"Democracy," writes E.E. Schattschneider, “is unthinkable save in terms of parties.” The democratic functions of political parties are myriad. But parties are changing in response to new challenges, and understanding these changes is crucial to understanding the nature and practice of contemporary democratic politics.

This course introduces students to the academic study of political parties and analyzes national political parties and party systems in Canada from a variety of theoretical perspectives. Emphasis will be on historical development, organization, the relationship of political parties to (a) the state and (b) Canadian society, and recent developments. While the focus of the course in on Canada, we will draw on the theoretical and comparative literatures (particularly related to Western Europe and the United States) to better understand Canadian political parties as well as to situate those parties in a broader comparative context and highlight Canadian contributions to the international literature.

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<tr>
<th>Assignments and Grading</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Group Presentation</th>
<th>Review Paper</th>
<th>Final Examination (Two Hours)</th>
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| Participation: Your participation grade will be assessed on the basis of the frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussion, and by demonstrating that you have completed readings prior to class. Please note that students who miss more than five classes without evidence of family or medical emergencies will receive a grade of “F” in the class.

Group Presentation: In the first class, we will organize presentation groups and decide on topics and dates for each group. Each group will be responsible for providing a ten-minute presentation and a one-page discussion outline for the class and then overseeing a half-hour discussion on one reading within a single class. I will assign a mark based on the quality of
the presentation, the outline, how you address questions, and your leading of the discussion.

Short research paper: You will write a 7-page research papers on topics that I assign early in the semester. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of one letter grade per day late (A to B, etc.), not excluding weekends. Retroactive extensions will not be granted in the absence of a family or medical emergency. Note the word “emergency.” Late papers will be subject to a penalty even if you get the flu two days before the deadline. The solution? Start early.

Final examination: The final test will be comprehensive, and will include short answer and essay questions. Alternative exam dates are not permitted for exams administered by the Faculty of Arts.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Course reader, available in the bookstore.


COURSE SCHEDULE:

**Week 1 (Jan. 6): Introduction: Parties, the State, and Society in Canada**
- White: “What is a political party?” *Reader.*

**Week 2 (Jan. 8, 13): Party Types**

**Week 3 (Jan. 15, 20): Party Types II and Party Systems**

**Week 4 (Jan. 22, 27): Historical Development and the Canadian Party System**

**Week 5 (Jan. 29, Feb. 3): The Liberal Party**
- **Presentation:** Blais: “Accounting for the Electoral Success of the Liberal Party of Canada.” *Reader.*
Week 6 (Feb. 5, 10): The New Democratic Party

Week 7 (Feb. 12, 24): The Old Conservatives, Reform, the Alliance, and the New Conservatives

Week 8 (Feb. 26, Mar. 3): Membership
- Presentation: Young and Cross: “Incentives to Membership in Canadian Political Parties.” Reader.

Week 9 (Mar. 5, Mar 10): Local Organizations I

*** RESEARCH PAPER DUE March 12 ***

Week 10 (Mar. 12, 17): Local Organizations II and Candidate Selection

Week 11 (Mar. 26, 31): Campaigning
- Leacock: “The Great Election in Missinaba County” and “The Candidacy of Mr. Smith.” Reader.

Week 12 (Apr. 2, 7): Financing Political Parties
- Presentation: Jansen and Young: “Cartels, Syndicates, and Coalitions: Canada’s Political Parties after the 2004 Reforms.” Reader.
April 9: Review

Final Test: Date to be set by the Faculty of Arts.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Students are required by the Department of Political Studies to retain a copy of each assignment submitted to their instructors. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, academic fraud, cheating, and examination impersonation (see the U of M Undergraduate Calendar 2012-2013).” 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.

The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. Necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified in advance of a student’s intended absence and at least three weeks notice of absence should be given where special arrangements are sought.

Students with special learning requirements should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation with Disability Services.

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

The Faculty of Arts reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.