a Nation: The Defeat of Canadian Nationalism (1965) (extract uploaded on mycourses)

Jan. 15 and Jan 17: Foundations of Regionalism in Canada

Note: Jan. 22 is the add/drop deadline.
Jan. 22 and Jan 24: Nationalism and Federalism in Canada
- John A. Macdonald and George-Etienne Cartier. The Confederation Debates in the Province of Canada (ER 3)
- Alexander Galt. “Not Derived from the People” (ER 2)
- *Re: Secession of Quebec, [1998] 2 SCR 217

Jan. 29: The Indigenous Challenge
- Jean Chrétien. The White Paper (ER 61)
- Harold Cardinal. The Unjust Society (ER 62)
- Glen Coulthard. Red Skin, White Masks (ER 64)

Jan. 31: Multiculturalism
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Statement on Multiculturalism (ER 67)

Feb. 5: EXAM I
- Exam starts promptly. Be on time.
- Exam to cover material from Part I of the course

Part II: Partisan Competition

Feb. 7: Political Party and Electoral Systems

Feb. 12 and Feb. 14: Canada’s Political Parties
- Carty and Cross. Political Parties and the Practice of Brokerage Politics (ER 24)
- Janine Brodie and Jane Jenson “The Party System” (ER 21)

Feb. 19 and 21: Looking at Voters: Partisan Identification

Feb. 26 and Feb 28: Information, Media, and Voters
Part 3: Political Demands and Policy Change

Mar. 14 and Mar. 19: Interest Groups and Social Movements:
- Miriam Smith. Identity and Opportunity: The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Movement (ER 60)

Mar 21: Judicial Behaviour
- Former Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin. Courts, Legislatures and Executives in the Post-Charter Era (ER 49)

Mar. 26: The Machinery of Government
- Donald Savoie “The Rise of Court Government in Canada” (ER 15)

Mar. 28: Lobbying

Apr. 2: Pregnancy Discrimination

Apr. 4, Apr. 9: Wrapping it up: Ideas, Interests, or Institutions?

Apr. 11: Review. No assigned readings

Conference Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>During Week of</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Charlton/Barker Issue 1 (Americanization)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Charlton/Barker Issue 2 (Native Sovereignty)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Cancelled to enable TAs to mark the exam quickly</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Charlton/Barker Issue 9 (MMP or SMP?)</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Partisan ID: Survey Results</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Charlton/Barker Issue 14 (Media)</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>Cancelled to enable TAs to mark the exam quickly</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>Charlton/Barker Issue 10 (Women and politics)</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Idle No More: Readings on mycourses</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Charlton/Barker Issue 5 (Health care)</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>Review</td>
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