Course Description and Overview

At the time of Confederation, Canada's provinces were not envisioned as playing a considerable role in the political life of the country. The constitution was intended to be a centralizing force, and the federal government was given jurisdiction over what were perceived as the 'important' areas of policy. Yet Canadian federalism quickly evolved to reduce federal powers over the provinces, and the rise of the modern welfare state meant that the policy areas under provincial jurisdiction became increasingly significant to Canadian citizens. This evolution has meant that Canadian provinces are among the most powerful sub-national governments of any country in the world.

This course will examine the ‘provincial state’ in Canada. The first half of the course will examine the major themes of provincial politics: political culture, parties and elections, institutions, intergovernmental relations and policy. In the second half of the course we will place these themes in context by undertaking an in-depth survey of the individual provinces/regions of the country.

Required Texts

Course Requirements

Like any seminar course, active student participation in class discussions is essential. Students will be expected to have completed all of the required readings for each class, and come ready to make quality contributions.

The course is divided into two parts. In Part I of the course (Weeks 2 to 6), each student will be required to give a 10-minute individual presentation, which should include a critical analysis of a single reading. The presenter should come prepared with 4 or 5 discussion questions based on the reading.
In Part II of the course (Weeks 7 to 12), groups of two or three students will lead the class in a discussion of the readings for a particular province/region. The **group presentation** should be 20 to 30 minutes long, and should connect the readings from that week to at least two of the themes from Part I (political culture, parties/elections, institutions/representation, intergovernmental relations, policy). The group will then lead the class in discussion or debate. ***Presenters must also bring into discussion current events surrounding the province/region and connect them to the literature.***

Students will write a **book review**, 8 pages in length, due on **Oct. 27**, on the following book (available at the campus bookstore or on reserve at the library):

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

The book review should provide an analysis of the key arguments in the book and evaluate the efficacy of those arguments in relation to two or three of the themes explored in the first half of the course.

Students will also write a **research paper**, 15 pages in length, due **Nov. 29**. The paper should examine the development of one of the following policy areas: health care, education (or post-secondary education), or welfare, in one or two provinces (the paper can either study a single province or compare two provinces’ approaches to the same policy area). The paper should present an analysis of the key debates surrounding the policy area and determine which of the themes examined in the first half of the course had the most significant impact on recent policy changes. ***Students must submit a one-page proposal for the research paper to in advance of starting the bulk of the research, outlining which province(s) and policy area you will examine. Due by Nov. 4.***

**Grade distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>25% (Due Oct. 27)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40% (Due Nov. 29)*</td>
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*The late penalty for each written assignment is 5% per day.*
Readings

---------------------------- Part I ---------------------

WEEK 1 (Sep. 8) – Review of Syllabus/course Expectations

WEEK 2 (Sep. 13,15) – Provincial Landscapes and Political Culture
- Wiseman, “Provincial Political Cultures,” in Provinces. (pg. 21-56).

WEEK 3 (Sep. 20, 22) – Parties and Elections
- Blake, “Electoral Democracy in the Provinces and Territories,” in Provinces. (pg. 115-144).

WEEK 4 (Sep. 27, 29) – Institutions & Representation

Optional:

WEEK 5 (Oct. 4, 6) – Intergovernmental Relations
- Cameron and Simeon, “Intergovernmental Relations in Canada: The Emergence of Collaborative Federalism,” Publius. 32(2) 2002. (pg. 49-71).

Optional:
- Tindal and Tindal, “Intergovernmental Relations from the Local Perspective,” in Provinces. (pg. 301-335).

WEEK 6 (Oct. 11, 13) – Political Economy and Public Policy

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**Part II**

**WEEK 7 (Oct. 18, 20)** – Newfoundland and Labrador & the Maritime Provinces

Optional:
- Summers, “Between and Rock and a Hard Place: Regime Change in Newfoundland,” in *The Provincial State in Canada*. (pg. 23-47)

**WEEK 8 (Oct. 25, 27)** – Quebec

**WEEK 9 (Nov. 1, 4)** – Ontario

**WEEK 10 (Nov. 22, 24)** – The Prairie Provinces
Optional:

**WEEK 11 (Nov. 29, Dec 1) – British Columbia**

Readings:

**WEEK 12 (Dec. 6) – The Territories**

Readings: