

Canada's Electoral Democracy

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9:00am-4:30pm

1. What are the five basic elements of fair and free elections as they have been developed in Canada?
2. Is there a "best practices" model in any (or all) of those elements that might serve as models for other countries?
3. What changes ought to be made to the electoral system in order to improve it?
4. By what standards should those changes be made?

Students will be expected to have read in preparation for the discussions:

Courtney, *Elections* (UBC Press, 2004)

Courtney, (2013 – will be provided) "Observations on Canada's Electoral Distribution Process," *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, vol 8, pp. 497-506.

Day One of the Workshop will be devoted to the topics considered in Chapters One, Two, and Three (pp. 3-76) of *Elections*: the rules of the electoral game; the franchise; and electoral districting, and the assigned article from the *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*.

Day Two of the Workshop will be devoted to consideration of Chapters Four, Five, Six, and Seven (pp. 77-177) of *Elections*: voter registration, electoral administration, the plurality vote, and assessing Canada's electoral system

The book *Elections* concludes with Discussion Questions for each of the topics; Electoral System Challenges and Possible Reforms; and a Glossary of election terms. **Students are expected to have read each of those concluding sections and to be prepared to discuss issues that they raise about Canada's electoral democracy.**