

HISTORY 3226F
Canadian Political Leadership
Fall 2020
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Professor Keith Fleming

Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 1208

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., or by appointment. Since I am unable to hold in-person office hours during the Fall 2020 academic term due to Covid-19 restrictions, please phone (226-236-6616) or email (kfleming@uwo.ca) me during Wednesday office hours about course-related matters. If needed, I will also hold individual appointments with students via Zoom scheduled at mutually convenient times.

This course will be offered in a virtual, synchronous format via Zoom. A link to Zoom and the weekly class meetings can be located on the History 3226F OWL website Tool Menu.

Course Description:

This course focuses on leadership styles of the most influential, innovative, and frequently controversial prime ministers and provincial premiers from the 1860s to the present. Emphasis is placed on the interplay of character, circumstance, pragmatism and principle in governing a nation as ethnically diverse and regionally fragmented as Canada.

Prerequisite:

1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite:

History 3297F/G taken in 2009 or 2010

Course Syllabus:

Political leadership in Canada is not exercised exclusively by elected officials. Non-elected bureaucrats, judges, interest groups, media representatives, and citizen activists can also be influential leaders by shaping public opinion at all levels of government. Yet the leaders in post-Confederation Canadian history who have been invested with the greatest decision-making authority are the prime ministers and provincial premiers. They are, with a couple of noteworthy exceptions (namely, the Indigenous political leaders Louis Riel and Ovide Mercredi), the focus of History 3226F. Specifically, the course considers the leadership styles and attributes, successes and failures, of some of Canada's most noteworthy government leaders (including John A. Macdonald, Robert Borden, Wilfrid Laurier, William Lyon

Mackenzie King, Maurice Duplessis, William Aberhart, Tommy Douglas, Pierre Trudeau, Joey Smallwood, René Lévesque, Brian Mulroney, and Kim Campbell). Many of the prime ministers and provincial premiers to be studied were renowned for their leadership successes and innovations. The records of some of the others were far more controversial. Regardless, the careers of each of the political leaders we study will be treated as a unique combination of character and circumstance, pragmatism and principle. To that end, substantial attention is paid to the social, economic and political challenges and opportunities each leader faced while in government, and how collectively they altered our understanding of leadership as the nation evolved. The course begins with a consideration of theoretical perspectives for assessing political leadership in a country as ethnically diverse and regionally fragmented as Canada. It then highlights the careers of a select and highly diverse group of political leaders who played a central role in shaping Canada, for better or worse, between 1867 and the present.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to

- identify the major events, concepts, and personalities associated with evolving concepts of Canadian political leadership at the national and provincial levels
- provide accurate factual information about a wide range of people, groups, events, and documents discussed in readings and explain their significance
- strengthen skills of oral and written communication
- analyze secondary sources, including their sources, methods, arguments, strengths, limitations, potential implications and significance for the field
- solve research problems by identifying a topic, refining it to a significant and answerable historical question, determining the essential components of the argument, organizing the parts of the essay, and drawing conclusions
- effectively integrate primary and secondary sources in class presentations, discussions, and research essays
- apply academic knowledge to analyze the impact of historical precedents on shaping the contemporary styles and effectiveness of Canada's national and provincial political leaders

Course Materials:

The course readings are available either in digital format at the Western Libraries site for History 3226F (which can be accessed via the 'Course Readings' link on the course OWL website), or on two-hour reserve at D.B. Weldon Library.

The book for review, Nelson Wiseman, *Partisan Odysseys: Canada's Political Parties* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020) is available for purchase through the University Book Store and other on-line retailers, and is on two-hour reserve at D.B. Weldon Library.

Methods of Evaluation:

Each student will write a **scholarly book review** (7-8 typewritten pages in length) of Nelson Wiseman, *Partisan Odysseys: Canada's Political Parties* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020). An electronic copy of the completed book review must be submitted via the course OWL website **no later than Friday 23 October 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** In addition, the book review must be submitted by the due date and time to Turnitin.com via the course OWL website. Students will also discuss their assessment of Wiseman's book during the Session #8 seminar.

Each student must submit electronically to kfleming@uwo.ca a formal and brief (1-2 page typewritten) **essay proposal** no later than **Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 11:59 p.m.**, and proposals must be approved by the instructor by **Wednesday 14 October 2020**. Students who fail to meet either of these deadlines will not be permitted to submit an essay, and will receive a grade of “0” on the assignment. Approved essay topics cannot subsequently be changed without the instructor’s prior consent.

Each student will write a **research essay** (13-15 typewritten pages in length) on the leadership styles and attributes of an individual prime minister or premier. Essay topics will be assigned by the instructor in consultation with each student. Essays must place the leaders decision-making within the context of the principal social, economic, and political influences of the time. An electronic copy of the completed research essay must be submitted via the course OWL website **no later than Friday 27 November 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** In addition, the essay must be submitted by the due date and time to Turnitin.com via the course OWL website.

Each student, in consultation with the instructor, will make a 10-12 minute **seminar presentation** discussing a minimum of three primary sources that the student has identified as providing clarity and context to central themes in that week’s required readings. The types of sources to be consulted could include, but are not limited to, government documents, speeches, newspaper articles, personal diaries, excerpts from novels, advertisements, photographs and other illustrations, or radio and television broadcasts. Presentations must not exceed the maximum 12-minute allotment. An electronic copy of the primary source report must be submitted to kfleming@uwo.ca no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday the class presentation takes place. In addition to including all images of the primary sources being discussed in class, the written report must describe your reasons for selecting those primary sources and how they provide clarity and context to the week’s assigned readings, as well as advance our understanding of Canadian political leadership. The written narrative portion of the report should be approximately 5 pages in length. The course instructor will post the primary source report on the “**Resources**” section of the course OWL website for other students to access.

Due to scheduling restrictions posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, there **will not** be a final examination in this course. In its place, students will submit each week a **written response** (maximum 500 words per weekly response) to a question **based on the assigned readings** for that week. The response questions will be posted on the “**Assignments**” section of the course OWL website by 8 a.m. on the Monday preceding the Wednesday on which the written response is due. For example, the response question due on Wednesday September 16th will be posted on OWL by 8:00 a.m. on Monday September 14th. Students will submit their weekly written responses via the course OWL website no later than the beginning of that week’s class (6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays). Late submissions will not be accepted or graded. Although twelve weekly response questions will be assigned, only the student’s ten best grades will be counted. Students making a primary source presentation on any given week **will not** be required to complete the written response question for that week.

Book Review (due Friday 23 October)	20%
Research Essay Proposal (due Wednesday 7 October)	5%
Research Essay (due Friday 27 November)	25%
Primary Source Presentation and Report	15%
Seminar Participation	15%

Weekly Written Responses (10 x 2%)

20%

Students must pass all elements of the course (book review; research essay proposal; research essay; primary source presentation and report; seminar participation; weekly written responses) in order to achieve a passing grade in the course.

A **late penalty** of 5% for the first day and 2% per day thereafter (weekends included) will be assessed against all written work submitted after the due date.

Students are expected to attend and participate actively in all seminar discussions, thereby demonstrating their comprehension of the assigned readings. **Sample discussion questions** will be posted on the course OWL website (under the ‘Resources’ link) before each class to assist students in preparing to participate meaningfully in the seminar. All students will be assigned a participation grade on a 10-point scale following each seminar. Failure to attend a seminar will result in a score of “0” for that class. Merely attending a seminar without participating in the discussion will result in a score of “2” for that class. The assignment of a participation grade from “3” to “10” will be determined by the quality of the student’s contributions to discussion during any given seminar.

In instances when absence from class is unavoidable, students are expected, when possible, to inform the instructor in advance of their pending absence.

Non-illness absences from seminars are unacceptable. Any student attending fewer than nine of the twelve scheduled discussion seminars (an absence rate of approximately 25%) for non-illness reasons will be assigned a failing grade for seminar participation.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Session One: Wednesday 9 September 2020

Introduction to History 3226F

Session Two: Wednesday 16 September 2020

Topic: Contemporary Perspectives on Canadian Political Leadership

Readings:

Jonathan Malloy, “Prime Ministers and their Parties in Canada,” in Paul Strangio, Paul ‘T Hart, and James Walter, eds., *Understanding Prime-Ministerial Performance: Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 151-171.

Stephen Azzi and Norman Hillmer, "Evaluating Prime-Ministerial Performance: The Canadian Experience," in Paul Strangio, Paul 'T Hart, and James Walter, eds., *Understanding Prime-Ministerial Performance: Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 242-263.

Stephen Azzi & Norman Hillmer, "Ranking Prime Ministers: Canada in a Commonwealth Context," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (June 2020), pp. 1-22.

Session Three: Wednesday 23 September 2020

Topic: Sir John A. Macdonald, 1867-1873; 1878-1891

Readings:

J.K. Johnson and P.B. Waite, "Macdonald, Sir John A." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XII (1891-1900).

Michel Ducharme, "Macdonald and the Concept of Liberty," in Patrice Dutil and Roger Hall, eds., *Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies* (Dundurn, 2014), pp. 141-169.

J.R. Miller, "Macdonald as Minister of Indian Affairs: The Shaping of Canadian Indian Policy," in Patrice Dutil and Roger Hall, eds., *Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies* (Dundurn, 2014), pp. 311-340.

Session Four: Wednesday 30 September 2020

Topic: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 1896-1911

Readings:

Réal Bélanger, "Laurier, Sir Wilfrid," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XIV (1911-1920).

Jeffrey Simpson, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier: Grits on High" in *Spoils of Power: The Politics of Patronage* (Collins, 1988), pp. 98-122.

Session Five: Wednesday 7 October 2020

Topic: Sir Robert Borden, 1911-1917

Readings:

Robert Craig Brown, "Borden, Sir Robert Laird," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XVI (1931-1940).

John English, "Political Leadership in the First World War," in David MacKenzie, ed., *Canada and the First World War: Essays in Honour of Robert Craig Brown*, (2005), pp. 76-95.

***** **ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE TODAY** *****

Session Six: Wednesday 14 October 2020

Topic: William Lyon Mackenzie King, 1921-1926; 1926-1930; 1935-1948

Readings:

H. Blair Neatby, "King, William Lyon Mackenzie," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XVII (1941-1950).

J.L. Granatstein, "The Second Conscription Crisis" in *Canada's War: The Politics of the Mackenzie King Government, 1939-1945* (1975), pp. 333-381.

Session Seven: Wednesday 21 October 2020

Topic #1: Maurice Duplessis, 1936-1939, 1944-1959

Readings:

Michel Sarra-Bournet, "Duplessis, Maurice Le Noblet," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XVIII (1951-1960).

Susan Mann Trofimenkoff, "Rally Round the Flag," in *The Dream of Nation: A Social and Intellectual History of Quebec* (Gage, 1983), pp. 266-281.

Topic #2: William Aberhart, 1935-1943

Readings:

David Elliott, "William Aberhart, 1935-1943," in Bradford J. Rennie, ed., *Alberta Premiers of the Twentieth Century* (Canadian Plains Research Center, 2004), pp. 125-146.

D.R. Elliott, "Antithetical Elements in William Aberhart's Theology and Political Ideology," in *The Canadian Historical Review* (Vol. 59, No. 1, 1978), pp. 38-58.

* * * **BOOK REVIEW FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2020 by 11:59 p.m.** *

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Session Eight: Wednesday 27 October 2020

Topic #1: Tommy Douglas, 1944-1961

Reading:

Thomas H. McLeod and Ian McLeod, "T.C. Douglas, 1944-1961," in Gordon L. Barnhart, ed., *Saskatchewan Premiers of the Twentieth Century* (Canadian Plains Research Centre, 2004), pp. 161-212.

Topic #2:

Discussion of student reviews of Nelson Wiseman, *Partisan Odysseys: Canada's Political Parties* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020).

Session Nine: Wednesday 11 November 2020

Topic: Pierre Trudeau, 1968-1979; 1980-1984

Readings:

John English, "Trudeau, Pierre Elliott," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XXII (1991-2000).

Michael Bliss, "Guarding a Most Famous Stream: Trudeau and the Canadian Political Tradition," in Andrew Cohen and J.L. Granatstein, eds., *Trudeau's Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Pierre Elliott Trudeau* (Random House, 1998), pp. 11-19.

Andrew Cohen, "Trudeau's Canada: The Vision and the Visionary," in Andrew Cohen and J.L. Granatstein, eds., *Trudeau's Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Pierre Elliott Trudeau* (Random House, 1998), pp. 309-328.

Bob Plamondon, "Canada's Most Overrated Prime Minister?" in *The Truth About Trudeau* (Great River Media, 2013), pp. 329-344.

Session Ten: Wednesday 18 November 2020

Topic: Topic #1: Joey Smallwood, 1949-1972

Readings:

James K. Hiller, "Smallwood, Joseph Roberts [Joey] (1900-1991)," in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Sean T. Cadigan, "The Land of Milk and Honey, 1946-1972," in *Newfoundland and Labrador: A History* (University of Toronto Press, 2009), pp. 235-259.

Topic #2: René Lévesque, 1976-1985

Readings:

Pierre Godin, "Lévesque, René," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XXI (1981-1990).

Graham Fraser, "The Question" and "The Divided Elite" and "The Campaign," in *PQ: René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power* (1984), pp. 190-240.

René Lévesque, "For an Independent Quebec," in Michael D. Behiels, ed., *Quebec Since 1945: Selected Readings* (1987), pp. 265-273.

Session Eleven: Wednesday 25 November 2020

Topic: Indigenous Political Leadership (Louis Riel and Ovide Mercredi)

Readings:

J.R. Miller, "Resistance in Red River and the Numbered Treaties: 'Bounty and Benevolence'" and "The North-West Rebellion" and "Meech, Oka, Charlottetown, Nass, and Ottawa: Relations 1968-2000," in *Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens: A History of Native Newcomer Relations in Canada*, 4th edition (University of Toronto Press, 2018), pp. 162-206 and 296-317.

Thomas Flanagan, "The North-West Rebellion," in *Riel and the Rebellion: 1885 Reconsidered* (University of Toronto Press, 2000), pp. 3-20.

M.V. Naidu, "Ovide Mercredi: an introduction [on being presented with the Peace Plaque of the Canadian Peace Research & Education Assn, for 2000]," in *Peace Research* (Vol. 32, Issue 3, August 2000), p. 48.

Ovide Mercredi, "Why native peoples are not Canadians," *Canadian Speeches* (Vol. 10, Issue 10, March 1997).

Brian Bergman, "Judgment Day," *Maclean's* (Vol. 107, Issue 29, July 18, 1994), pp. 10-11

* * * **ESSAY DUE FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** * *

Session Twelve: Wednesday 2 December 2020

Topic: Brian Mulroney, 1984-1993

Reading:

Bob Plamondon, "First Québécois to Lead" and "Power and Discipline" and "A Test of National Unity," in *Blue Thunder: The Truth about the Conservatives from Macdonald to Harper* (Key Porter Books, 2009), pp. 315-349.

Michael Hart, "Free Trade and Brian Mulroney's Economic Legacy," in Raymond B. Blake, ed., *Transforming the Nation: Canada and Brian Mulroney* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007), pp. 61-79.

Ian Peach, "Building or Severing the Bonds of Nationhood?: The Uncertain Legacy of Constitution Making in the Mulroney Years," in Raymond B. Blake, ed., *Transforming the Nation: Canada and Brian Mulroney* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007), pp. 80-112.

Session Thirteen: Wednesday 9 December 2020

Topic: Kim Campbell, 1993

Readings:

Sylvia Bashevkin, "Discomfort Zones," in *Women, Power, Politics: The Hidden Story of Canada's Unfinished Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 21-56.

Bob Plamondon, "Kim Campbell: Defeat Personified," in *Blue Thunder: The Truth about the Conservatives from Macdonald to Harper* (Key Porter Books, 2009), pp. 353-361.

David McLaughlin, "Conclusion: Whodunnit?" in *Poisoned Chalice: The Last Campaign of the Progressive Conservative Party?* (Dundurn Press, 1994), pp. 277-298.

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:
www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf
to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

Please visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are another writers ideas.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in "A" above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in "A" above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

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Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangelen@uwo.ca.