This course will examine the characteristics of provincial politics in Canada. Although many envisioned or hoped for their reduction to subordinate status, the provinces are the second but by no means inferior partners in the Canadian federation. Their historical, institutional, and political/governmental roles have been crucial to Canadian public life, both past and present. Although the academic analysis of the provinces has tended to languish in the past two decades after a period of considerable attention from the 1960s to 1980s, their place in public life constitutes an integral and possibly growing part of political and policy studies.

The areas of provincial legislative responsibilities (social policy, economic development, local government, administration of justice, most notably) are central aspects of the role of the state. The diverse historical and political party systems found in the provinces constitute rich variations of Canadian political life. Finally, the crucial overlap and interactions with the federal government have been highly influential to national political life.

This course will survey provincial political development from the perspectives of political histories, political cultures, party systems, roles of government and interactions with the federal government.

There should be ample opportunity for students to understand the historical and institutional differences between provinces as well as their varying roles in shaping crucial national politics and policies as well as provincial politics and governments, particularly over the decades since 1945 and the maturation of the positive state in Canada.

Topics:
1. The Federal System & the role of the Provinces
2. The Origins of the Provinces in the Colonial System & Colonial “Politics”
3. Provincial Political “Cultures; the Political Economy of regions/provinces
4. The Variations of Provincial Political & Governmental Systems: from Atlantic Canada to Western Canada: political and governmental characteristics:
   “Atlantic Provinces”
   The Canadas: Quebec & Ontario
Prairie Provinces: MB & SK
Western Provinces: AB & BC
5. The Provinces: Political Laboratories? Entrenched cultures or institutions?

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Essays: 2 short papers and 1 research essay are to be assigned: total value 80% of grade
1. The Colonial Origin/Terms of Entry of ONE Province: 1500 wds 20% (Feb 4)
2. The Political Distinctiveness/Political Culture/Party System of ONE Province: 1500 wds 20% (Mar 3)
3. A major governmental/policy initiative of ONE Province: 4000 wds 40% (Apr 11)

Seminar Participation: 20% of grade
Final Examination: None

GRADING SCALE
A+ = 90-100
A = 80-89
B+ = 75-79
B = 70-74
C+ = 65-69
C = 60-64
D = 50-59
F = 0-49

REQUIRED TEXT(S)


Alternative Reading (Not required and NOT a substitute):
Keith Brownsey & Michael Howlett, The Provincial State: Politics in Canada’s Provinces and Territories Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 2001

Other readings to be provided as assigned.

Academic Honesty:

Students are required by the Department to retain a copy of each assignment submitted to their instructors. Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, academic dishonesty, academic fraud, cheating and examination impersonation in the University of Manitoba General Calendar. Students may also refer to the Faculty’s website: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html which will provide detailed information on the issues and possible range of penalties for Academic Dishonesty. Unreturned term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.