

Political Science 3394F
Huron University College
Canadian Federalism
Course Outline

Prerequisites: Pol. Sci. 2230E or 234E or 236E (or permission of department)

Type: Day Course (Essay/Seminar) Sept.11/18 to December 4/18

Place: W117

Time: Tuesdays 3.30-5.30pm

Instructor: Dr. Robert F. Jonasson Office: V125; ext. 248 (please call only during office hours)

Home E-mail address: rjonasso@uwo.ca (please e-mail anytime)

Office Hours: Mondays 11.30am-1.30pm

Political Science 3394F is a seminar course. The course topic is federalism in Canada. The focus will be on Canada's experience and problems with federalism. We will also concentrate on federalism and its impact on many policy areas and groups in Canada. In an increasingly decentralized federal system, the challenge will be to preserve Canadian social and regional solidarity.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to identify key Canadian policy areas and their relationship to federalism. Students will be able to judge whether federalism helps or hinders such policy areas. Students will better understand the history and future directions of Canadian federalism. Students will be able to enhance their presentation and participation skills as part of a seminar class.

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS METHODS

Students will be doing one presentation over the entire course. Presentations should be 25-30 minutes long for each student. The presenter should cover the reading(s) and stimulate questions for a class discussion. You must use a handout sheet for your presentations (give to me and all students). **If you commit to a presentation and you do not present, you must have a valid excuse (like a doctor's note). Otherwise, the presentation gets a grade of zero.** In each class with a presentation, there will be an evaluation in the second hour. The evaluation will consist of an honest appraisal of the presentation given (refrain from getting personal though). About 30 minutes will be given for this.

METHOD OF EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT

COURSE STRUCTURE: Students will be doing one presentation over the entire course. Presentations should be 25-30 minutes long for each student **but many of you will be working in pairs.** The presenters should cover the reading(s) and stimulate questions for a class discussion. You must use a handout sheet for your presentations (give to me and all students). **If you commit to a presentation and you do not present, you must have a valid excuse (like a doctor's note). Otherwise, the presentation gets a grade of zero.** In each class with a presentation, there will be an evaluation in the second hour. The evaluation will consist of an honest appraisal of the presentation given (refrain from getting personal though). About 30 minutes will be given for this.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

1/ ESSAY: 15-20 double-spaced page paper due Tuesday, October 23/18 in class. The paper must be argumentative in form (you need a thesis statement). *The paper should look at some aspect of Canadian federalism but it must not be on your presentation topic.* worth 50% NOTE: there will be an essay info sheet on OWL

2/ PRESENTATION: worth 20%

3/ EVALUATIONS: worth 10%; NOTE: you may miss one of these without penalty, after this, each one missed is 1% penalty

5/ PARTICIPATION: worth 20% NOTE: those who participate in a marginal way only, can earn no more than 12 out of 20 marks here (but a less than marginal effort will result in an even lower grade)

Required Readings:

1/ Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad (eds.) **Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness, and Legitimacy. 3rd edition** (Oxford University Press, Don Mills, Ont.: 2012.)

Presenters must use the suggested readings **but since the readings are becoming out of date (as excellent as they are) they must also go beyond them in their presentations to update the topic.** All students and the professor must be given a copy of a presentation summary before the presentation.

Each presentation should give a background to the topic, present the issues and encourage the class to answer several discussion questions in the debate to follow the presentation.

Sept. 11

- course introduction; presentation selections

Sept. 18

- presentation assignments:

Sept. 25

- performance, effectiveness and legitimacy: **Ch. 1**

Oct. 2

- political economy: **Ch.2**

Oct. 9 - holiday

Oct. 16

- Quebec: **Ch.3**

Oct. 23

- essay due in class

Oct. 30

- courts: **Ch.5**

Nov. 6

- executive federalism: **Ch.17**

Nov. 13

- parties: **Ch.6**

Nov. 20

- fiscal federalism: **Ch.7**

Nov. 27

- health care: **Ch.9**

Dec.4

- Aboriginals: **Ch.15**

GENERAL COURSE RULES AND SUGGESTIONS

The following rules are to be taken very seriously. They will be strictly enforced. Every student must be treated fairly; the rules below will ensure that all students will be treated

in a just manner. If you follow the rules and suggestions laid out here, you will have a much better chance of doing well in the course. If you break the rules, you will suffer certain consequences.

1/ Do not be disruptive in class. After one warning, you will be asked to leave. Continual behavioral problems may lead to more severe consequences (eg. removal from the course).

2/ Come to class on time.

3/ Ask questions intelligently. The professor will let you know when questions can be asked (i.e. later in the lecture). Do not ask questions for the sake of asking them (i.e. to show 'interest', to 'stick out' etc.). Questions should contribute to the lecture. Questions about course material can usually be answered in this course outline.

4/ All grade values in the course outline are 'set in stone'. There will be no re-weighting or bell-curve. No extra assignments will be given. No items will be omitted from the final grade.

5/ All due dates (eg. essays, assignments, tests, exams) in the course outline are 'set in stone', unless they are moved to a later date by the instructor. Under no condition will due dates be made *earlier* than the dates indicated in the course outline.

6/ Do not assume your past (eg. past grades, experience level, age) is the key to your future performance. Professors assume everyone wishes high grades. Please do not indicate to the professor that you need or expect a certain grade in the course.

7/ All essays must be handed to the instructor in-class on the due date. Once the class is over, the paper is late.

8/ All late papers must be handed into the essay drop-off box outside the office of the Arts and Social Sciences Administrative Assistants' office.

9/ The late penalty is 2% per working day (weekends do not count) up to 10 days late. **In all cases, the stamped date is the date which will be considered definitive when assigning late penalties. There is no exception to this rule.**

10/ The instructor has never lost a paper and will not accept that as an excuse. If you leave a paper in the drop box, you are advised to email the instructor to ensure that the paper has come into his possession. In other words, YOU are responsible for your paper up to and until the INSTRUCTOR has determined that he is in possession of it. Do not let other students hand in your papers unless you are willing to take the risk that it might not get to its destination.

11/ Emailed papers will only be accepted if you have been given *specific permission* by the instructor that this is acceptable. If you seek such permission you should make the

request to the instructor. This option is only for the most rare and unusual circumstances and is subject to the complete discretion of the instructor.

12/ As indicated in the policy of the dept., there are some legitimate excuses which may allow students to get limited extensions for essays, tests and exams. **ALL EXCUSES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL NOTE** (eg. doctor's note) which is shown to Academic Counselling. Dates must be present to indicate the time period the student was affected. **The Instructor must be notified by Academic Counselling within 2 weeks of the missed essay or test. The permission must be produced immediately in the case of the final exam.**

13/ If an extension is warranted, the professor and the student will negotiate a time frame for submission. This time frame cannot be just what the student wants.

14/ I take all marking very seriously and I am unwilling to change a grade unless I have made a real error (eg. marked you down for a statement which is not wrong; marked you down for a grammatical error which is not wrong). Subjective feelings are not a valid basis for an appeal (eg. "I think you are too hard on me"; "I have never had a mark this low"). **All appeals must be put into writing.** I may take a day or more to make my decision. I do not discuss with students about their papers on the day I hand them back. An appeal must go to me first. Your grade may go up, stay the same or go down (I would give then you an average of the old grade and the new grade). You may go down if I discover critical things I missed the first time.

15/ If you are a student with a serious concern, whether valid or not, and you are unable to keep up with the course for a long period of time, the professor strongly advises that you drop the course. Students who get too far behind generally do not finish in any case or receive an uncharacteristically low grade. Sometimes unfortunate events occur in our lives; try to persevere, but if you cannot, it is no shame to reduce your course load in certain situations.

16/ If you are absent for any of the graded assignments, you MUST seek accommodation from Academic Counselling in order to be accommodated.

17/ Please do not ask the instructor for final grades (or final exam grades). These must be released by the Registrar's Office first.

18/ I will give students basic references (for jobs, student exchange programs etc.) if their grade is above 75% in a class in which I have taught them (final grade). **For all post-graduate references (law school, grad school, teachers' college etc.) and scholarships, students must have completed at least 2 courses (half or full) with me beyond 1020E and have a grade of 80% or better (as an average in the courses). If students took 1020E with me, they may or may not factor the grade in this class into their average, but they will need 2 more classes (half or full).** However, good character is an important consideration for promotion as well. I do not promote opportunists (eg. those who ask for higher grades without merit) or those with

'entitlement' attitudes. Make sure you give me at least 3 weeks notice for any deadlines and always give me all forms and postage. **I will do a maximum of 4 paper/online references for a student in a term.**

19/ If you are away for any of the written assignments (including the large assignment and essay), for any reason, you may e-mail them to me by 4.30pm on the day they are due. If late, the normal late penalty applies. However, you will get zero on any of the 5 assignments if they are late. Please still bring hard copies of your essay and large assignment if you attend shortly after the due date. NOTE: You must be present for the final exam.



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.