

**HISTORY 3226F**  
**Canadian Political Leadership**  
**Summer 2022**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Somerville House 3315**  
**Course Delivery In-person**

**Instructor: Professor Keith Fleming**  
**Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., or by appointment.**  
**Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 1208**  
**kffleming@uwo.ca**

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**Course Description:**

This course focuses on leadership styles of the most influential, innovative, and frequently controversial prime ministers and provincial premiers from the 1860s to the present. Emphasis is placed on the interplay of character, circumstance, pragmatism and principle in governing a nation as ethnically diverse and regionally fragmented as Canada.

***Prerequisite:***

1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

***Antirequisite:***

History 3297F/G taken in 2009 or 2010

**Course Syllabus:**

Political leadership in Canada is not exercised exclusively by elected officials. Non-elected bureaucrats, judges, interest groups, media representatives, and citizen activists can also be influential leaders by shaping public opinion at all levels of government. Yet the leaders in post-Confederation Canadian history who have been invested with the greatest decision-making authority are the prime ministers and provincial premiers. They are, with a couple of noteworthy exceptions (namely, the Indigenous political leaders Louis Riel and Ovide Mercredi), the focus of History 3226F. Specifically, the course considers the leadership styles and attributes, successes and failures, of some of Canada's most noteworthy government leaders (including John A. Macdonald, Robert Borden, Wilfrid Laurier, William Lyon Mackenzie King, Maurice Duplessis, William Aberhart, Tommy Douglas, Pierre Trudeau, Joey Smallwood, Brian Mulroney, and Kim Campbell). Many of the prime ministers and provincial premiers to be studied were renowned for their leadership successes and innovations. The records of some of the others were far more controversial. Regardless, the careers of each of the political leaders we study will

be treated as a unique combination of character and circumstance, pragmatism and principle. To that end, substantial attention is paid to the social, economic and political challenges and opportunities each leader faced while in government, and how collectively they altered our understanding of leadership as the nation evolved. The course begins with a consideration of theoretical perspectives for assessing political leadership in a country as ethnically diverse and regionally fragmented as Canada. It then highlights the careers of a select and highly diverse group of political leaders who played a central role in shaping Canada, for better or worse, between 1867 and the present.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will be able to

- identify the major events, concepts, and personalities associated with evolving concepts of Canadian political leadership at the national and provincial levels
- provide accurate factual information about a wide range of people, groups, events, and documents discussed in readings and explain their significance
- strengthen skills of oral and written communication
- analyze secondary sources, including their sources, methods, arguments, strengths, limitations, potential implications and significance for the field
- solve research problems by identifying a topic, refining it to a significant and answerable historical question, determining the essential components of the argument, organizing the parts of the essay, and drawing conclusions
- effectively integrate primary and secondary sources in class presentations, discussions, and research essays
- apply academic knowledge to analyze the impact of historical precedents on shaping the contemporary styles and effectiveness of Canada's national and provincial political leaders

### **Course Materials:**

The course readings are available either in digital format at the Western Libraries site for History 3226F (which can be accessed via the 'Course Readings' link on the course OWL website), or on two-hour reserve at D.B. Weldon Library.

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

Each student must submit electronically to [kfleming@uwo.ca](mailto:kfleming@uwo.ca) a formal and brief (1-2 page typewritten) **essay proposal** no later than **Friday 20 May 2022 at 11:59 p.m.** Students who fail to meet this deadline will not be permitted to submit an essay, and will receive a grade of "0" on the assignment. Approved essay topics cannot subsequently be changed without the instructor's prior consent.

Each student will write a **research essay** (13-15 typewritten pages in length) on the leadership styles and attributes of an individual prime minister or premier. Essay topics will be assigned by the instructor in consultation with each student. Essays must place the leaders decision-making within the context of the principal social, economic, and political influences of the time. An electronic copy of the completed research essay must be submitted via the course OWL website **no later than Friday 10 June 2022 at 11:59 p.m.** In addition, the essay must be submitted by the due date and time to Turnitin.com via the course OWL website.

Each student, in consultation with the instructor, will make a 10-12 minute **seminar presentation** discussing a minimum of three primary sources that the student has identified as providing clarity and

context to central themes in that session's required readings. The types of sources to be consulted could include, but are not limited to, government documents, speeches, newspaper articles, personal diaries, excerpts from novels, advertisements, photographs and other illustrations, or radio and television broadcasts. Presentations must not exceed the maximum 12-minute allotment. An electronic copy of the primary source report must be submitted to [kfleming@uwo.ca](mailto:kfleming@uwo.ca) no later than **noon** on the day the class presentation takes place. In addition to including all images of the primary sources being discussed in class, the written report must describe your reasons for selecting those primary sources and how they provide clarity and context to that session's assigned readings, as well as advance our understanding of Canadian political leadership. The written narrative portion of the report should be approximately 5 pages in length. The course instructor will post the primary source report on the "**Resources**" section of the course OWL website for other students to access.

There **will not** be a final examination in this course. In its place, students will submit before each class a **written response** (maximum 500 words per response) to a question **based on the assigned readings** for that session. The response questions will be posted on the "**Assignments**" section of the course OWL website at least two days before the written response is due. Students will submit their written responses via the course OWL website no later than the beginning of that day's class (7:00 p.m.). Late submissions will not be accepted or graded. Ten written responses in total will be submitted.

Research Essay Proposal (due Friday 20 May)	5%
Research Essay (due Friday 10 June)	35%
Primary Source Presentation and Report	20%
Seminar Participation	20%
Assigned Readings Written Responses (10 x 2%)	20%

Students must pass all elements of the course (research essay proposal; research essay; primary source presentation and report; seminar participation; and written responses) in order to achieve a passing grade in the course.

A **late penalty** of 5% for the first day and 2% per day thereafter (weekends included) will be assessed against all written work submitted after the due date.

Students are expected to attend and participate actively in all seminar discussions, thereby demonstrating their comprehension of the assigned readings. Sample discussion questions will be posted on the course OWL website (under the 'Resources' link) before each class to assist students in preparing to participate meaningfully in the seminar. All students will be assigned a participation grade on a 10-point scale following each seminar. Failure to attend a seminar will result in a score of "0" for that class. Merely attending a seminar without participating in the discussion will result in a score of "2" for that class. The assignment of a participation grade from "3" to "10" will be determined by the quality of the student's contributions to discussion during any given seminar.

In instances when absence from class is unavoidable, students are expected, when possible, to inform the instructor in advance of their pending absence.

Non-illness absences from seminars are unacceptable. Any student attending fewer than nine of the eleven scheduled classes (an absence rate of approximately 20%) for non-illness reasons will be assigned a failing grade for seminar participation.

**Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:**

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on May 11 at 3:00 p.m, your new due date will be May 13 at 3:00 p.m.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

**Session One: Monday 9 May 2022**

**Topic #1: Introduction to History 3226F**

**Topic #2: Contemporary Perspectives on Canadian Political Leadership**

**Readings:**

Jonathan Malloy, "Prime Ministers and their Parties in Canada," in Paul Strangio, Paul 'T Hart, and James Walter, eds., *Understanding Prime-Ministerial Performance: Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 151-171.

Stephen Azzi and Norman Hillmer, "Evaluating Prime-Ministerial Performance: The Canadian Experience," in Paul Strangio, Paul 'T Hart, and James Walter, eds., *Understanding Prime-Ministerial Performance: Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 242-263.

Stephen Azzi & Norman Hillmer, "Ranking Prime Ministers: Canada in a Commonwealth Context," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (June 2020), pp. 1-22.

**Session Two: Wednesday 11 May 2022**

**Topic: Sir John A. Macdonald, 1867-1873; 1878-1891**

**Readings:**

J.K. Johnson and P.B. Waite, "Macdonald, Sir John A." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XII (1891-1900).

Michel Ducharme, "Macdonald and the Concept of Liberty," in Patrice Dutil and Roger Hall, eds., *Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies* (Dundurn, 2014), pp. 141-169.

J.R. Miller, "Macdonald as Minister of Indian Affairs: The Shaping of Canadian Indian Policy," in Patrice Dutil and Roger Hall, eds., *Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies* (Dundurn, 2014), pp. 311-340.

**Session Three: Monday 16 May 2022**

**Topic: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 1896-1911**

**Readings:**

Réal Bélanger, "Laurier, Sir Wilfrid," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XIV (1911-1920).

Jeffrey Simpson, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier: Grits on High" in *Spoils of Power: The Politics of Patronage* (Collins, 1988), pp. 98-122.

**Session Four: Wednesday 18 May 2022**

**Topic: Sir Robert Borden, 1911-1917**

**Readings:**

Robert Craig Brown, "Borden, Sir Robert Laird," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XVI (1931-1940).

John English, "Political Leadership in the First World War," in David MacKenzie, ed., *Canada and the First World War: Essays in Honour of Robert Craig Brown*, (2005), pp. 76-95.

**\*\*\*\*\* ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022 at 11:59 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***

**Session Five: Wednesday 25 May 2022**

**Topic: William Lyon Mackenzie King, 1921-1926; 1926-1930; 1935-1948**

**Readings:**

H. Blair Neatby, "King, William Lyon Mackenzie," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XVII (1941-1950).

J.L. Granatstein, "The Second Conscription Crisis" in *Canada's War: The Politics of the Mackenzie King Government, 1939-1945* (1975), pp. 333-381.

**Session Six: Monday 30 May 2022**

**Topic #1: Maurice Duplessis, 1936-1939, 1944-1959**

**Readings:**

Michel Sarra-Bournet, "Duplessis, Maurice Le Noblet," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XVIII (1951-1960).

Susan Mann Trofimenkoff, "Rally Round the Flag," in *The Dream of Nation: A Social and Intellectual History of Quebec* (Gage, 1983), pp. 266-281.

**Topic #2: William Aberhart, 1935-1943**

**Readings:**

David Elliott, "William Aberhart, 1935-1943," in Bradford J. Rennie, ed., *Alberta Premiers of the Twentieth Century* (Canadian Plains Research Center, 2004), pp. 125-146.

D.R. Elliott, "Antithetical Elements in William Aberhart's Theology and Political Ideology," in *The Canadian Historical Review* (Vol. 59, No. 1, 1978), pp. 38-58.

**Session Seven: Wednesday 1 June 2022**

**Topic #1: Tommy Douglas, 1944-1961**

**Reading:**

Thomas H. McLeod and Ian McLeod, "T.C. Douglas, 1944-1961," in Gordon L. Barnhart, ed., *Saskatchewan Premiers of the Twentieth Century* (Canadian Plains Research Centre, 2004), pp. 161-212.

**Topic #2: Joey Smallwood, 1949-1972**

**Readings:**

James K. Hiller, "Smallwood, Joseph Roberts [Joey] (1900-1991)," in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Sean T. Cadigan, "The Land of Milk and Honey, 1946-1972," in *Newfoundland and Labrador: A History* (University of Toronto Press, 2009), pp. 235-259.

**Session Eight: Monday 6 June 2022**

**Topic: Pierre Trudeau, 1968-1979; 1980-1984**

**Readings:**

John English, "Trudeau, Pierre Elliott," *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XXII (1991-2000).

Michael Bliss, "Guarding a Most Famous Stream: Trudeau and the Canadian Political Tradition," in Andrew Cohen and J.L. Granatstein, eds., *Trudeau's Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Pierre Elliott Trudeau* (Random House, 1998), pp. 11-19.

Andrew Cohen, "Trudeau's Canada: The Vision and the Visionary," in Andrew Cohen and J.L. Granatstein, eds., *Trudeau's Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Pierre Elliott Trudeau* (Random House, 1998), pp. 309-328.

Bob Plamondon, "Canada's Most Overrated Prime Minister?" in *The Truth About Trudeau* (Great River Media, 2013), pp. 329-344.

**Session Nine: Wednesday 8 June 2022**

**Topic: Indigenous Political Leadership (Louis Riel and Ovide Mercredi)**

**Readings:**

J.R. Miller, "Resistance in Red River and the Numbered Treaties: 'Bounty and Benevolence'" and "The North-West Rebellion" and "Meech, Oka, Charlottetown, Nass, and Ottawa: Relations 1968-2000," in *Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens: A History of Native Newcomer Relations in Canada*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (University of Toronto Press, 2018), pp. 162-206 and 296-317.

Thomas Flanagan, "The North-West Rebellion," in *Riel and the Rebellion: 1885 Reconsidered* (University of Toronto Press, 2000), pp. 3-20.

M.V. Naidu, "Ovide Mercredi: an introduction [on being presented with the Peace Plaque of the Canadian Peace Research & Education Assn, for 2000]," in *Peace Research* (Vol. 32, Issue 3, August 2000), p. 48.

Ovide Mercredi, "Why native peoples are not Canadians," *Canadian Speeches* (Vol. 10, Issue 10, March 1997).

Brian Bergman, "Judgment Day," *Maclean's* (Vol. 107, Issue 29, July 18, 1994), pp. 10-11

\* \* \* **ESSAY DUE FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2022 at 11:55 p.m.** \* \*

**Session Ten: Monday 14 June 2022**

**Topic: Brian Mulroney, 1984-1993**

**Readings:**

Bob Plamondon, "First Québécois to Lead" and "Power and Discipline" and "A Test of National Unity," in *Blue Thunder: The Truth about the Conservatives from Macdonald to Harper* (Key Porter Books, 2009), pp. 315-349.

Michael Hart, "Free Trade and Brian Mulroney's Economic Legacy," in Raymond B. Blake, ed., *Transforming the Nation: Canada and Brian Mulroney* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007), pp. 61-79.

Ian Peach, "Building or Severing the Bonds of Nationhood?: The Uncertain Legacy of Constitution Making in the Mulroney Years," in Raymond B. Blake, ed., *Transforming the Nation: Canada and Brian Mulroney* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007), pp. 80-112.

**Session Eleven: Wednesday 15 June 2022**

**Topic: Kim Campbell, 1993**

**Readings:**

Sylvia Bashevkin, "Discomfort Zones," in *Women, Power, Politics: The Hidden Story of Canada's Unfinished Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 21-56.

Bob Plamondon, "Kim Campbell: Defeat Personified," in *Blue Thunder: The Truth about the Conservatives from Macdonald to Harper* (Key Porter Books, 2009), pp. 353-361.

David McLaughlin, "Conclusion: Whodunnit?" in *Poisoned Chalice: The Last Campaign of the Progressive Conservative Party?* (Dundurn Press, 1994), pp. 277-298.

**Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness