

**Political Science 4870
Regionalism in Canada
Fall 2010**

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Office Hours

General Information

Regionalism is a multi-dimensional phenomenon that has had a major impact on policy debates across policy fields, not only in Canada, but around the world. Especially since the 1990s, there has been an explosion of experiments in regionalization at the community, sub-national, national, and even continental levels. This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to employ key concepts and theories used in political science to explore not only the forces driving regionalization, but the outcomes achieved. Getting a consensus on new regional ideas, institutions, and identities is never easy without a common crisis, leadership, or sense of historical identity. Viewed this way, regionalism is a slippery, contested concept that has often been connected with attempts by outside experts to impose homogenization, whether at the Atlantic or local community level. We will discuss historical political-policy outcomes, paying close attention to not only drivers of regionalization, but constraints also. Regionalization is not inevitable and there is much we can learn about how competing values, interests, institutions that complicate the task of achieving a consensus and implementing changes on a regional basis. Our objective in the course is to explore new as well as comparative historical forms of regional governance but in a way that offers critical insights. Much attention will be placed on understanding the various agenda-setting and implementation challenges associated with regional transformation, whether across provinces, municipalities, continents, or policy fields. The course adopts a comparative approach to public policy and politics.

In the first part of the course we will deal with major theoretical and conceptual issues: past and present. The second part of the course will be devoted to case-studies and the challenges associated with putting theory into practice. Topics for papers and class presentations will be organized the first couple weeks of class.

Mark Distribution

Paper:	40%
Participation:	20%
Final Take-Home	40%

Required Textbooks:

Godfrey Baldacchino, Rob Greenwood, and Lawrence Felt, editors, *Remote Control*. St. John's: ISER, 2009.

Herman Bakvis, Gerald Baier, Douglas Brown, *Contested Federalism*. Oxford University Press, 2009.

Lecture Themes

I. Introduction

1. Neil Bradford, *Commissioning Ideas* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1999). Chapter 1.
2. Keith Banting, George Hoberg, and Richard Simeon, editors, *Degrees of Freedom* (Montreal-Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997). Chapter 1.
3. Donald Savoie, *Visiting Grandchildren*, Chapter 1.
4. Stephen Tomblin, Effecting Change and Transformation through Regionalization, *Canadian Public Admin*, Vol. 50 (Spring 2007), 1-20.
5. Stephen Tomblin, *Ottawa and the Outer Provinces*. (Toronto: Lorimer Press, 1985). Chapters 1, 2.
6. Michael Howlett, De-Mythologizing Provincial Political Economies: The Development of the Service Sectors in the Provinces, in Chris Dunn, editor, *Provinces: Canadian Provincial Politics*. (Toronto: Broadview Press, 1996), 423-448.

II. Theoretical Approaches

1. Janine Brodie, *The Political Economy of Canadian Regionalism*, Chapter 1.
2. Roger Gibbins, *Regionalism*, Chapter 1.
3. David Freshwater and Stephen Tomblin, "Making Sense of Realities in the Uncharted Fringe." In Geoffrey Baldacchino, Rob Greenwood, and Larry Felt, editors, *Remote*

Control. 19-46.

4. Stephen Tomblin and Charles Colgan, *Regionalism in Global Society*, Chapter 1.
5. John Bryden, Challenges for Rural People in Europe and North America. In *Remote Control*: 47-63.
6. Godfrey Baldacchino, *Governance in Small Places*. In *Remote Control*: 114-134.
7. Kelly Vodden, *Experiments in Collaborative Governance On Canada's Coasts*. In *Remote Control*.

III. Case-Studies and Frameworks

1. Michael Howlett, M. Ramesh, and Anthony Perl, editors, *Studying Public Policy*: Chapters 1-3.
2. Herman Bakvis and Grace Skogstad, editors, *Canadian Federalism*: Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
3. *Contested Federalism*: Chapters 1,2,3,6, 7,9.
4. Stephen Tomblin, *Ottawa and the Outer Provinces*, Chapters 2,3,5.
5. Richard Simeon, and David Elkins, editors, *Small Worlds*, Chapter 1.
6. Richard Simeon, *Federal-Provincial Diplomacy*, Chapter 1.
7. Alan Cairns, *Constitution, Government, and Society in Canada*, Chapters 4,5.