

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Canadian Government and Politics Major Field Exam**

**May 26, 2011**

**(Professors Loewen, G. White and L. White)**

Instructions: Answer one (1) question from each part. Include in-text author citations where appropriate.

**Part A**

- 1 Making reference to specific subfields of the discipline, discuss whether Canadian political science is more in need of research on topics on which the literature is sparse, or of research which builds on and expands existing literature.
- 2 Making reference to specific subfields of the discipline, discuss why the literature on certain elements of Canadian politics makes substantial use of conceptual-theoretical perspectives, whereas the literature on other elements of Canadian politics is largely atheoretical.
- 3 “What has been described as the ‘comparative turn’ in recent Canadian political science is better understood as a quantitative turn.” Discuss.

**Part B**

- 4 “In Canada, since the late nineteenth century, society and economy and the attitudes and values associated with them have changed fundamentally, yet the principal institutions of government remain much as they were 120 years ago.” Discuss.
- 5 “In the Canadian context, the ‘democratic deficit’ is a conceptually empty idea.” Discuss.
- 6 Do federalism and the electoral system work at cross purposes in Canada?

**Part C**

- 7 “Partisan identification is not a useful concept in Canadian politics.” Discuss.
- 8 What social and ideological cleavages best account for Canadian voting behaviour?
- 9 Do the results of the 2011 federal election suggest that Canada is entering a new party system?