CANADA’S POLITICS

Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government | Third Edition

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CONTENTS

PREFACE xi

PART I Introduction 1

1. INTRODUCTION 1

   Chapter Objectives 1

   POLITICS 2

   STATE AND GOVERNMENT 3

   DEMOCRACY 5
       Representative Democracy 5
       Liberal Democracy 7
       Box 1-1 Banning the Kirpan: Religious Rights and Public Safety in Schools 8
       Plebiscitary Democracy 8
       Deliberative Democracy 10
       Social Democracy 11

   DIVERSITY 11
       Diversity and Unity 12

   GOOD GOVERNMENT 13
       Democracy and Good Government 14

   ANALYZING POLITICS 16
       Box 1-2 Dam Politics 17
         Interests 18
         Ideas 18
         Identities 19
         Institutions 20
         External Influences 21

   MINING FOR IDEAS 19

   SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 21

   DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 22

PART II The Context of Canadian Politics 23

2. THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT 23

   Chapter Objectives 23

   INTRODUCTION 24

   EARLY SETTLEMENT AND HISTORY 24
       After British Conquest 25
       Rebellions 27
       The Durham Report, Unification, and Responsible Government 27
       Box 2-1 The Struggle for Responsible Government in Canada 29

   CONFEDERATION 30
       Opposition 32

   EXPANSION OF CANADA 32
       Box 2-2 The Métis Rise Up: Louis Riel and the Rebellion of 1869–1870 33

   POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE 35

   POLITICAL ISSUES IN POST-CONFEDERATION CANADA 36
       Regionalism 36
       Provincial Rights 38
       English–French Relations 39
       Aboriginal Peoples and the Canadian Government 43
       Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Minorities 43
       Box 2-3 Aboriginal Unrest: The North-West Rebellion of 1885 44
         Women 46
         Farmers and Workers 46
         Canada–United States Relations 48
         Box 2-4 Labour Asserts Itself: The Winnipeg General Strike, the On-to-Ottawa Trek, and the GM Strike 49

   SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 51

   DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 51

   FURTHER READING 52
iv   Contents

3. CANADA AND THE CHALLENGE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY  53

   Chapter Objectives  53
   CANADA’S DEEP CULTURAL DIVERSITY  54
   CANADA AND NATIONHOOD  56
   THE ELUSIVE AND EVOLVING CANADIAN IDENTITY  60
   Multiple and Overlapping Identities  62
   Changing English Canadian and French Canadian Identities  63
   CANADA: A MULTINATION AND POLYETHNIC STATE  64
   Self-Government Rights  65
   Polyethnic Rights  65
   Special Representation Rights  66
   MINORITY NATIONALISM AND THE CANADIAN STATE  66
   Conquest and the Will to Survive  66
   Modern Quebec Nationalism and the Role of Language  67
   Self-Government and Sovereignty Claims  70
   The Quest for Independence  71
   Box 3-1 Culture Wars  73
   Canada’s Response to Claims for Self-Government and Sovereignty  73
   POLYETHNICITY AND THE CANADIAN STATE  76
   Immigration  76
   Box 3-2 “None Is Too Many” for the Roma?  81
   Citizenship: Defining “Who Belongs”  82
   Immigrant Integration  84
   Protection of Minorities under the Law  88
   SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION  89
   DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  90
   FURTHER READING  90

4. THE CANADIAN ECONOMY AND THE CHALLENGES OF INEQUALITY  91

   Chapter Objectives  91
   INTRODUCTION  92
   THE CANADIAN ECONOMY  92
   ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  93
   ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND THE CANADIAN ECONOMY  95
   Free Trade  95
   NAFTA Provisions  97
   Foreign Investment and Ownership  100
   Box 4-1 The Government of China’s Appetite for Canadian Resources  102
   GOVERNMENT AND THE ECONOMY  103
   Business Regulation  103
   Assistance to Business  104
   MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY  105
   A Shift in Economic Perspectives  105
   THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  106
   THE CHALLENGES OF INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL DIVISIONS  107
   Box 4-2 Income Inequality and Poverty in Canada: An International Comparison  109
   Social Class  110
   Region  112
   Gender  113
   Gender Minorities  117
   Aboriginal Peoples  117
   Ethnic, Religious, and Racial Minorities  118
   SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION  119
   DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  119
   FURTHER READING  120

5. POLITICAL CULTURE  121

   Chapter Objectives  121
   WHAT IS POLITICAL CULTURE?  122
   Box 5-1 Symbols of Canadian Identity  123
   ANALYZING POLITICAL CULTURE  124
   THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL CULTURE  125
   Founding Fragments Theory  125
   Box 5-2 Major Political Ideologies and Perspectives  126
PART III  Public Involvement, Organization, and Influence  145

6. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  145

Chapter Objectives  145

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  146

Canadian and International Trends in Public Affairs Involvement  147

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRACY  148

Classical Democratic Theory  148

Classical Elite Theory  149

Box 6-1 Citizens Decide: Deliberative Democracy in the Provinces  150

CANADA: A NATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS?  151

Political Interest and Knowledge  151

Contents  v

Voting  152

Political Party Membership and Campaign Activism  163

Interest Group and Social Movement Involvement  164

Protest Activities  165

Cyberactivism  167

Box 6-2 The Social Media and Political Protests  168

CIVIL SOCIETY, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND DEMOCRACY  169

Civic Engagement in Canada  170

Box 6-3 Students at Work: Mandatory Community Service in High Schools  172

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION  173

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  173

FURTHER READING  174

7. POLITICAL INFLUENCE: INTEREST GROUPS, LOBBYISTS, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS  175

Chapter Objectives  175

INTRODUCTION  176

INTEREST GROUPS  177

Theoretical Perspectives  177

Types of Interest Groups  179

Interest Group Activities  180

The Organization of Interest Groups  180

Why Do People Join Interest Groups?  183

Are All Sectors of Society Adequately Represented by Interest Groups?  185

Government Sponsorship and Support  186

Box 7-1 “Talk and Dig”: The Alberta Oil Sands  188

INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY  189

Direct Influence  189

The Potential for Successful Influence  193

LOBBYISTS  195

Box 7-2 F-35 Stealth Fighters: Keeping Parliament and the Public in the Dark  196

Lobbyist Regulation  197
vi Contents

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS 198
   New Social Movements 199

Box 7-3 Save Our Forest: Civil Disobedience 200

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 202
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 203
FURTHER READING 203

8. POLITICAL PARTIES 204
   Chapter Objectives 204
   POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANADIAN DEMOCRACY 205
   POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS 206
      Political Parties 206
      Party Systems 207

Box 8-1 The Conservatives: Moderate or Ideological? 208
      The Evolution of the Canadian Party System 209
      Party System Instability Since 1993 212

   POLITICAL PARTIES: IDEAS AND ELECTORAL PERFORMANCE 215
      The Roots 215
      Progressive Conservative Party 217
      The Reform Party and the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance 219
      The Conservative Party 220
      The Liberal Party 221
      The New Democratic Party 225
      The Bloc Québécois 227
      The Green Party 228

   PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS 228
      How Do Parties Choose Their Leaders? 230

Box 8-2 Worlds Apart: Federal and Provincial Party Politics 231
      How Do Parties Replace Their Leaders? 233
      How Do Parties Select Their Local Candidates? 234

Box 8-3 Electing a Diverse House of Commons 237
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 237
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 238
FURTHER READING 238

9. ELECTIONS, THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR 239
   Chapter Objectives 239
   INTRODUCTION 240
   ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES 241
      Voting 241
      Running for Office 243
      Representation in the House of Commons 244
      The Timing of Elections 245
   Box 9-1 Fixed Election Dates or a Fixed Election? 246
   THE SINGLE-MEMBER PLURALITY ELECTORAL SYSTEM 246
      Electoral System Reform 249
   ELECTION CAMPAIGNS 250
   Box 9-2 The 2015 Election Campaign 251
      Campaign Debates 254
      Campaign Platforms and Promises 254
      Advertisements 255
      The Mass Media, the Internet, and Social Media 256
   ELECTION AND PARTY FINANCE 258
   VOTING BEHAVIOUR 259
      Long-Term Influences on Voting Behaviour 260
      Short-Term Influences on Voting Behaviour 263
   Box 9-3 “Vegas Girl” and the “Orange Crush” in Quebec 265
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 266
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 267
FURTHER READING 267
PART IV The Constitution, the Federal System, and Aboriginal Peoples 268

10. THE CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, AND THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS 268

Chapter Objectives 268
INTRODUCTION 269
THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION 269
Box 10-1 The Quest for Constitutional Values 270

Formal Constitutional Documents 271
Acts of a Constitutional Nature 272
Constitutional Conventions 273
Judicial Decisions That Interpret the Constitution 273
CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION 274
Formal Amendments to the Constitution 274
THE POLITICS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE 277
THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982 278
The Meech Lake Accord 281
The Charlottetown Accord 283
FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE? 286
THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS 286

Historical Development 286
The Canadian Bill of Rights 287
The Charter of Rights and Freedoms 288
Provisions of the Charter 289
Box 10-2 Same-Sex Marriage: Kevin and Joe, Elaine and Anne, and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms 291

Limitations on Rights and Freedoms 292
Box 10-3 Innocent Until Proven Guilty? David Oakes and the Narcotics Control Act 293

Effects on the Political Process 296

Contents vii

Does the Charter Help to Foster National Unity? 296
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 297
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 298
FURTHER READING 298

11. ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE 299

Chapter Objectives 299
INTRODUCTION 300
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 302

Indian Acts 304
PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE 305

The Hawthorn Report 305
The White Paper on Indians 305
The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples 306
CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS AND CHANGES 307

Land Claims and Modern Treaties 307
Box 11-1 Big Oil Versus Aboriginal Rights: The Northern Gateway Pipelines 310

Fishing and Hunting Rights 310
Box 11-2 Standoff at Burnt Church: The Marshall Rulings 311

Métis Hunting Rights 312
The Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Aboriginal Rights 312
Negotiating Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements 312
Box 11-3 Nisga’a Self-Government Sparks a Public Outcry 314

Nunavut 315
Specific Claims 316

ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT 316
SELF-GOVERNMENT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES 318

ABORIGINAL SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION 319
Box 11-4 Sovereign Powers: The Two-Row Wampum Belt 320
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 321
viii  Contents

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  322
FURTHER READING  322

12. THE FEDERAL SYSTEM  323
Chapter Objectives  323
INTRODUCTION  324
THE CONSTITUTION AND THE FEDERAL SYSTEM  325
The Constitution Act, 1867  325
Constitutional Amendments  326
Judicial Interpretations  327
Box 12-1 Is “Lite Beer” Light? The Supreme Court Verdict  331
Disallowance, Reservation, and the Declaratory Power  331
THE CHANGING FEDERAL SYSTEM  332
Quasi-Federalism  332
Classical Federalism  332
Cooperative Federalism  333
Box 12-2 The Federal Spending Power  334
Competitive Federalism  334
Collaborative Federalism  335
Open Federalism  335
CANADA: A DECENTRALIZED FEDERAL SYSTEM  336
Box 12-3 Centralization Versus Decentralization  337
EXECUTIVE FEDERALISM  338
Interstate and Intrastate Federalism  340
Interprovincial Cooperation  340
ASYMMETRICAL FEDERALISM  341
FEDERAL–PROVINCIAL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS  342
Taxes  342
Transfer Payments  343
Territorial Governments  348
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  349
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION  350
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  351
FURTHER READING  351

PART V

The Institutions of Government  352

13. THE EXECUTIVE  352
Chapter Objectives  352
ORIGINS AND POWERS  353
THE FORMAL EXECUTIVE  354
The Queen, the Governor General, and the Privy Council  354
The Crown, Monarchy, and Prerogative  355
Box 13-1 A Governor General Stirs Up Controversy: The King–Byng Affair  357
THE POLITICAL EXECUTIVE  358
The Prime Minister, Cabinet, and Ministers of State  358
The Political Executive in Action  361
EXECUTIVE DOMINANCE  365
The Prime Minister  366
Cabinet  371
Box 13-2 Justin Trudeau Appoints a Cabinet  373
HOW THE CABINET POLICY PROCESS WORKS  376
The Cabinet Decision-Making Process  376
Cabinet Committees  377
The Budgetary Process  379
REFORM AND THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET  380
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION  381
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  382
FURTHER READING  382

14. PARLIAMENT  383
Chapter Objectives  383
THE GENERAL FUNCTIONS OF PARLIAMENTS  384
THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT  385
British Roots  386
The Evolution of Parliament in Canada  386
Box 14-1 Canadian and American Legisatures: A Study in Contrast  387
15. THE PUBLIC BUREAUCRACY 419

Chapter Objectives 419

BUREAUCRACY 420
A New Way to Understand Bureaucracy 421

THE THREE SECTORS OF CANADIAN SOCIETY 421

THE COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC BUREAUCRACY 423
The Origins of the Public Bureaucracy in Canada 424

EXECUTIVE INSTITUTIONS 427
Executive Departments Headed by Cabinet Ministers 427
Semi-Independent Public Agencies 428

Box 15-1 Dodging the Financial Crisis: The Regulation of Canada’s Financial Institutions 431
Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) 432

THE THREE TYPES OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS 433
Central Agencies and Central Departments 433

Box 15-2 Master Multi-Tasker: The Duties of the Clerk of the Privy Council 435

Central Coordinating Departments 438
Line Departments 438
The Three Levels of Bureaucratic Elite in Departments 439

PUBLIC SECTOR RENEWAL IN PERSPECTIVE 441

DIVERSITY AND A REPRESENTATIVE BUREAUCRACY 441

PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS 442
Political Officers 442
Officers of Parliament 443
Procedural Officers of Parliament 446

JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS 447

THE PUBLIC BUREAUCRACY AS A LOCUS OF CONTROVERSY 447
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 448
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 449
FURTHER READING 449


Chapter Objectives 451

INTRODUCTION 452

THE RULE OF LAW AND THE JUDICIARY 453

LAWS 453

The Sources of Law 454

Box 16-1 Lola and Eric: The Civil Code and the Common Law 456
Judicial Review 457
The Importance of the Courts in Governing and Policy-Making 457

COURTS 460
The Structure of the Court System 460
Characteristics of the Court System 462

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES 463
The Appointment of Supreme Court of Canada Judges 464

Box 16-2 Controversy over a Supreme Court Appointment 465
The Appointment of Superior Court Judges 467
Diversity and the Selection of Judges 468
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUDICIAL DECISION MAKING</th>
<th>468</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROBLEMS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 16-3</strong> Sham Justice: Wrongful Convictions</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABORIGINALS AND THE CANADIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FURTHER READING</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part VI Public Policy | 477

#### 17. DOMESTIC POLICY | 477

**Chapter Objectives** | 477

**INTRODUCTION** | 478

**FACTORS AFFECTING THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC POLICY** | 479

- General Factors | 480
- Intermediate Factors | 480
- Proximate Factors | 482

**POLICY PARADIGMS** | 482

**POLICY DISCIPLINES** | 483

**SELECTED THEORIES OF PUBLIC POLICY** | 484

- The Rational Model | 485
- Public Choice | 485
- Stages (or Policy Cycle) Approach | 486

**THEORY AND PRACTICE** | 487

- Cabinet Policy and Budgetary Processes: The Rational Model by Design? | 487
- Public Policy Areas | 489
- Social Policy | 489

**Box 17-1** Social Policy Issues | 495

- Health Policy | 495
- Economic Policy | 499

**Box 17-2** Issues in Health Care in Canada’s Future | 500

**Box 17-3** Issues in Contemporary Economic Policy | 505

**Environmental and Climate Change Policy** | 506

**Box 17-4** Global Climate Change | 511

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION** | 511

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** | 512

**FURTHER READING** | 512

### 18. FOREIGN POLICY | 513

**Chapter Objectives** | 513

**INTRODUCTION** | 514

**GENERAL PERSPECTIVES ON CANADA’S FOREIGN POLICY** | 515

- Hard Power and Soft Power | 517

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** | 518

- Confederation and the Early Years | 518
- World War I and Its Aftermath | 519
- World War II | 519
- The Cold War | 520

**Box 18-1** “You Pissed on My Rug!” | 521

**THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD** | 522

- Peacekeeping and Peace Operations | 524
- Combat Missions | 525
- Libya | 526

**Box 18-2** Canada’s Longest Combat Mission: Afghanistan | 527

**Box 18-3** ISIS, the Islamic State | 528

**NATIONAL SECURITY** | 528

- Terrorism | 529

**HUMAN SECURITY** | 531

**HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT** | 532

**DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE** | 534

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** | 538

**TRADE POLICY** | 539

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION** | 540

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** | 540

**FURTHER READING** | 541

**GLOSSARY** | 542

**REFERENCES** | 550

**INDEX** | 568
Politics affects many aspects of our lives, such as students’ ability to afford higher education; the safety of the food we eat; how well the natural environment is protected; the quality of our communities; and the peace, prosperity, and security of our country. Canadian politics is particularly interesting because the great diversity of Canada provides important challenges for the practice of democracy and the good government that Canadians expect.

Reading this book should give you a good understanding of the major features of Canadian politics, including the workings of the parliamentary system of government, the protection of rights and freedoms, the competition among political parties, the federal system, and the ways in which citizens try to influence government policies. Highlighted throughout the book are a variety of important issues, problems, and controversies. These include national unity and Quebec sovereignty, Aboriginal self-government, the increasing inequality in wealth and income, the concentration of power in the hands of the prime minister, the major changes in the contemporary political party system, the representation of women and minorities in politics, whether Canada should strive to be an “energy superpower,” and Canada’s role and responsibilities in international politics.

There are many features that make this textbook interesting and easy to understand:

• Each chapter opens with a *vignette* that provides an interesting and often provocative story that relates to the content of the chapter. Among other topics, the vignettes address the struggle of women to be recognized as “persons,” student protests against tuition increases, and whether prisoners and 16-year-olds should have the right to vote.

• *Boxes* in each chapter provide examples that illustrate the material in the text. These boxes deal with such topics as same-sex marriage; the controversy concerning the Northern Gateway pipelines; and Canada’s recent combat missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

• To guide students in understanding the textbook, each chapter includes *Chapter Objectives* at the start and a *Summary and Conclusion* at the end.
Preface

• Key terms are printed in bold in the text, defined in the margin for instant reference, and compiled in the end-of-book glossary.
• The Discussion Questions at the end of each chapter are designed to spark critical thought and discussion.
• The Further Reading section at the end of each chapter provides suggestions for those who would like to explore further the topics in the chapter.
• Weblinks in the margins provide additional research resources.
• The graphics—photos, figures, and tables—illustrate concepts discussed in the text and illuminate some features of Canadian politics.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

We have made many changes to the third edition of this text, both to improve the textbook and to discuss a variety of important recent events. These changes include the following:

• A new section on social democracy (Chapter 1)
• Discussion of reforms of the Citizenship Act and the treatment of refugees (Chapter 3)
• Examination of new and proposed free trade and foreign investment protection agreements (Chapter 4)
• The development of the “Idle No More” and “SlutWalk” movements (Chapter 6)
• The removal of the charitable status of some advocacy groups (Chapter 7)
• The 2015 Canadian election and its implications for Canada’s party system (Chapter 8)
• Changes to the Canada Elections Act and explanations of the 2015 election results (Chapter 9)
• Expanded discussion of Aboriginal land claims and modern treaties including the Tsilhqot’in ruling (Chapter 11)
• The increased potential power of party caucuses in the House of Commons, omnibus budget bills, and the issue of Senate reform (Chapter 14)
• Analysis of the clash between the Harper government and the Supreme Court of Canada over various laws, and the controversies concerning the appointment of Supreme Court of Canada judges (Chapter 16)
• An entirely new chapter on domestic public policy that includes an analysis of the factors affecting the context of public policy and examination of social, health, economic, and environmental policymaking (Chapter 17)
• Expanded discussion of foreign policy perspectives, terrorism, and development assistance (Chapter 18)

In addition, the organization of the textbook has been modified. Discussion of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has been incorporated into
Chapter 10 on the Constitution. Chapter 6 “Canada’s Place in the World” has been moved to Chapter 18 and renamed “Foreign Policy”. As well, the ordering of Chapter 3 (renamed “Canada and the Challenge of Cultural Diversity”) and Chapter 4 (renamed “The Canadian Economy and the Challenges of Inequality”) has been reversed.

**SUPPLEMENTS**

The supplements package for this book has been carefully created to enhance the topics discussed in the text.

- **PowerPoint Presentations.** This instructor resource contains key points and lecture notes to accompany each chapter in the text.
- **Test Item File.** This test bank contains multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.
- **Computerized Test Bank.** Pearson’s computerized test banks allow instructors to filter and select questions to create quizzes, tests, or homework. Instructors can revise questions or add their own, and may be able to choose print or online options. These questions are also available in Microsoft Word format.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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To the memory of my dear son Aaron (1985–2015)

E.M.

To my parents, Victor Tossutti and Therese
Gallery Tossutti

L.T.

To my sister Catherine Dunn, for her activism
and example

C.D.