POLI 426 – Partis politiques et comportements électoraux au Québec

Description
This course examines Quebec political parties and party systems, stressing patterns of historical development. The course then explores various theoretical accounts of Quebecers’ voting behaviour at the provincial, federal, and municipal levels. It concludes by addressing current challenges involving political parties and electoral behaviour in Quebec.

(Prerequisites: POLI 221 or POLI 222 or POLI 226, or permission of instructor. Listening and writing comprehension of French are also required.)

Structure
Classes will mostly consist of lectures and discussions. In addition, two film documentaries, À hauteur d’homme and À contre-courant, will be presented during Weeks 3 and 4.

Evaluation
Participation: 10%.

Research paper proposal: 10%. Electronic copy due on October 12 before midnight (to be submitted on myCourses). Must be 2 pages in length, typed, double-spaced. Note that students are encouraged to consult with the professor before finalizing their paper topics.

Research paper: 40%. Electronic copy due on December 4 before midnight (to be submitted on myCourses). Must be between 12 and 15 pages in length, typed, double-spaced. Must be written either alone or in pairs. (More details will be provided in class.) Late papers will be assigned a penalty of 5% (2 points) per day including weekends.

Final exam: 40%. Essay questions (covering the entire syllabus). The exam schedule will be available on Minerva.

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.
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/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Required Readings

Some of the readings can be found online, the links for which are embedded in this syllabus. The remaining readings are to be found in a coursepack and in the following two volumes: Réjean Pelletier (ed.), Les partis politiques québécois dans la tourmente, PUL, 2012; Frédérick Bastien, Éric Bélanger, and François Gélineau (eds.), Les Québécois aux urnes, PUM, 2013 (coursepack and volumes available for purchase at 3544 Avenue du Parc and for three-hour loan at the Redpath Reserve).

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction (September 5)
[No class on September 7]

Week 2: The Provincial Party System and the PLQ (September 12-14)
Pelletier: Chapters 1 and 9
Bastien, Bélanger and Gélineau: Chapters 1, 2, and 10

Week 3: The PQ (September 19-21)
Pelletier: Chapter 10
Pinard, “Political Ambivalence towards the Parti Québécois and its Electoral Consequences”, *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 30:3 (2005)
Mahéo and Bélanger, “Is the Parti Québécois Bound to Disappear?”, *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming)

Week 4: Third Parties (September 26-28)
Pelletier: Chapters 11 and 12


Week 5: **Elections at the Municipal Level** (October 3-5)

Collin, “Quel avenir pour la démocratie municipale québécoise?,” in Les élections municipales au Québec (2011)


Week 6: **Quebec-Based Federal Parties** (October 10-12)

Pelletier: Chapter 13


Submission of research paper proposal on October 12 (on myCourses before midnight)

Week 7: **Election Campaigning** (October 17-19)

Nadeau and Bastien, “La communication électorale,” in La communication politique (2003)

Bastien, Bélanger and Gélineau: Chapters 6 to 9

Week 8: **Explaining Provincial Voting Behaviour** (October 24-26)

Pelletier: Chapter 5
Week 9: [No class on October 31-November 2]

Week 10: Explaining Federal Voting Behaviour (November 7-9)
Gidengil et al., “Electoral Dynamics in Quebec,” in Dominance and Decline (2012)

Week 11: Referendum Voting (November 14-21)

[No class on November 16]

Week 12: Challenges to Electoral Democracy (November 21-23)
Pelletier: Chapters 2, 3, and 7
Bastien, Bélanger and Gélineau: Chapters 4 and 11

Week 13: Concluding Discussion (November 28-30)
Pelletier: Introduction
Pelletier: Conclusion (Lemieux)
Montigny, *La fin des Oui et des Non au Québec* (2016)

Submission of research paper on December 4 (on *myCourses* before midnight)

Final exam (exact date to be announced)