



Department of Politics and Public Administration
Faculty of Arts

Fall 2012

Department Seminar Series Schedule

All seminars take place from 12:00 – 1:30 with location noted

08 Nov 2012: [Dr. Ronald K. Vogel](#) – JOR802

Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration
Ryerson University

Title: Unpacking the 2012 US Presidential Election

22 Nov 2012: [Dr. Michael J. Prince](#) – POD367

Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy
Studies in Policy and Practice Program
University of Victoria

Title: From Social Investment to Night Watchman: Shifting Roles of the Federal State in Canada

Abstract:

At the national level, social program areas include health care; income support programs to families, to some of the unemployed and to seniors; postsecondary education; First Nations; veterans; immigrants and refugees; housing and homelessness. These are important responsibilities of the federal government and major elements of how Ottawa spends and raises taxes each year. Most of these areas, however, are not core priorities of the Harper social policy agenda.

The Harper record on social policy is a distinctive intermingling of high profile policy cancelations, new interventions, program reductions and non-decisions on many issues. The pecking order of purposes in social policy has been rearranged, with an expanded emphasis on regulatory functions by the federal government. Over the Harper years, law and order issues have defined much of Canadian parliamentary business and federal social politics. This regulatory governance is selective in focus emphasizing judicial, correctional and policing more than occupational health and safety, pay equity or human rights. At the federal level, then, governing has shifted in important respects from social investment to the night watchman state.

Winter 2013 Schedule to follow.