POLI 336 – Le Québec et le Canada

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 PM

Description
An interdisciplinary seminar comparing Canada and Quebec. The course will focus on the relations between the French and English cultural groups within Canada. We will discuss the role of federalism as an institution aiming to accommodate cultural diversity within the country. The development of Quebecois nationalism will be analyzed, together with the construction of national memories by the elites through both political rhetoric and the arts. Proposed institutional and non-institutional means of bridging the gap between the two groups will be assessed.

(Prerequisites: POLI 221 or POLI 222 or POLI 226, or permission of instructor. A reading knowledge of French is required.)

Structure
There will be no lectures, as students are expected to participate actively in the seminar. That means that students must be prepared to discuss the readings, to analyze them, and to take seriously the views presented by the other students in the class. Weeks 11-14 will give way to presentations of each student’s work-in-progress on their research paper (15 minutes each; up to four students per week depending on total enrollment).

Evaluation
Participation: 20%.

Critical essay: 20%. In a short paper (maximum of 8 pages, double-spaced), students will critically review the readings of a single week and turn in the essay at the start of that day’s meeting. Late papers will not be accepted.

Research paper: 50%. Due on April 22. Must be no more than 20 pages in length, typed, double-spaced. Students must individually consult with the professor before finalizing their paper topics. A penalty of 2 marks off per 24 hour period late applies.

Presentation: 10%.
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

**Required Readings**

Several of the readings are journal articles, the links for which are provided in WebCT (*). The remaining readings are to be found in a **coursepack** and in the following **volume**: Éric Montpetit, *Le fédéralisme d’ouverture*, Septentrion, 2007 (coursepack and volume are both available for purchase at the McGill bookstore and for three-hour loan at the Redpath Reserve).

**Course Outline**

**Week 1:**  
**Introduction and Organization** (January 5)  
*[No class on January 7]*

**Week 2:**  
**Canadian Federalism and Quebec** (January 12-14)  
Macdonald, “Speech on the Quebec Resolutions” (1865)  

**Week 3:**  
**Understanding Quebec Nationalism** (January 19-21)  
Breton, “From Ethnic to Civic Nationalism in English Canada and Quebec” (2005)
Week 4: **Interpreting Quebec History** (January 26-28)
Pratte, “Faire table rase” (2007)

Week 5: **The Quebec Sovereignty Movement** (February 2-4)
Perrella and Bélanger, “Young Quebec Sovereignists and Attitudes about Canadian Federalism”, *Québec Studies* 47 (2009) *
Piroth and Jackson, “Language Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Quebec Among Canadian University Students”, *Québec Studies* 47 (2009) *

Week 6: **The Two Solitudes as Depicted in Artworks** (February 9-11)
Lepage, “Intertextualité dans la réception critique de la littérature québécoise au Canada anglais”, *Québec Studies* 45 (2008) *

Week 7: **Shared and Divergent Values** (February 16-18)
Trudeau, “The Values of a Just Society” (1990)
Taylor, “Shared and Divergent Values” (1993)
Dion, “Le nationalisme dans la convergence culturelle: le Québec contemporain et le paradoxe de Tocqueville” (1991)
Mendelsohn, “Measuring National Identity and Patterns of Attachment in Quebec”, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 8:3 (2002)*

**Week 8:** Study break

**Week 9:** Bridging the Gap I: More Flexible Arrangements? (March 2-4)
- Seidle and Bishop, “Public Opinion on Asymmetrical Federalism: Growing Openness or Continuing Ambiguity?” (2005) *

**Week 10:** Bridging the Gap II: Redefining Citizenship? (March 9-11)

**Week 11:** Presentations (March 16-18)

**Week 12:** Presentations (March 23-25)

**Week 13:** Presentations (March 30-April 1)

**Week 14:** Presentations (April 6)

Research paper to be submitted on April 22
(by email before 4:00 PM, with a hard copy that can be handed in later in my box)