Ontario Provincial Politics

Time: T 11:30-14:30
Location: 205 ACW
Course Director: R. Drummond
Office: S623B Ross
Phone: 416-736-5265 x33493

Note: Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of exams or other course assignments are encouraged to discuss the matter with the instructor early in the term. Students with physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods, as outlined in the Senate Policy and Guidelines for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities. They should advise the course director at the earliest opportunity, so that appropriate arrangements may be made with the assistance of Counselling and Disability Services.

Office Hours: T 10:00-11:20, or by appointment

Electronic Library: Items so marked in the reading list are available electronically to York faculty members and students through the York University Libraries. In the case of journal articles, you will first need to access the journal and then select the appropriate number to access the articles. Some articles are available electronically, but not through York. They are listed with the URL for their website.

Course Kit: A small number of readings not otherwise available will be found in a course kit that can be purchased at the Bookstore.

Course Requirements: Attendance and participation 5%
Mid-term test (February 11) 15%
Essay (c. 3000 words, due March 18) 40%
Final Exam 40%

For the purpose of averaging the above grade components, letter grades awarded will be assigned a value in the appropriate range on the following scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>90-100</th>
<th>80-89</th>
<th>75-79</th>
<th>70-74</th>
<th>65-69</th>
<th>60-64</th>
<th>55-59</th>
<th>50-54</th>
<th>40-49</th>
<th>0-39</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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The objective of this course is first to familiarize students with the history, socio-economic context and basic institutions of Ontario government and politics. Second it is to afford them the capacity to explore issues of Ontario politics and to choose in an informed fashion among alternative solutions to political problems.

January 7  Introduction; Socio-economic Context of Ontario Politics


Discussion question: What is more important in conditioning current Ontario politics – material conditions or cultural values?

January 14  Political History of Ontario Confederation to World War II

Discussion question: What relationships can be seen between the development of the provincial state and the transformation of Ontario society around the beginning of the 20th Century?

January 21  Political History of Ontario World War II to the Present


Discussion question: What factors account for the longevity of Conservative rule in Ontario in the post-World War II period up to 1985? What accounts for the differences thereafter?

January 28  Institutions: PM, Cabinet, Bureaucracy, Legislature, Courts


Discussion question: What are the characteristics and techniques of skilful political leadership?

February 4  Institutions: Parties, Elections, Interest Groups, Media


*A Guide to the Lobbyists Registration Act,* Toronto, Office of the Integrity Commissioner, 1999 (electronic library)

Discussion questions: What is the future of political parties in Ontario? How should the Ontario government deal with the budget implications of federal-provincial finance?

February 11  Federalism and Budgets


**February 11**  Mid-term test (The test will be held 13:20-14:20.)  
**February 15-21**  Reading week (no classes)

During Reading Week, you may actually want to do some reading. I recommend the following:

Note: In the remaining weeks of the term, we will address a series of public policy issue areas, and the discussion sessions should focus on problems in those areas and proposed solutions.

**February 25**  **Policy: Health and Long-term Care**


**March 4**  **Policy: Education**


**March 11**  **Policy: Energy and Environment**


Doug Reeve, Donald Dewees, and Bryan Karney, eds., *Current Affairs: Perspectives on Electricity Policy for Ontario*, Toronto, Univ. of Toronto Press, 2010, Ch. 1, 19, pp. 3-9, 274-288. (electronic library)

**March 18**  **Policy: Social Services, Housing**

**Required:** Ontario Non-profit Housing Association, *Local Housing and Homelessness Plans*, Toronto 2012, especially Executive Summary, Issue, Background, and Summary of Considerations (electronic library)


*Climbing the Ladder of Self-sufficiency*, Toronto, Ontario Municipal Services Association, 2010, Executive Summary (electronic library)
March 25  
Policy: Local Government, Transportation  

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

April 1  
Policy: Labour Relations, Standards  

**Required:**
- Felice Martinello, “Mr. Harris, Mr. Rae and Union Activity in Ontario,” *Canadian Public Policy*, 26, 1 (2000): 17-33. (electronic library)

Several books have dealt with recent Ontario politics in a polemic and/or journalistic manner. Among the best of these, which you may find useful as background and in preparing your essays, are the following:


A useful resource for basic historical fact, in the period from the 1950's to 2006, is the *Canadian Annual Review of Politics and Public Affairs*, University of Toronto Press, located in the Reference Section of the Scott Library. The volumes up to 2006 have now been published. The volumes for 2007 to 2011 are still in press; the editions for 201 and 2013 are still being prepared. Volumes from 1971 to 2001 are available electronically (with the exceptions of 1983 and 1989).

The Ontario government website is www.gov.on.ca and it provides access to (among other things) budgets, statutes and debates. A more direct link to Hansard (Debates) may be found at www.ontla.on.ca.