

POSC 482H: BC Government and Politics

Hamish Telford, Fall 2010, Room B-133

This course will examine the institutions of government in British Columbia, and the practice of politics in the province. Particular attention will be paid to the recurring or structural features of BC politics over time, and how these features continue to shape the political landscape in the province.

Text: Michael Howlett, Dennis Pilon, Tracy Summerville, *British Columbia Politics and Government* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2010).

Assignments: Three Discussion Papers, 6-8 pages (15 percent each)
Research Paper, 15-20 pages (40 percent)
Participation (15 percent)

Discussion Papers: Each discussion paper will critically review the major sections of the textbook. The first paper will review the “Context” of BC politics (chapters 2-5); the second paper will examine “Democracy in British Columbia” (chapters 6-10); the third paper will look at “Government” (chapters 11-15). Your papers should very briefly review the content of these chapters, but more importantly you should attempt to identify underlying themes or contradictions in the analyses offered by the different authors. **Due dates: see under participation.**

Research Paper: Your research paper will focus on the current controversy over the HST in British Columbia. I would like you to provide a “structural” explanation for why the tax has been so controversial for the citizens of BC. Please avoid the sort of superficial analysis you read in the media: “we hate the HST because Gordon Campbell lied to us during the election.” **Due December 23.**

Participation: Class will meet from 10:00 AM to 11:30 on Thursdays, September 9, October 7, November 4, and December 2. **Students are required to circulate their discussion papers 48 hours prior to each meeting. All assignments should be submitted to the instructor by email.**

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