

Camosun College Political Science 106 Winter, 2003

TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN POLITICS -Section 3

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Office Hours: Tues- Thurs 5:30-6:20

This is the second of two introductory courses. Students will get to know the executive in Canadian democracy, the parliamentary structure, the rule of law, political parties, elections and electoral systems, interest groups, the media, nationalism, regionalism and federalism.

Required Reading:

Charlton M. and Barker P., Eds.
Jackson, R. and Jackson, D.

Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Issues, 4th.ed.
Canadian Government in Transition, 3rd Ed.

EVALUATION:

Media Analysis:	10%
Mid-Term1:	15%
Individual field trip:	10%
Mid-Term 2:	15%
Position Paper:	20%
Final:	20%
Participation:	10%

Each Assignment is explained in this outline. Please read it carefully. It is your responsibility to follow these guidelines. **Anything that is unclear to you must be discussed with me prior to the assignment due date. Similarly, if you must submit a late assignment it must be discussed with me prior to the original due-date otherwise it will not be accepted.**

******* All written assignments should be double -spaced TYPED and in 12 pt font. Do not try to disguise the length of your paper, as you will be penalized. *******

Media Analysis: Due January 23rd

For this assignment you must compare media coverage from at least three newspapers that are writing on the same Canadian topic. For instance, look at the coverage of the news story in the Province, the Globe and Mail and the Times Colonist. Look at what the story tells you about the issue and what it omits. Does it give all the necessary details? Have they answered all of YOUR

questions about the issue? Do the newspapers report the issue in the same way? Can you detect a bias? Include citations for your sources. **This should be a one or two page paper.**

Mid-term One: February 4th

The tests will be a combination of multiple choice, true and false and short answer. An answer key will be provided when your test is returned.

Individual field trip: Due date is February 20th.

Victoria is an excellent city in which to interact with government. For this assignment, you must go to one government office such as a City Hall, the Law Courts or the Legislature. You can write about ANY government agency in Victoria that you can gain access to. Submit a **one or two page report** on your experience. Be critical and include the formalities you observe, your surroundings, and symbolism. Make sure you consider yourself as a democratic citizen and note whether or not your experience is accessible to you. If you interview people for your report, make sure that you include the persons name, time of interview, and contact information.

Mid-term Two: March 11th

This will be the same type of test as on February 4th.

Position Paper: Due Date April 1st.

The position paper is a discussion of one of the issues in Crosscurrents on our reading list. The assignment will be a **five page double-spaced** and will be a critical analysis. You should address which of the two perspectives you agree with more and explain why. Extra sources can be used and will be rewarded through higher marks.

Final Exam: last day of class (April 10th)

The final exam will be a series of paragraph answers. Students will be expected to show that they have studied the material closely and that they have analyzed them in a coherent manner. Your educated opinion will count!

Participation:

This mark is up to the discretion of the instructor. It will be calculated using attendance records of the students as well as participation in class discussion. A demonstrated knowledge of the assigned reading will be necessary to achieve full marks. This class is participatory and class discussion is always encouraged. Nonetheless, speaking out often is not a prerequisite, it is the quality of your contribution and the effort you portray that is most important.

