

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC-105: Introduction to Politics

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Winter 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-Face

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dan Reeve

EMAIL: [reeved@camosun.ca](mailto:reeved@camosun.ca)

OFFICE: Paul 230

HOURS: Mondays 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM & Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30 PM

*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.*

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## 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):

Not Applicable

### EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the nature of political science, including key concepts: politics, governments, states, political cultures, and ideologies.
2. Identify basic governmental structures and processes: constitutions, federal and unitary systems, parliamentary and presidential systems, elections, politics and governance at the world level.
3. Identify basic political actors: political parties, interest groups, social movements, and the news media.
4. 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.
5. 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

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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, click here:

[Power, Politics, and the Common Good 6e](#)

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	<b>Course Tour Bonus Quiz –</b> Due Jan. 15 at 12:00 PM (noon)
Week 2: Jan. 15 & 17	Read: Ch. 1 – Understanding Politics	<b>RQ1</b> – Jan. 15 at 12:00 PM
Week 3: Jan. 22 & 24	Read: Ch. 2 – The Nation-State & Globalization	<b>RQ2</b> - Jan. 22 at 12:00 PM
Week 4: Jan. 29 & 31	<b>ICSE 1 (attendance required)</b> Read: Ch. 3 – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, & Fascism	<b>In Class Short Essay 1 (Jan 29)</b> <b>RQ3</b> - Jan. 31 at 12:00 PM
Week 5: Feb. 5 & 7	Ch.3 Continued (Oct. 4) Read: Ch. 4 – Feminism and Environmentalism	<b>RQ4</b> - Feb. 7 at 12:00 PM
Week 6: Feb. 12 & 14	Read: Ch. 4 – Continued. <b>ICQ 1: (attendance required)</b>	<b>In Class Quiz 1: Feb. 14</b>
<b>Week 7: Feb. 19 &amp; 21</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>	
Week 8: Feb. 26 & 28	Read: Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization	<b>RQ5</b> – Feb. 26 at 12:00 PM
Week 9: Mar. 4 & 6	<b>ICSE 2 (attendance required)</b> Read: Ch. 6 - Political Parties (Mar. 6)	<b>In Class Short Essay 2 (Mar. 4)</b> <b>RQ6</b> – Mar. 6 at 12:00 PM
Week 10: Mar. 11 & 13	Read: Ch. 6 – Continued (Mar. 11) Read: Ch. 7 – Elections & Voting Behaviour (Mar. 13)	<b>RQ7</b> - Mar. 13 at 12:00 PM
Week 11: Mar. 18 & 20	Read: Ch. 7 – Continued (Mar. 18) Read: Ch. 15 – Presidential Systems (Mar. 20)	<b>RQ8</b> – Mar. 20 at 12:00 PM
Week 12: Mar. 25 & 27	Read: Ch. 15 – Continued (Mar. 25) <b>ICSE 3 (attendance required)</b>	<b>In Class Short Essay 3 (Mar. 27)</b>
Week 13: April 3	Read: Ch. 18 - Politics and Governance at the Global Level	<b>RQ9</b> - April 3 at 12:00 PM
Week 14: Apr. 8 & 10	Read: Ch. 18 – Continued (Apr. 8) <b>In Class Quiz 2: (attendance required)</b>	<b>In Class Quiz 2 (Apr. 10)</b> <b>Participation</b> <b>Self-Evaluation Quiz –</b> Due Apr. 13 at 11:59 PM

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](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

Marks will be determined based on the following work:

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p><b>Reading Quizzes (RQ):</b>            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 <b>prior</b> to the start of that chapter's class. RQ will be due either on Tuesdays or Thursdays depending on when a given chapter begins.            The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that chapter's first class (12:00 noon). The answers for each RQ are available one day after that RQ closes.            There will be 9 reading quizzes throughout the semester; the lowest graded RQ will be dropped from each student's overall grade.</p>	8%
<p><b>Random Discussion Assignment (RDA):</b> 2% each; 5 RDAs; top 4 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. Five RDAs will occur (worth 1% each) throughout the semester. The four 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>	8%
<p><b>Course Tour Bonus Quiz:</b>            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><b>In Class Short Essays (ICSE):</b> 17% per assignment; three short essays total            Students will write three ICSE during the semester. These essays will be written in class on the designated days. Student attendance on those days is required.            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 Short Essay section of the D2L content page.</p>	53%
<p><b>In-Class Quizzes (ICQ):</b> 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><b>Engagement Self-Evaluation Quiz</b>            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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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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

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The department chair for Social Sciences (of which Political Science is one discipline) is Hilary Sandford. She can be contacted at [sandford@camosun.ca](mailto:sandford@camosun.ca)

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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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

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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 <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>

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Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

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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

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### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures”

(<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### 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. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

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 or misconduct 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 and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### 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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**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.