



McGill University
Department of Political Science
POLI 326 PROVINCIAL POLITICS
Fall 2014

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Course Description

What role do the provinces play in Canadian politics? What issues dominate provincial political life? How do provinces diverge or converge in their responses to economic and social change? This course attempts to answer these questions through an analysis of the different dimensions of provincial politics, culture, economy and society. The course provides both descriptive and analytic content in lectures, and features readings that give insights into both past and present provincial politics.

The course first situates the provinces in the Canadian polity and federalism (September). We then take a closer look at individual provinces in terms of political development, role within the federation, and current issues at play, including recent general elections (October). Finally, we turn to governance issues, economic challenges and key policy areas, including the biggest ticket item for provincial governments, health care (November).

Course Information:

Lectures will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Friday lecture time is replaced by a discussion group conference; you must sign up for and attend these discussion groups, with topics as noted in the syllabus.

The evaluation for this course consists of the following:

- Mid-term exam (on October 29th) covering readings and lectures (30%)
- Policy paper (due December 3rd) on health care in the provinces (30%)
- Team presentation (10%) and paper (due the week after presentation) (20%)
- Discussion group participation (10%)

Please Note:

McGill University values academic integrity. It is your responsibility as a McGill student to 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).

Vous avez le droit de remettre vos travaux et de rédiger vos examens en français.

Required readings:

Rand Dyck, *Provincial Politics in Canada* (updated 2014) available on MyCourses.

For decades, *Provincial Politics in Canada* was the authoritative source for students of Canadian politics. This book is now out of print, but Professor Dyck has generously made available an updated version of all the chapters on-line. They are posted in MyCourses. In the interests of our planet, please avoid printing them. Remember that these chapters serve as outlines; you will be expected to know the broad features and majors issues of the provinces rather than the minutiae.

Antonia Maioni, *Health Care in Canada* (Oxford University Press, 2014) available at Paragraphe Books

Michael Atkinson et al., *Governance and Public Policy in Canada: A View from the Provinces* (University of Toronto Press, 2013) available at Paragraphe Books

Additional readings and videos: *As indicated in the course outline*

You should also familiarize yourself with provincial, federal and other relevant web sites, as well as web-based and library resources, to prepare your papers.

Course Outline and Timetable

Wednesday, September 3:

Introduction to the Study of Provinces in Canada

Introduction, course syllabus, requirements ... and a conversation.

Monday September 8 & Wednesday September 10

Federalism and provinces in Canada

- James Bickerton, “Deconstructing the New Federalism” *Canadian Political Science Review*, Vol 4, No 2-3 (2010)
(<http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/cpsr/article/view/225>)

Discussion groups: Meet your TA and choose provincial teams.

Monday September 15 & Wednesday September 17

Provincial landscapes

- Nelson Wiseman, “Pathways to Canadian Political Culture” Ch. 1, *In Search of Canadian Political Culture*, pp. 13-34 (UBC Press, 2005) (WebCT)
- Michael Howlett and Keith Brownsey, “Introduction to Canada’s Staples Industries” *Canadian Political Science Review*, Vol 1, No 7 (2007)
<http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/cpsr/article/view/20>

Discussion groups: Who does what in Canada?

Monday September 22 & Wednesday September 24

Provincial Politics: Quebec

- Rand Dyck, “Quebec”
- CPAC, *The Premiers: Maurice Duplessis* <http://www.cpac.ca/en/digital-archives/?program=233>

Discussion groups: In lieu of discussion groups, you will attend a special event!

This week, the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada is holding a conference called *Canada Remix* at Moyse Hall. You are required to attend one of the sessions in the afternoon programme (<http://www.mcgill.ca/misc/20yearsofmisc>) either from 2.30 to 3.30 pm; or 3.30-4.30 pm. Sign-up sheets will be available the week before the event.

Monday September 29 & Wednesday October 1

Provincial Politics: Ontario

- Rand Dyck, “Ontario”
- CPAC, *The Premiers: Leslie Frost* <http://www.cpac.ca/en/digital-archives/?program=233>

Discussion groups: Quebec and Ontario election presentations

Monday October 6 & Wednesday October 8

Provincial Politics: The Atlantic Provinces

- Rand Dyck, “New Brunswick”
- Rand Dyck, “Nova Scotia”
- Rand Dyck, “Prince Edward Island”

- Rand Dyck, “Newfoundland and Labrador”
- CPAC, *The Premiers: Joey Smallwood* <http://www.cpac.ca/en/digital-archives/?program=233>

Discussion Groups: NB, NS, PEI, NF election presentations

Monday October 13 & Wednesday October 15

Provincial Politics: The Prairies

- Rand Dyck, “Manitoba”
- Rand Dyck, “Saskatchewan”
- Rand Dyck, “Alberta”
- Nelson Wiseman, “The American Imprint on Alberta Politics” *Canadian Political Science Association*, June 2010 (www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2010/Wiseman.pdf)
- CPAC, *The Premiers: Tommy Douglas* <http://www.cpac.ca/en/digital-archives/?program=233>

Discussion groups: Manitoba and Saskatchewan election presentations

Monday October 20 & Wednesday October 22

Provincial Politics: British Columbia

- Rand Dyck, “British Columbia”
- CPAC, *The Premiers: W.A.C. Bennett* <http://www.cpac.ca/en/digital-archives/?program=233>

Discussion groups: Alberta and British Columbia election presentations

Monday October 27 & Wednesday October 29

Public Policy in the Provinces

- Atkinson et al, “Intergovernmentalism and Provincial Policy Setting”
- Atkinson et al, “Provincial Administrative Institutions”

Discussion groups: Wither intergovernmentalism in Canada?

Monday November 3 & Wednesday November 5

MIDTERM EXAM

Monday November 10 & Wednesday November 12

The Public Purse in the Provinces

- Atkinson et al, “Taxing and Spending”
- Atkinson et al, “The Provincial Regulatory State”

Discussion groups: Who pays for what?

Monday November 17 & Wednesday November 19

Health care development in the provinces

- Maioni, chapters 2 & 7

Discussion groups: Are provinces incubators of policy change?

Monday November 24 & Wednesday November 26

Health care and the provincial state

- Maioni, chapters 3 & 4

Discussion groups: Do we have a health care “system” in Canada?

Monday December 1 & Wednesday December 3

What’s a country for?

Wrap-up and review

POLICY PAPERS DUE

ASSIGNMENTS

Team assignment and presentation on recent provincial election (30%):

At the start of the semester in your discussion groups, you will be asked to sign up for a province in teams of 2 or 3 students. The group is responsible for a written paper (5-7 pages) that describes and analyzes the results of the latest provincial election. The group will also present its results in the discussion groups. These topics need to be covered:

- brief background
- political parties and their platforms
- leadership profiles
- summary and analysis of results

Teams will be given a collective assessment for both the written and oral presentations, so divide up the task accordingly and be as creative as you can as a group in presenting the information to your classmates. There will be a time-limit for the presentation, so you need to be well-organized and efficient.

Length: 2000 words (approx. 5-7 double-spaced pages)

Due date: The week following the presentation

Policy paper assignment on health care in the provinces (30%):

This paper allows you to focus on one province and analyze the biggest ticket item in its provincial budget: health care. You are required to do independent reading and research for this assignment, and to be able to write up your findings in a clear, concise and cogent manner. The following elements must be included:

- How did publicly-funded health care develop in this province?
- What are the main contours of delivery and financing?
- Why is health care policy a political issue in this province?
- What are the main challenges and have recent reforms met them?
- Where is the future headed in health policy?

Length: 3000 words (approx. 10 double-spaced pages)

Due date: December 3rd (last day of class)