

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC-105-Introduction to Politics

CLASS SECTION:

TERM: 2025 Winter

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-Face

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dan Reeve

EMAIL: reeved@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 230

HOURS: Fridays 9:00 – 9:45 AM & Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:00; other times can be arranged

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines some basic concepts in political science. Using examples from various countries, it introduces students to the nature of politics, government, the state, constitutions, international politics, political economy, human rights, and the process of democracy. It also examines different perspectives for understanding and evaluating the political world.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C+ in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Describe the nature of political science, including key concepts: politics, governments, states, political cultures, and ideologies.

Identify basic governmental structures and processes: constitutions, federal and unitary systems, parliamentary and presidential systems, elections, politics and governance at the world level.

Identify basic political actors: political parties, interest groups, social movements, and the news media.

Describe the relationship between politics and the economy, the value of democracy (in both the developed and developing nations), and the future of politics at the world level.

Critically evaluate some aspect of political life. (Topics may change from semester to semester, but could consist of such things as democracy, human rights, civil disobedience, social democracy, political radicalism, etc.)

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Eric Mintz, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, 6th ed. (Toronto: Pearson, 2022).

This is an online textbook. To access this textbook link, the course syllabus must first be downloaded. Once you've downloaded the syllabus then click here: [PSC 105-001 Textbook](#)

Alternatively, the link for the textbook is also available in the D2L Content page under Course Outline.

If you need help, check out these Revel student resources: [Pearson Support](#)

Additional course readings will be available online through content section of the course D2L site.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK & DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Assignment Due
Week 1: Jan. 8 & 10	Introductions, assignments, D2L, & Revel Essay Writing Workshop	Course Tour Bonus Quiz –Due Jan.15 at 9:00 AM
Week 2: Jan. 15 & 17	Read: Ch. 1 – Understanding Politics	RQ1 – Jan. 15 at 9:00 AM
Week 3: Jan. 22 & 24	Read: Ch. 2 – The Nation-State & Globalization	RQ2 - Jan.22 at 9:00 AM
Week 4: Jan. 29 & 31	Read: Ch. 3 – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, & Fascism	RQ3 - Jan. 29 at 9:00 AM
Week 5: Feb. 5 & 7	Read: Ch.3 Continued Read: Ch. 4 – Feminism and Environmentalism	RQ4 - Feb. 7 at 9:00 AM
Week 6: Feb. 12 & 14	Ch. 4 – Continued (Feb. 12) In Class Quiz 1: Ewing 110 & 112 (attendance required)	ICQ1 – Feb. 14
Week 7: Feb. 19 & 21	Reading Week	
Week 8: Feb. 26 & 28	ICSE1 Prep Session (Feb. 26) ICSE 1: In Ewing 110 & 112 (attendance required)	ICSE 1 – Feb. 28
Week 9: Mar. 5 & 7	Read: Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization	RQ5 - Mar. 5 at 9:00 AM
Week 10: Mar. 12 & 14	Read: Ch. 6 - Political Parties	RQ6 – Mar. 12 at 9:00 AM
Week 11: Mar. 19 & 21	Read: Ch. 7 – Elections & Voting Behaviour	RQ7 – Mar. 19 at 9:00 AM
Week 12: Mar. 26 & 28	Read: Ch. 18 – Global Politics	RQ8 - Mar. 26 at 9:00 AM
Week 13: Apr. 2 & 4	Guest Speaker TBA Course Review & Reflection / Canadian Federal Election Preview (?)	
Week 14: Apr. 9 & 11	ICSE 2 Prep Session (April 9) In Class Short Essay 2: In Ewing 110 & 112 (attendance required) April 11 ICQ 2 – Date and Time TBA during exam period	ICSE 2 – April 11

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams).
<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

Marks will be determined based on the following work:

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>Reading Quizzes (RQ): With each new chapter or reading students will be asked to complete an online multiple-choice quiz in the course D2L website (in the Quiz section). The quizzes will cover the reading for that chapter. They must be completed prior to the start of that chapter’s class. RQs will be due typically be due on Wednesday at 9:00 AM. The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that chapter’s first class (9:00 AM). There will be 8 reading quizzes throughout the semester; the lowest graded RQ will be dropped from each student’s overall grade.</p>	8%
<p>Random Discussion Assignment (RDA): 2.2% each; 6 RDAs; top 5 RDAs count to final grade Randomly throughout the semester students will be asked to discuss and consider a question from the class discussion or weekly readings. Students will submit a brief written answer (after in class peer discussion) on the topic to the appropriate D2L space. Students will not know the dates of the RDA. Six RDAs will occur (worth 2.2% each) throughout the semester. The five highest scoring RDAs will count towards the final grade. The scoring system will be simple: complete (100%); incomplete (0%). Attendance will be taken on the days RDAs occur.</p>	11%
<p>Course Tour Bonus Quiz: At the start the semester, students will be asked to complete the Course Tour Bonus Quiz. The quiz will be worth up to 1%.</p>	1% (bonus)
<p>In Class Short Essays (ICSE): 25% per ICSE Students will write two ICSE during the semester. These essays will be written in class on the designated days. Student attendance on those days is required. The ICSE will occur in Ewing TBA (a computer lab). A selection of four questions will be posted at the beginning of each module. On the day of the in-class exam, only two questions (from the original four) will be available to answer. Students will select one of the two questions. Students will have approximately 75 minutes to write their answer. For more information, see the D2L content page.</p>	50%
<p>In-Class Quizzes (ICQ): 15% per ICQ In week six and in the final week of the semester students will complete an in class multiple-choice quiz. ICQ 1 will cover the material from the beginning of the course up to the previous class. ICQ2 will draw questions from the all the course material that follows ICQ1. Unlike the reading-quizzes, these quizzes will not be open book. Attendance is required at each in-class quiz. Attendance will be taken. Students will have one hour to complete the quiz.</p>	30%
<p>Engagement Self-Evaluation Quiz All students will be asked to make a meaningful contribution to class activities and demonstrate engagement with topic. There are numerous ways for students to express their engagement. See the D2L site for a full account of participation grading.</p>	1%
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Students will be expected to attend classes regularly.

Participation, in one form or another, will improve the learning community within the classroom. Students who make a regular effort to contribute will ensure a more positive learning environment for all.

Given the sometimes delicate and difficult nature of the topics covered, a curious, collegial, and respectful attitude is expected of all participants.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Katie Waterhouse is the department chair for Social Science (of which political science is one discipline). Students can contact her at waterhousek@camosun.ca for any department concerns or inquiries.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international

Support Service	Website
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.

