

DRAKE UNIVERSITY
Politics and Parliaments
POLS 168

Prof. Eleanor Zeff
Off. Hrs. MTWR-3:30-5:30, by appt.
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Fall, 2005: T-TR 11-12:15+
Off. Meredith: Room #209
Off. # 271-3102

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The British Parliament (sometimes known as the "Mother of Parliaments" or the Westminster Parliament) has a long and illustrious history. Its institutional structure has been copied in many different countries around the world. Understanding how this institution of government works and the ways in which it has changed over time, and how it has been adapted to fit the cultures and politics of countries around the world is a true exercise in comparative politics. This course emphasizes the importance of institutions and uses the British Westminster/Parliamentary model to compare parliaments and politics in Britain, Canada, Australia and India. Institutions help us organize the task of regulating power and human action, and once they are established, they are often persistent. Understanding how parliamentary and cultural institutions emerge and how they have affected the politics and policy making of these four countries is central to this course. This course also studies the influence of political culture (or the social construction of political culture) on institutions and compares its effects on institutional development in different countries.

We will begin with the Westminster parliamentary and constitutional example, and we will add concepts, such as federalism, as we progress from one country to another. We will look at the relationship between parliamentary institutions, political culture and political processes (ex. voting) to see how they influence policy outcomes. We will study several policy issues (devolution/centralization, health care and welfare, constitutional changes, federalism, etc.) so that we can better understand how policy issues interact with government institutions in real life situations.

REQUIRED READINGS:

On Britain: Rogers and Walters, How Parliament Works, 5th ed., Pearson/Longman

Canada: Stephen Brooks, Canadian Democracy, 3rd ed., Oxford Press, 2003

Australia: Brennan and Castles, Australia Reshaped, Cambridge University Press, 2003

India: Ganguly and DeVotta, Eds. Understanding Contemporary India, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003

3 Surveys from the Economist

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **4 Written Reports with Oral Components:** 60 points (15 points each)
 - A. A British Parliament Report
 - B. A Debate Report on Canada
 - C. Australian Parliament Report
 - D. Indian Case Study Report
2. **A Final Exam:** 30 points
3. **Participation, Group and Oral work** 10 points

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

The course is divided into four parts, one part for each of the countries. Classes combine lectures, discussions and prepared debates. At the end of each of the country studies, after we have studied the politics of that country, there will be a written project with an oral component. Some of these will be in the form of a debate, and others will be papers on a topic of current interest in the country under study. Students need to wear business attire for any debate format. There are four required books, three Economist surveys and also other references I will put on Reserve. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings. You are allowed no more than 2 unexcused absences or your grade will be lowered. The written reports should be grammatically correct with well-organized arguments. Papers are due in class on **the day listed in the syllabus**. You will need to have them with you in class for oral arguments and discussions of the issues. See the class policies sheet for information on writing requirements. There will be handouts with more information for each of the four papers. The purpose of the papers is to get you to undertake research on a current topic in the countries we study this semester, in order to see how the public and various government institutions, especially the legislatures handle important issues and implement policies. I also would like to encourage you to regularly read the Economist journal and other newspapers such as the New York Times for the most up-to-date news and information.

The first paper will be a paper / debate about the British Parliament concerning the recent terrorist attacks and what the Parliament's role is, or could be, in solving this problem? The purposes of the papers / debates are twofold: one is to learn about important issues in British politics and the other is to learn how, and under what conditions, decisions are made in the British Parliament, and also to see what kind of power the Parliament wields. Be sure to have footnotes (or endnotes) and a bibliography (or "works cited" section) with every paper. Part of your grade will be based on your oral arguments.

For the second paper, students write and debate about the issues of language policies and health care in Canada. Look especially at how federal and provincial powers are divided and managed by the Canadian constitution and parliament in this paper / discussion.

The third project is a simulation of the Australian Parliament. The topic is the Vote of Confidence over the Iraq War. Look at decision-making and

sovereignty issues. Look also to see if there is any connection to Australia's position because of the terrorist attack in Bali where many Australians died.

The fourth paper/debate is the Indian case study. Look for issues concerning sovereignty, federalism, religion, development and the state.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Aug. 22-Sept. 14:

British Politics

Each country assignment will be followed by some questions for you to consider while you read the chapters. Be prepared to discuss these issues. I might have you write an answer to any one of these or other questions at the beginning of class, so always arrive ready to debate. This format will be followed all semester.

Readings for Britain:

How Parliament Works, Rogers and Walters
And some recent articles from the Economist and NY Times (these will either be handed out in class or on Reserve in the Library)

August 22 & 24

Introduction; Theories of Parliamentary and Presidential Governments; Origins of Parliament; Changing British Politics
Readings: Rogers and Walters, Chs. 1-3

Aug. 29, 31

The British Constitution and Laws; Changing Models of the State and the Political Parties; Executive and Legislative Power; the Parliamentary Day
Readings: Rogers and Walters, Chs. 4-6

Sept. 5 & 7

Political Participation, Making laws; Elections, Economic and Welfare Policies; the "Euro" and the Budget
Readings: Rogers and Walters, Chs.7-10

September 12

Multi-level Governance, Parliament and Europe (the EU) and Modernization and Effectiveness
Readings: Chs. 11, 12 and 13

September 14

British Parliament Debate: Paper due in class (Sept. 14) (Iraq War and Terrorism). You will need it for your oral presentation.

Questions to Consider:

1. What kind of ties exist between specific interest groups and parties in Britain, and do these same kind of links exist between parties and interest groups in the

US? 3. What is the British constitution? 3. How are the new constitutional reforms (devolution, etc.) changing the face of British politics?
 4. What are the major differences between the parties in Britain and have these differences changed recently? 5. Should the British change their voting system?
 6. What are the major differences between the British Prime Minister and the US President? 7. What is the role of the Monarch in the British Parliamentary system? 8. What is the relationship between elected Ministers and career civil servants in Britain? 9. How is the Welfare State changing and what are the party positions on these changes? 10. Why are the British reluctant members of the EU? 11. What is multi-level governance and how does it work in Britain where Parliament is supposed to be the "Supreme Law of the Land"? 12. What is Parliament's role in decision-making and does Parliament matter?

Sept. 19-Oct. 19

Canadian Politics

Readings:

Stephen Brooks, Canadian Democracy, 3rd. Ed.: Two articles from Annual Editions' Canadian Politics, 5th are on Reserve in the Library. Economist Survey on Canada (will be available in the Bookstore or online) There are also several recent Economist articles

Sept. 19

Theories about Federalism
Readings: Brooks, Chapter 5

Sept. 21, 26

The Canadian Identity, Social and Economic Setting and the Constitution, Intro to Canadian Federalism
Readings: Brooks, Chs. 1-4

Sept. 28, Oct. 3

Gov't Institutions, Parties, Interest Groups & Elections
Readings: Brooks, Chs. 6-8 and Annual Editions articles on Reserve, on Aboriginal Issues (161- 179)

Oct. 5, 10,

Rights and Freedoms, the Media, the Quebec Issue, Language and Aboriginal Politics and Federalism
Readings: Brooks, Chs. 9-12 and Annual Editions' articles, Politics of Culture (pp. 141-159); on Reserve

Oct. 12

In-class debate on Canadian Language Policies and Health Care: Paper due in class

Oct. 17, 18

Fall Break

Questions:

1. Is there a distinct Canadian identity different from a British or American identity? 2. What role does ethnic nationalism play in Canadian decision making? 3. What are the major points of the Canadian constitution and how are they changing today? 4. What is the Canadian collectivist view of politics? 5. How is federalism different in Canada from the US? 6. How have the 1982 Charter of Rights and Freedoms changed the face of Canadian politics? 7. How

is the Canadian Parliament different from the British Parliament? 8. How much power does the legislature/parliament have in comparison to the bureaucracy or to the cabinet/executive in Canada? 9. What are the ideological and cultural differences which divide the citizens, and how are these difference expressed politically? 11. How do parties and elections operate? 12. Does protection of linguistic rights threaten the Canadian State? 13. Is there an American problem? 14. What role do Aboriginal issues play in gov't?

October 19-Nov. 9
Readings:

Australian Politics:
 Brennan and Castles, Australia Reshaped and the Economist Survey on Australia and other recent articles from the Economist

Oct. 19, 24 Sovereignty, Australian Identity and Institutions, Changing the Constitution, Federalism, Parliament
Readings: Brennan, Chs. 1-3

Oct. 26, 31 Political Parties, Elections, Political Economy and Trade (looking east), Foreign Policy
Readings: Chs. 4-6

November 2, 7 Problems in Australian politics: Dependency, the Environment and Aborigines, Women in Politics
Readings: Brennan, Chs. 7-9

November 9 In Class Debate on whether Australia Should Participate in the Iraq War with the U.S.. Debate paper due on Nov. 14
Readings: Finish readings and the Economist Survey

Questions about Australian Politics:

1. How are parties aligned and how do they differ from parties in Canada and UK? 2. How has the Australian Parliament evolved from the British model? 3. Where is the power in Australian gov't? 4. Describe how Federalism and Nationalism operate in the Australian context? 5. What is the role of interest groups? 6. What is the role of aborigines and women in policy making? 7. Is Corporatism a factor in decision making in Australia? 8. What role do Immigration issues play in Australian politics?

November 14-December **Indian Politics:**

Readings: Ganguly, Understanding Contemporary India, 2003
 And the Economist Survey on India

Nov. 14 Lecture on Development and Development Theories
Readings: Chs. 8 & 9

Nov. 16, 21, 28, 30 Indian Politics, Economics and International Relations
Readings: Ganguly, Chs. 1-7

Nov. 23, 24, 25

Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 5

In-class debate on the India. Paper due on Dec. 7

Dec. 7

`Ethnicity, Religion and Caste

Readings: Ganguly, Chs. 10 & 11 & 13

Dec. 12-16

Final Exams

Questions about Indian politics: 1. What is the British legacy? 2. How can India have a Democracy? 3. Explain the Divisions and the Corruption that is so prevalent in India? 4. Explain some specific government and development problems? 5. How does federalism operate in India? 6. What role for the State in India? 7. How does democracy work in India? What is the current situation between Pakistan and India?

FOR E-RESERVES, COWLES LIBRARY, FALL 2005

The following articles are on E-Reserve for you through Cowles Library at the Drake University's web site. Please use them as we study each country and in preparation for the debates and simulations. Each source has the country listed with it. The Password for getting these articles is (Zeff168)

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1. Norris, Pippa. 1. "The Twilight of Westminster," and 2. "Democratic Divide," papers presented at the Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association, 31 August-2 September 2000. Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.
"Democratic Divide" is drawn from Chapter 5 of the book by Pippa Norris, Digital Divide? Civic Engagement, Information Poverty and the Internet Worldwide. Cambridge University Press 2001.
2. Mahler, Gregory S. "Parliament and Congress: Is the Grass Greener on the Other Side?" Reprinted in Dushkin/McGraw-Hill's Annual Editions' Comparative Politics, courtesy of Canadian Parliamentary Review, winter 1985-86, pp. 19-21. This article and the Rose article have been reprinted for at least 10 years in these Annual Editions.
3. Rose, Richard. "Presidents and Prime Ministers," From Dushkin/McGraw-Hill's Annual Editions, Comparative Politics, reprinted by permission from Society, Vol.25. No. 3, March/April, 1988, pp. 61-67.
4. Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, Canadian Politics 5th ed. "The Politics of Culture" Introduction and 4 separate articles, pp. 140-159, are included in this section.
5. Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, Canadian Politics, 5th Ed. "Aboriginal Issues,"
6. Introduction and 6 articles, pp. 160-179.

Economist articles:

1. Economist, May 3, 2003, p. 56, "Waiting For Blair." (Britain)
1. Economist, May 3, 2003, p. 57, "Five Tests and a Funeral." (Britain)
2. Economist June 14, 2003, p. 46, "What a Pity, What a Relief." (Britain)
3. Economist, July 12, 2003, p. 34, Campaign Finance in Canada, "Closing the Private Purse." (Canada)
4. Economist May 10, 2003, p. 32, "Ontario's Student Bulge." (Canada)
5. Economist June 8, 2002, p. 33, Jean Chrétien v Paul Martin: Now It's Really War." (Canada)
6. Economist, May 24, 2003, p. 32, Prairie Madness and the Strong Loonie." (Canada)
7. Economist, April 19, 2003, pp. 33-34, "A Spring Surprise." (Canada)
8. Economist, March 29, 2003, p. 36, "All About Eves." (Canada)
9. Economist, March 29, 2003, p. 35, "Redrawing the Federal Map," (Federalism)
10. Economist, March 29, 2003, p. 39, Kashmir, "A Bloody Reminder." (India)
11. Economist, June 21, 2003, p. 9, "A Tiger Falling Behind a Dragon." (India)
12. Economist, March 8, 2003, p. 41, "A Budget for Votes, Not reform." (India)
13. Economist, April 19, 2003, p. 36, "Missing Sisters." (India)
14. Economist, May 12, 2003, p. 33, India and Pakistan, A Third and Final Chance." (India)
15. Economist, May 24, 2003, p. 36, "Goodbye to All VAT." (India)
16. Economist Nov. 30, 2002, p. 38, "Tough on Muslims." (Australia)

