

POLI 410
Political Parties and Ideology in Canada (Fall 2022)

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Lecture times: Tuesday and Thursdays from 1:05 pm- 2:25 pm

Office hours:

In-person:

- Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00 pm, Leacock 529

Online:

- Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00 am (you must sign up in advanced at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DSocq81jCcbDc1YCBZvb9nytKM54b0rfmJeoik8-3Yc/edit>)

Course Overview and Objectives

What is political ideology? How does ideology structure political parties and partisanship? And, in turn, how do parties influence larger Canadian politics, political behaviour, and partisanship? This course will help students answer these and other questions through an examination of a variety of key thinkers and debates around parties and ideology in Canadian politics.

The aim of this course is to give students the critical tools to examine the complexity of Canadian political society, particularly how it intersects with political ideology, culture, and party politics. Students should complete the course with a firm grasp on both the limits and possibilities of analyzing “ideology” as it intersects and interlocks with other facets of Canadian politics – including party politics, voter behaviour, candidate selection, electoral outcomes, and ultimately, political governance.

Students will develop the ability to:

- Identify the ideological underpinnings, history, and structures of the main political parties in Canada,
- Understand a wide variety of perspectives on Canadian political ideology and party politics,
- Understand the main debates and key assumptions made around voter behaviour, electoral systems, partisanship, and political campaigning.

Required Materials

All of the course readings and other materials (in the form of videos, podcasts and newspaper articles) will be posted on myCourses. It is suggested that you go through the materials in the order they are posted online.

Deadlines and assignment submission

All deadlines are stated in the schedule below. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are to be submitted as Word documents using the Assignments tool in myCourses by 11:59pm (Montréal time). Late assignments will be deducted one third of a letter grade for every day late, including weekends. Extensions are available only for serious and documented reasons, and they must be requested ahead of time. No extensions will be granted on (or after) an assignment’s due date. Do not send assignments via email unless otherwise instructed.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments	Date	Grade %
Attendance and participation in: - TA-led conferences - Final in-class debate* <i>*Absence from the in-class debate on December 1 will result in an automatic 30% deduction from the student's participation grade</i>	See class schedule for conference weeks	20%
Closed book midterm	Nov. 1	20%
Research paper OR group project	Nov. 17	30%
Final take-home exam	TBD	30%

Description of assignments:

Conferences and final in-class debate

Conferences

Active participation is central in ensuring that students understand and retain knowledge. To this end, students will be expected to attend and participate in **six out of seven** conferences throughout the semester (that means you can miss one conference without losing any marks on your participation grade). Conferences will give students an opportunity to work through and reflect on the class material in smaller groups.

Grades will be determined by the TA based on the following criteria:

- Has the student attended conference?
- Has the student consistently attended and voluntarily participated in small group discussion (i.e. asking and answering questions, suggesting themes for discussion, giving examples)?
- Did the student actively participate in the mandatory in-class debate?

Final in-class debate

On the final day of classes, students will be assigned to a federal political party and an in-class debate will be held. Absence from the in-class debate will result in an automatic 30% deduction from the student's participation grade. More details will be given in class.

Research Paper OR Group project

Research paper options:

Students can choose to write a 10-12-page (excluding the title page and bibliography) paper. They must be original papers, meaning that revised papers previously or concurrently written for another class are not acceptable. The papers have to quote at least five academic sources, be properly referenced, and include a bibliography listing all the sources cited. A list of paper topics will be posted on mycourses, however, students are encouraged to write on a topic of their choice, however it must first be approved by the instructor.

Group project option:

Student can also choose to be placed in groups of 3-5 and devise a new federal political party. Both the format and the included content for this assignment is flexible. You could, for example, draft a policy guide, build a website, and/or create video content for your party. Your assignment should address the historical emergence of the party; its ideological underpinnings; key policy issues; policy platform; and campaign and electoral strategies. You could also include information about its leaders, key constituencies and supporters. I

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encourage groups to be creative in approaching this assignment and will make myself available to brainstorm with groups about possible approaches.

Take home final

Questions for the take home final will be posted on myCourses on a date scheduled by the university. Students will have 72 hours to complete the exam. Answers are expected to draw on relevant course lecture material and assigned readings. More details will be given in class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week/Topics	Date	Assignments and/or Readings
Introductions	S. 1	Read the syllabus
I. CONTEXTUALIZING PARTY POLITICS: POLITICS CULTURE IN CANADA		
Week 1: Canadian political ideology	S 6	<p><i>No conferences this week</i></p> <p>Terry Eagleton, “Ideology: An Introduction”</p> <p>Nelson Wiseman, “Ideological Competition in the Canadian Party System”</p> <p>Anne Kingston, “The political terms ‘right’ and ‘left’ are simplistic, damaging, and need to be retired” (Macleans article)</p>
	S 8	<p>Paul Saurette and Kathryn Trevenen, “It Don’t Mean a Thing if it Ain’t got that Swing: Ideology in the age of emotion”</p> <p>Kelly Gordon and Michael Orsini, “Seeing red and feeling blue? How emotions are colouring the federal election in unexpected ways” (The Conversation article)</p>
Week 2: Canadian political culture	S 13	<p><i>No conferences this week</i></p> <p>Elkins, David J. and Richard Simeon. 1979. “A Cause in Search of Its Effect, or What Does Political Culture Explain?”</p> <p>Gad Horowitz, “Conservatism, liberalism, and socialism in Canada: An interpretation” (1966) (mycourses)</p>
	S 15	<p>Seymour Lipset, “Historical Traditions and National Characteristics: A Comparative Analysis of Canada and the United States”</p> <p>Harrold Innis, The fur trade in Canada: An introduction to Canadian economic history - Introduction: “The Beaver”</p>
II. PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS IN CANADA		
Week 3: Parties and party systems	S 20	<p><i>Conferences begin this week</i></p> <p>John Kenneth White, “What is a Political Party”</p> <p>Andrew Nikiforuk, “Party’s Over: Why We Need to Abolish Political Parties” (The Tyee article)</p>

		<p>Susan Delacourt, “The case for abolishing political parties” (Toronto Star article)</p> <p>Steve Patten, “The Evolution of the Canadian Party System: From Brokerage to Marketing-Oriented Politics”</p>
<p>Week 4: The Liberal party</p>	<p>S 22</p> <p>S 27</p> <p>S 29</p>	<p><i>Conferences this week</i></p> <p>Wilfred Laurier, “Sunny Ways Speech”</p> <p>Brooke Jeffrey, “The Liberal Party of Canada: Rebuilding, Resurgence, and Return to Power”</p> <p>Sheryl Lightfoot, “A Promise Too Far? The Justin Trudeau Government and Indigenous Rights”</p> <p>Ian Austen, “Four Years After ‘Sunny Ways,’ a Muted Restart for Justin Trudeau” (New York Times article)</p>
<p>Week 5: The Conservative Party</p>	<p>O 4</p> <p>O. 6</p>	<p><i>No conferences this week</i></p> <p>No in-person class on October 4 (listen to re-recorded lecture)</p> <p>Preston Manning, “The West Wants In” (speech)</p> <p>James Farney, “From Grant to Hayek: The Shifting Nature of Canadian Conservatism”</p> <p>Ian Austen, “Canada’s Conservatives Seek a Champion, and Redemption” (New York Times article)</p> <p>“The Buffalo Declaration” (manifesto and website)</p> <p>Open to Debate with David Moscrop, “What is the future of conservatism in Canada” (podcast)</p>
<p>Week 6: The CCF/NDP</p>	<p>O 10-14</p>	<p><i>Conferences this week</i></p> <p>NO IN-PERSON CLASSES THIS WEEK (listen to pre-recorded lectures on mycourses and attend conferences this week)</p> <p>David McGrane, “Ideological Moderation and Professionalization: The NDP under Jack Layton and Thomas Mulcair”</p> <p>David McGrane, “What Does ‘Progressive’ Mean? The Political Theory of Social Democracy and Reform Liberalism in Canada”</p> <p>The Leap Manifesto (manifesto)</p>

IV. PARTIES AND ISSUES OF REPRESENTATION		
Week 10: Representing regions	N 8	<i>Conferences this week</i> James Bickerton, “Parties and Regions: Representation and Resistance”
	N 10	Nelson Wiseman, <i>In Search of Canadian Political Culture</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 5: “Regions and Political Culture” ○ Chapter 7: “Quebec: Political Culture of a Distinct Society” Scott Matthews, “Regionalism is nothing new” (Macleans article)
Week 11: Representing women	N 15	<i>No conferences this week</i> Sylvia Bashevkin, “When do outsiders break in? Institutional circumstances of party leadership victories by women in Canada”
	N 17	Brenda O’Neill, Scott Pruyzers, and David K Stewart, “Glass Cliffs or Partisan Pressure? Examining Gender and Party Leader Tenures and Exits” “25 Perfect” (documentary)
	N 17	Final paper OR Final group project due
Week 12 Representing race and immigration	N 22	<i>Conferences this week</i> Joanie Bouchard, “I think Canadians look like all sorts of people’: ethnicity, political leadership, and the case of Jagmeet Singh” Erin Tolley, “Who you know: Local party presidents and minority candidates’ emergence”
	N 24	Randy Besco and Erin Tolley, “Does everyone cheer?: The politics of immigration and multiculturalism in Canada” Terry Galvin, “Why race and immigration are a gathering storm in Canadian politics” (Macleans article) Alec Castonguay, “The inside story of Jason Kenney’s campaign to win over ethnic votes” (Macleans article)
Week 13 Wrapping up and debate	N 29	<i>No conferences this week</i> Wrapping up and exam preparation
	D 1	In-class debate (attendance mandatory)
	TBD	Final take home exam due

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Other things to note:

Copyright of Lectures Statement

All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Extraordinary Circumstances Statement

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

Indigenous Land Statement:

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations.

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. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

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).