

Summer 2005  
KENTUCKY CANADIAN STUDIES CONSORTIUM  
<http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/KCSA>

**NORTH AMERICAN POLITICS**  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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North American Politics will examine two nations born of the American Revolution and sharing the longest undefended border in the world. The course will look north to our largest trading partner as it looks south at us: a country ten times its population whose culture exercises an hydraulic effect on its way of life. To explore these two distinct, but intimately-related post-industrial democratic republics which share the North American continent, this course will compare their political cultures, their constitutions and courts, their national political lives and institutions, their major social policies, and their political and economic relationships.

The course will begin with an analysis of their national myths and political cultures. Second, it will compare their constitutions and the role of their courts in defining their federal unions and the fundamental rights of their citizens. Third, it will examine the role of political parties in contesting elections and in exercising governmental power. Fourth, it will compare three major social control policies: health care, tobacco, and guns. Fifth, it will explore their economic and political relationships with a focus on energy and post-9/11 foreign and defense policies. Lastly, the course will compare issues of race and language, and their consequences for Canadian national unity and the United States.

North American Politics is a Canadian Studies Online Program course taught from Morehead State University, using the MSU Blackboard server and taken by students at 4 Kentucky Canadian Studies Consortium (KCSC) institutions: Morehead State University (MSU), Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), Western Kentucky University (WKU), and the University of Kentucky (UK). This course has a different course prefix and number at each KCSC institution. At MSU, it is GOVT 329 and IST 329; at EKU, POL 405; at WKU, GOVT 460; and at UK, PS 491. Information on other CSOP courses is available at the Kentucky Canadian Studies Association site: <http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/KCSA>.

To take this Internet course, you must have basic computer skills and a computer with an internet connection in order to access the MSU Blackboard course site and to write and email me your assignments. In sum, you will use the Internet, along with traditional information sources, to achieve the objective of this course: a critical comparative analysis of the politics of two democratic post-industrial nations which inhabit the North American continent.

#### READINGS

David M. Thomas, ed., *Canada and the United States: Differences That Count, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Broadview Press, 2000. ISBN: 1-55111-252-3. \$26.95.

Wayne C. Thompson, *Canada 2004*. 20<sup>th</sup> ed., Stryker-Post Publications, 2004. ISBN: 1-887985-56-5. \$13.50.

You may purchase these texts from the Morehead State University Bookstore, 606-783-2081 or <http://www.morehead-st.edu/units/bookstore>, which will ship book orders the day they are received. These texts are also available at Barnes and Noble online <http://www.bn.com> and Amazon.com.

The 5 course readings, identified by an asterisk (\*) in the "Assignments" section, are available in pdf files in a "Course Documents" folder on the Blackboard course site. Use the Adobe Acrobat Reader to access them.

#### COURSE QUESTIONS

If you have questions about **course content**, contact me at [w.green@morehead-st.edu](mailto:w.green@morehead-st.edu). If you have technical questions about **Blackboard**, contact the MSU Distance Learning Help Desk at 606-783-2082.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

**1. Six Module Assignments.** You will study North American Politics in 6 modules. Each module will contain an overview, list of readings, and an assignment. The assignments will require you to critically analyze the readings and then use them to write clear and concise essays. In writing the essays, you will comply with the following instructions. First, you will use only on the readings in each module assignment. Second, you will develop your own structure and argument in writing the essays;. Third, you will comply with the formatting, composition; quotation and citation rules; plagiarism policy, honor pledge; and assignment

submission instructions; and deadlines. Fourth, you will submit your Module 1, 2, and 3 assignments together and by 1 common deadline; and you will submit your Module 4, 5, and 6 assignments together and by 1 common deadline.

**2. Modules 1, 2, and 3.** These 3 modules are located in 1 MSU Blackboard "Assignment" folder. You will submit all 3 modules together and by 1 deadline which is determined by the university at which you are a student. The deadlines are listed after the Module 3 assignment on page 2.

A. National Origins and Cultural Foundations (Module 1)

Wayne Thompson, "Culture," 2-12, in his *Canada 2004*.

Tamara Seiler, "Melting Pot and Mosaic: Images and Realities," 97-114, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

Mebs Kanji and Neil Nevitte, "Who are the Most Deferential: Canadians or Americans?," 121-36, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

David Taras, "Swimming Against the Current: American Mass Entertainment and Canadian Identity," 192-207, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

B. National Constitutions and Courts: Federalism and Civil Liberties (Module 2)

Wayne Thompson, "Constitution," 68-70, "Law and the Court System," 81-84; and "Federalism and the Provinces," 85-87, in his *Canada 2004*.

R.P. Kearns, "Two Nations Under Law," 359-74, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

Christopher Manfredi, "Rights and the Judicialization of Politics in Canada and the United States," 301-15, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

Francois Rocher, "American and Canadian Federalism," 262-80, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

\*William G. Buss, "A Comparative Study of the Constitutional Protection of Hate Speech in Canada and the United States," 89-118, in Kenney, Reisinger, and Reitz, *Constitutional Dialogues in Comparative Perspective*, 1999.

C. National Political Institutions (Module 3)

Wayne Thompson, "Parties and Elections," 115-23; "The 2004 Parliamentary Elections," 126-27; and "Governmental Structure," 70-81, in his *Canada 2004*.

Michael Martinez, "Turning Out or Tuning Out: Electoral Participation in Canada and the United States," 211-26, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

Jennifer Smith, "The Grass is Always Greener: Prime Ministerial vs. Presidential Government," 229-44, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

Roger Gibbins and Peter McCormick, "A Tale of Two Senates," 248-60, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

Module 1, 2, and 3 Deadlines

**June 17** is the deadline for Morehead State U., Eastern Kentucky U., and Western Kentucky U. students.

**June 24** is the deadline for University of Kentucky students,

**3. Modules 4, 5, and 6.** These 3 modules are located in 1 MSU Blackboard "Assignment" folder. You will submit all 3 modules together and by 1 deadline determined by the university at which you are a student. The deadlines are listed after the Module 6 assignment on page 3.

A. National Public Policies (Module 4)

Wayne Thompson, "Culture," 9-10; "Strong State Role," 160, "Health and Welfare," 160-62, and "Current Economic Situation," 162-63, in his *Canada, 2004*.

Robert Evans, "Two Systems in Restraint: Contrasting Experiences With [Health Care] Cost Control in the 1990s," 21-49, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

David Perry, "What Price Canadian? Taxation and Debt Compared," 52-66, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

Leslie A. Pal, "Between the Sights: Gun Control in Canada and the United States," 68-86 in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

B. International Political and Economic Relations (Module 5)

Wayne Thompson, "Economy," 145-60, "Foreign Policy," 128-39, and "Defense Policy," 139-44, in his *Canada 2004*.

Christopher Kirkey, "Canada – U. S. Political Relationship," 284-95, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

\*Paul Bradley and G. Campbell Watkins, "Canada and U.S.: Seamless Energy Border," C.D. Howe

Institute, 2003.

\*Danielle Goldfarb, "Thinking the Unthinkable: Security Threats, Cross Border Implications, and Canada's Long-Term Strategies," C.D. Howe Institute, 2004.

C. Race, Language, and National Unity (Module 6)

Wayne Thompson, "Quebec," 94-100, and "The Quiet Revolution in Quebec," 53-65, in his *Canada 2004*.

Richard Iton, "The Backlash and the Quiet Revolution: The Contemporary Implications of Race and Language in the United States and Canada," 141-57, in Thomas, *Canada and the United States*.

\*Carol L. Schmidt, "Language and Identity Politics in Canada," 101-22, in her *The Politics of Language*, 2001.

\*Keith Banting, "If Quebec Separates: Restructuring North America," 159-78, in Weaver, *The Collapse of Canada*, 1992.

Module 4, 5, and 6 Deadlines

**July 1** is the deadline for Morehead State U., Eastern Kentucky U., and Western Kentucky U. students

**July 7** is the deadline for University of Kentucky students

**ASSIGNMENT COMPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS**

In the Module 1, 2, and 3 instructions and in the Module 4, 5, and 6 instructions, will contain 1) a writing guide on the use the SQ3R Method and on productive coursework practices, 2) composition rules, 3) quotation rules, and 4) citation rules. These instructions will also include the plagiarism rules, honor pledge, and late assignment rules described below.

**1. Plagiarism Rules.**

**A. Statement on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism.** When I read your essays, I expect that you will have abided by the quotation and in-text citation rules and the honor pledge in writing them. Nothing will displease me more than suspecting that you have failed to abide by the quotation and in-text-citation rules and violated the honor pledge.

When I suspect that you have plagiarized an essay, I will undertake the laborious and time consuming task (up to an hour or more of my time) to document, not your occasional lapse in complying with the quotation and citation rules, but your multiple failures to follow these rules. When I have documented your plagiarism, you will receive a failing grade on your essay. Your plagiarism of one essay will alert me to look for plagiarism in your other essays.

To avoid plagiarizing the materials you have been assigned to read, you must do 3 things. First, you will carefully read and follow the plagiarism policy below before you write your essays. Second, you will print off, read, and study the Indiana University plagiarism article below before the course begins and you will refer to it when you write your essays. Third, you will be aware that when you type in the honor pledge at the end of your assignment that you are not merely cutting and pasting in a 27 word statement and substituting your name for mine; you are certifying (or attesting as true) that you have not violated the quotation and citation rules.

**B. Honor Pledge.** At the end of the Module 1, 2, and 3 assignments and at the end of the Module 4, 5, and 6 assignments, you will provide a statement certifying that you have not violated the plagiarism policy in writing the assignments. If you fail to include the pledge statement, as it appears above, your Module 1, 2, and 3 assignment will be incomplete and the "Late Assignment Penalties" will apply to all three assignments until I receive the assignment with the honor pledge included.

**C. Plagiarism Policy.** Plagiarism is the use of the words or the ideas of another person as though they were one's own. In accordance with KCSC college or university rules prohibiting plagiarism, you are required to individually author your assignments and to acknowledge the words and writings of other persons which you use.

The 4 following practices are prohibited and will result in a failing grade on the assignment in which they are discovered: 1) copying from another student's assignment and submitting it as exclusively your own work; 2) collaborating with another student in writing an assignment and submitting the assignment as exclusively your own work; 3) copying words and/or passages directly from books, articles, court cases, course readings, or internet sites without quoting and citing the source and, thereby, representing the words and/or passages as your own; and 4) using ideas directly and exclusively attributable to a specific book, article, court case, course reading, or internet site without citing the source and, thereby, representing the ideas as your own.

**D. Indiana University Plagiarism Article.** Before the course begins, you are required to print off, read, and study the Indiana University's (IU) Writing Tutorial Services article on "Plagiarism: What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid It." You will find the article at <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>

**2. Late Assignment Rules**

You will observe the assignment deadlines for your university set forth in this syllabus and in the module assignments. You must complete and submit all assignments by 9:00 a.m. on the due dates listed in the "Assignment" section for your university in order to receive full credit.

You should complete your assignments as soon after I post them as possible and not wait until the night before they are due and then encounter a personal problem or a computer or Internet access problem. If you do not submit assignments by the hour and day they are due, I will penalize them 1 letter grade; and for each 24 hour period thereafter that they are late, I will penalize them 1 letter grade.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

### **1. Module Grading Criteria**

When you submit your module assignments, they must be final drafts, free of all errors. I will not permit you to rewrite your assignments, nor will I allow extra credit assignments. Your grade on each assignment will be based on the clarity, conciseness, and thoroughness of your answer to the essay question, your observance of all the assignment instructions, and your submission of the assignments by their deadlines. I will grade down essays which answer their own questions, use personal political opinions and patriotic language, and merely describe and/or summarize the readings. I will also grade down essays which make formatting, composition, quotation, and citation mistakes.

### **2. Grades and Comments**

After I grade your assignments, I will send you an email in which I will provide you with your grades. Your grades may be followed by numbers keyed to a grading code which will explain the deficiencies in your essays. I will make general comments about all the essays. You will use the grading code and general comments to review your essay, even if you are pleased with your grade. You may email me if you have questions about your grade.

### **3. Course Grade**

Your course grade will be based on 6 assignments, each of equal value: 1/6<sup>th</sup> of your course grade.

### **4. Module and Course Grading Scale**

I will use a plus/minus scale to grade your assignments: A+=4.3, A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3.0, B-=2.7, C+=2.3, C=2.0, C-=1.7, D+=1.3, D=1.0, D-=.7 I will use this scale to calculate MSU, EKU, WKU, and UK student course grades by averaging their 6 assignment grades.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT**

You will assist me in assessing the North American Politics course and in making any alterations in the course the next time I teach it by completing a course information questionnaire as part of your final assignment.

## **INTERNET LEARNING AND COMPUTER SKILLS AND REQUIREMENTS**

You are required to possess basic computer and Internet skills and have daily access to a computer possessing specific technical requirements so that you can communicate with me, access the Blackboard course site, and, if you expect to do well in the course, you will also need the skills associated with successful online learning. I have detailed these skills in the Basic Course Information which I sent you by email or U.S. Mail. You will find this information in a Blackboard "Course Information" folder and summarized below.

- 1. Internet Learning Skills and Quiz.** If you have not taken an Internet course, before the course begins, take the "Self Evaluation Quiz" at <http://www.ion.illinois.edu/IONresources/onlineLearning/StudentProfile.asp>
- 2. Computer and Internet Skills.** You must have basic computer skills and be proficient in using word processing software. You must also be proficient in sending emails and in using MSU's Blackboard course site.
- 3. Computer and Internet Access.** You must have access to a computer with an Internet connection which meets MSU Distance Learning technical requirements available at [http://www.morehead-st.edu/units/distance/tech\\_required.html](http://www.morehead-st.edu/units/distance/tech_required.html) If your computer does not meet these requirements, you will have to upgrade.
- 4. Adobe Acrobat Reader.** You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or higher installed on your computer so that you can access and print the course readings in *pdf* files. If you do not Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer, a free copy is available at <http://www.adobe.com>.

## **MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY DISTANCE LEARNING ADA DISABILITY STATEMENT**

If you have a ADA learning disability, you must contact the MSU Disability Guidance Counseling Services Coordinator, Allie Young, 214 Morehead State University, Morehead KY 40351. 606-783-5188, at the beginning of the course. You will find the MSU Distance Learning disability statement at [http://www.moreheadstate.edu/units/distance/ADA\\_DP\\_policy.doc](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/units/distance/ADA_DP_policy.doc). If you have an ADA question you may also contact the Office of Distance Learning at 606-783-2082.

