

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
TERM : FALL 2015**

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**COURSE #:** 4000      **SEC:** T03      **CRN:** 15913      **CREDIT HOURS:** 3  
**COURSE TITLE:** CANADIAN POLITICAL IDEAS

**PROFESSOR:** Barry Ferguson

**FORMAT:** Seminar

**OFFICE LOCATION:** 251 St. John's Coll.

**LOCATION OF CLASS:** 202 St. John's Coll.

**TELEPHONE:** 474-6407

**TIME OF CLASS:** Thu. 11:30-2:15

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

Barry.Ferguson@umanitoba.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** Thu. 3-4 (and by  
apptmt.)

**COURSE CONTENT AND DESCRIPTION:**

This course will examine major political ideas in Canada. It focuses less upon formal political thought than political ideas that have emerged from actual political problems and circumstances and their elaboration by various thinkers and from the colonial to the contemporary eras. It takes political ideas from their historical contexts in three broad areas. These are (i) how Canadian political thinkers distinguished the country from the two countries that have most shaped its political and economic life – the United Kingdom and the United States, (ii) how and what Canadian thinkers have characterized as the 'social ethos' of Canada, i.e. addressing key aspects of public life and policy, and (iii) how writers have dealt with the distinctive nations and cultures that have made up the country. These three subject-areas are rooted in a "historical" approach to the development of political ideas in the sense that they are based upon a survey of ideas from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The themes lead directly towards the consideration of crucial ideas in political thought, such as the meaning of conservatism, liberalism, republicanism, socialism, nationalism, multiculturalism, feminism, and aboriginal rights.

**Topics:** Topics to be examined include:

Contexts of Canadian political thought

The Colonial Imprint: toryism and liberalism

The American Presence: continentalism, republicanism

Reform Movements: protestant and catholic movements; populist & democratic reform

Radical Movements: socialism, feminism, environmentalism

Nationalist Movements, French & English

Minority Rights/Multiculturalism in modern Canada

Aboriginal Rights: a systematic movement?

### **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Document Analysis (5-6 pp.) 10% (Oct. 8)

Research Essay (15-20 pp) 50% (Dec. 10)

Seminar Participation 20%

Presentations: 20%

Final Examination: none

Further and more detailed information on assignments will be made available in class.

### **GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 90-100

A = 80-89

B+ = 75-79

B = 70-74

C+ = 65-69

C = 60-64

D = 50-59

F = 0-49

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

### **REQUIRED TEXT(S):**

Katherine Fierlbeck, *Political Thought in Canada: An Intellectual History*

Katherine Fierlbeck, *The Development of Political Thought in Canada: An Anthology*

Three or four other short readings will also be made available.

**Students are required by the Department to retain a copy of each assignment submitted to their instructors. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, academic dishonesty, academic fraud, cheating and examination impersonation in the University of Manitoba General Calendar. Students may also refer to the Faculty's website: [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student\\_resources/index.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/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.**