

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**Fall 2011**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**History 9270A**  
**Political Culture in Canadian History Since 1867**

**Instructor:** Professor Keith Fleming  
**Office:** Lawson Hall, 2226  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 2:30-5:00 p.m., or by appointment  
**Telephone:** 661-2111 ext. 84991  
**Email:** [kfleming@uwo.ca](mailto:kfleming@uwo.ca)  
**Class time:** Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
**Classroom:** Lawson Hall, 1227

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course in political history focuses on the events, individuals, institutions, and ideas that have shaped Canadian political culture since Confederation. By political culture we mean the values, beliefs and attitudes that Canadians held more or less in common concerning the political processes, institutions, and personalities that increasingly dominated their lives as Canada evolved from a rural and largely agrarian society into an urban and primarily industrial and eventually post-industrial and globalized nation. As the character of Canadian society changed after 1867 so too did its political culture. Although expressions of political culture in Canadian history are many and varied, some of the important themes we will examine are political ideology generally and liberalism specifically; Canada's longstanding love-hate relationship with the United States; Quebec's controversial claim to distinctiveness; multiculturalism and the country's complex ethnic mosaic; the often cranky manifestations of eastern and western regionalism, the cradle-to-grave welfare state, a political economy full of contradictions, and the curious national obsession with constitutionalism.

The social sciences offer multiple methods for studying political culture. For example, political scientists, anthropologists and sociologists articulate and analyze political culture from their own unique disciplinary perspectives. Our approach will be historical.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

As this is a reading intensive seminar, the writing requirements are comparatively light. Students will read one assigned book each week in preparation for seminar discussions. Since a single monograph cannot encapsulate adequately the range of historical and historiographical themes associated with each seminar's exploration of a specific facet of Canadian political culture, much attention will be given to contextualizing the books within the broader historical narrative of the weekly topic.

This is a graduate-level seminar and much is expected of the participants. Attendance is mandatory. Students will be assessed weekly on their level of preparedness and knowledge as indicated by contributions to class discussions. **A passing grade (minimum 70%) for “Seminar Participation” is required in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade for the course.**

In preparation for the second session of the course (September 20<sup>th</sup>) students will read H.V. Nelles, *A Little History of Canada*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (2011) and submit a scholarly review (maximum length, seven pages) discussing the book’s merits as an introduction to Canadian history generally, and to the principal themes of political culture specifically. When composing the review, remember that Nelles’s intended audience for this “interpretive essay” (vi) was unlikely to include graduate students in Canadian history (see p.ix), and his purpose was not to synthesize the country’s political culture. This assignment has a three-fold purpose. First, it ensures that all participants in the seminar will share at least a rudimentary knowledge of many of the principal themes of Canadian political history. Second, it starts everyone thinking about the widely varied sources and expressions of political culture in Canada’s past. Third, it enables the professor to assess early in the course a writing sample from each student. Additional details concerning this written requirement will be provided in class.

The second writing assignment is somewhat more ambitious. During the first session of the course (September 13<sup>th</sup>) students will be designated one seminar session for which they are to prepare and present a formal lecture (maximum 25 minutes in duration) positioning the assigned book within the broader historical narrative of the seminar theme for that week. Thus, the lecture will be designed to instruct others in the seminar about the book’s broader historical and historiographical context. The presenting student will also be responsible for leading the seminar discussion that week. Two weeks after the class presentation, a scholarly written report (maximum length, 20 pages) will be due incorporating both the substance of the student’s lecture as well as a concise review of the assigned book. Additional details concerning this lecture and the accompanying written requirement will be provided in class.

The third writing assignment is quite straightforward. Each student will read Lawrence Leduc et al., *Dynasties and Interludes: Past and Present in Canadian Electoral Politics* (2010) and submit in class on November 8<sup>th</sup> a scholarly commentary (maximum length, ten pages) explaining how the principal issues and outcomes of Canada’s electoral history at the federal level inform our understanding and interpretation of Canadian political culture since 1867. Additional details concerning this written requirement will be provided in class.

### **Evaluation:**

Seminar Participation: 30%

Review of *A Little History of Canada* (due 20 September 2011): 15%

Lecture and written report (latter due two weeks following presentation): 30%

Commentary on *Dynasties and Interludes* (due 8 November 2011): 25%

**Any written assignments submitted after the due date will receive a grade of “0”.**

**Required Books:** (all are available for purchase at the UWO Bookstore, and are on two-hour reserve at the D.B. Weldon Library)

- Blake, Raymond B. *From Rights to Needs: A History of Family Allowances in Canada, 1929-92* (2009)
- Champion, C.P. *The Strange Demise of British Canada: The Liberals and Canadian Nationalism, 1964-1968* (2010)
- Constant, Jean-François and Michel Ducharme, eds. *Liberalism and Hegemony: Debating the Canadian Liberal Revolution* (2009)
- Graham, Ron. *The Last Act: Pierre Trudeau, the Gang of Eight, and the Fight for Canada* (2011)
- Iacovetta, Franca. *Gatekeepers: Reshaping Immigrant Lives in Cold War Canada* (2006)
- Leduc, Lawrence et al. *Dynasties and Interludes: Past and Present in Canadian Electoral Politics* (2010)
- Sean Mills, *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal* (2010)
- Nelles, H.V. *A Little History of Canada*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (2011)
- Nelles, H.V. *The Politics of Development: Forests, Mines & Hydro-electric Power in Ontario, 1849-1941* (2005)
- Pennington, Christopher. *The Destiny of Canada: Macdonald, Laurier, and the Election of 1891* (2011)
- Slumkoski, Corey. *Inventing Atlantic Canada: Regionalism and the Maritime Reaction to Newfoundland's Entry Into Canadian Confederation* (2011)
- Wesley, Jared J. *Code Politics: Campaigns and Cultures on the Canadian Prairies* (2011)
- Wiseman, Nelson. *In Search of Canadian Political Culture* (2007)

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**SEMINAR and READING SCHEDULE:**

**Session One: Tuesday 13 September 2011**

**Topic: Course Objectives and Procedures**

**Session Two: Tuesday 20 September 2011**

**Topic: A Canadian history primer as a foundation for political culture**

**Readings:** H.V. Nelles, *A Little History of Canada*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (2011)

**\*\*\*\*\* REVIEW OF *A Little History of Canada* DUE TODAY \*\*\*\*\***

**Session Three: Tuesday 27 September 2011**

**Topic: Just how many Canadian political cultures can one country stand?**

**Reading:** Nelson Wiseman, *In Search of Canadian Political Culture* (2007)

**Session Four: Tuesday 4 October 2011**

**Topic: Was Canadian political culture hijacked by liberals?**

**Reading:** Jean-François Constant and Michel Ducharme, eds. *Liberalism and Hegemony: Debating the Canadian Liberal Revolution* (2009).

**Session Five: Tuesday 11 October 2011**

**Topic: Damn Yankees: Can't live with them; can't live without them**

**Reading:** Christopher Pennington, *The Destiny of Canada: Macdonald, Laurier, and the Election of 1891* (2011)

**Session Six: Tuesday 18 October 2011**

**Topic: A fondness for all things "British"?**

**Reading:** C.P. Champion, *The Strange Demise of British Canada: The Liberals and Canadian Nationalism, 1964-1968* (2010)

**Session Seven: Tuesday 25 October 2011**

**Topic: Should we stay, or should we go?: Quebec and a bicultural political culture**

**Reading:** Sean Mills, *The Empire Within: Postcolonial Thought and Political Activism in Sixties Montreal* (2010)

**Session Eight: Tuesday 1 November 2011**

**Topic: Keep sending those cheques: social welfare and political culture as payday**

**Reading:** Raymond B. Blake, *From Rights to Needs: A History of Family Allowances in Canada, 1929-92* (2009)

**Session Nine: Tuesday 8 November 2011**

**Topic: Multiculturalism and the many ethnic faces of Canadian political culture**

**Reading:** Franca Iacovetta, *Gatekeepers: Reshaping Immigrant Lives in Cold War Canada* (2006)

\*\*\*\*\* COMMENTARY OF *Dynasties and Interludes* DUE TODAY \*\*\*\*\*

**Session Ten: Tuesday 15 November 2011**

**Topic: The West wants in (sort of): political culture's regional face, Part I**

**Reading:** Jared J. Wesley, *Code Politics: Campaigns and Cultures on the Canadian Prairies* (2011)

**Session Eleven: Tuesday 22 November 2011**

**Topic: The East is in (and hopes someone notices): political culture's regional face, Part II**

**Reading:** Corey Slumkoski, *Inventing Atlantic Canada: Regionalism and the Maritime Reaction to Newfoundland's Entry Into Canadian Confederation* (2011)

**Session Twelve: Tuesday 29 November 2011**

**Topic: Who is in charge here?: the state, the economy, and political culture**

**Reading:** H.V. Nelles, *The Politics of Development: Forests, Mines & Hydro-electric Power in Ontario, 1849-1941* (2005)

**Session Thirteen: Tuesday 6 December 2011**

**Topic: Peaceful, orderly, and good: the political culture of a law abiding people**

**Reading:** Ron Graham, *The Last Act: Pierre Trudeau, the Gang of Eight, and the Fight for Canada* (2011)

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**Please note:** Students are reminded that **academic accommodation on medical grounds** can in most instances only be granted if supported by a University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate. This form can be accessed at the following website: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/Imedical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/Imedical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) Further details on medical accommodation can be found at the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.