POLI 636 – Approches théoriques à la politique québécoise

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30 AM-11:00 AM

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: 20%. This includes acting as the seminar leader if writing an essay.

Essays on two of the eleven topics covered in class: 20% each. In a short paper (maximum of 2,500 words), students will critically review the readings of a single week and turn in the essay at the start of that day’s meeting.

OR Research paper: 40%. Due on November 28. Must be on a topic to be approved by the instructor and be around 6,000 words.

Final exam (take-home): 40%. Due on December 12. Details regarding the format, as well as the actual exam questions, will all be provided in class on November 28.

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 offenses 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 three volumes: Michael Murphy (ed.), Quebec and Canada in the New Century, IIGR, 2007; Jocelyn Maclure, Quebec Identity, MQUP, 2003; and Frédéric Boily, La Coalition avenir Québec, PUL, 2018 (coursepack and volumes available for purchase at the Le James Bookstore at 680 Sherbrooke Street West and for three-hour loan at the Redpath Reserve).

**Course Outline**

**Week 1:** Introduction and Organization (September 5)

**Week 2:** Political Science in Quebec/in French (September 12)


**Week 3:** Québécois Identity and Nationalism (September 19)


Maclure, Quebec Identity (2003)

**Week 4:** Interculturalism and Immigrant Integration (September 26)

Bouchard, “Qu’est-ce que l’interculturalisme?,” Revue de droit de McGill 56:2 (2011)


**Week 5:**

The Secularism Debate (October 3)


**Week 6:**

Provincial Electoral Behaviour (October 10)

Murphy: chapter 4


Mahéo and Bélanger, “Is the Parti Québécois Bound to Disappear?,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 51:2 (2018)

**Week 7:**

Federal Electoral Behaviour (October 17)


Gidengil et al., “Electoral Dynamics in Quebec,” in *Dominance and Decline* (2012)


Bélanger and Nadeau, “The Bloc Québécois in a Rainbow-Coloured Quebec,” in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2015*
Week 8:  
**Mass Support for Quebec Sovereignty**  (October 24)  
Murphy: chapter 2  

Week 9:  
**Left and Right in Quebec Politics**  (October 31)  
Murphy: chapter 6  

Week 10:  
**The Quebec Model of Governance**  (November 7)  
Rouillard et al., “Sur la dimension historique de la gouvernance québécoise,” in *De la réingénierie à la modernisation de l’État québécois* (2008)  
Murphy: chapters 5, 7, and 8  
Manifestos “Pour un Québec lucide” & “Pour un Québec solidaire”

Week 11:  
*[No class on November 14]*

Week 12:  
**Relationships with Canada**  (November 21)  
Murphy: chapters 3, 9, and 10  

Week 13:  
**Relationships with Foreign States**  (November 28)  

Final exam (take-home) to be submitted on December 12