The Maple Leaf and the Eagle: Canadian Perspectives on the U.S.

Class Goals:

The goals of this class include the following:

- Developing skills in analyzing, understanding and discussing complex international relationships
- Developing a sophisticated understanding of Canada, the major trading partner and ally of the U.S.
- Becoming acculturated to ASU and university academic life

Course Topic:

The course will concentrate on the Canadian-American relationship with a focus on the period since 1950. POS 191A is a transdisciplinary, introductory course designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore an array of issues that are critical to the future of the U.S.

Students will be exposed to significant features of the U.S. – Canada relationship with some attention also being paid to the North American context including Mexico. Students will also receive a regular “Canada Watch” communication via email. This is produced by the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Course Format:

Classes will involve active student participation. Therefore students must come to class prepared to participate in informed discussions on selected topics.

The “rules” for class discussion are easy. This is not a forum for political advocacy; it is not a soapbox through which anyone promotes personal political agendas. Rather it is an intellectual forum for the exchange of ideas, for listening and considering, for learning to evaluate information and for coming to conclusions based on information and logic. The rules of common courtesy, respect and civility will govern class discussions. If at any
time a student feels that these rules are breached, the student should raise his/her concern as part of the discussion or consult with the instructor after class. Being part of the university community means learning how to make logical arguments, listening to opposing views and developing the skill to disagree without being disagreeable.

**Class Evaluation:**

Students will be assigned a grade based on the following:

- Attendance 30%
- Class Participation 30%
- Written Assignment 40%  
  (due October 20th) & Oral Presentation

**Written Assignment:**

Students will prepare one 10 page paper on a topic that will be determined during September. These written papers will also be presented orally in class.

**Readings:**

Four documents will form the base of this course and will be distributed to all students. They are:

- Renewing the U.S. – Canada Relationship  
  (The 105th American Assembly, Feb. 2005)

- “Is There a Specifically Canadian Perspective on the World?” Text of a speech by Robert Cox.


  (Council on Foreign Relations)
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1. August 25, 2005

- Introduction to Class
- Student Introductions
- General Discussion of Canada – U.S. Relations

Week 2. September 01, 2005

Discussion of contrasts/similarities between Canada and U.S. Come to class prepared to discuss:
- size (geography & population)
- ethnic make-up (mosaic vs. melting pot)
- government systems
- trading relationship
- sources of cooperation/conflict

Week 3. September 08, 2005

Discussion of “Renewing the U.S. – Canada Relationship”

Week 4. September 15, 2005

Discussion of “Canadian Perspective on the World.”

Week 5. September 22, 2005

Topics raised by class based on “Canada Watch.”

Week 6. September 29, 2005

Discussion of Beyond Free Trade

Week 7. October 06, 2005

Discussion of Building a North American Community

Week 8. October 13, 2005

NO CLASS
Week 9. October 20, 2005

Student Presentations (x3)

Week 10. October 27, 2005

Student Presentations (x3)

Week 11. November 03, 2005

NO CLASS

Week 12. November 10, 2005

Student Presentations (x3)

Week 13. November 17, 2005

Student Presentations (x3)

Week 14. November 24, 2005

Thanksgiving (NO CLASS)

Week 15. December 01, 2005

Student Presentations (x3)