

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC-105: Introduction to Politics

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Summer 2023

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](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>

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 explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Roberta Jenkins

EMAIL: jenkinsr@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Young 213

HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 12:20-12:50 PM and 3:50-4:20 PM (other times available by appointment)

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):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

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, go here: [Politics, Power, and the Common Good](#)

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

Additional course readings will be available online through the 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.

CLASS or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Class 1: May 1	Introductions, Assignments Overview, Self-Evaluation, D2L, & Revel Syllabus Annotation and Class Charter	
Class 2: May 3	Ch. 1 – Understanding Politics	RQ1 Due by 12pm on May 8
Class 3: May 8	Ch. 2 – The Nation-State & Globalization	RQ2 Due by 12pm on May 8
Class 4: May 10	Ch. 3 – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, & Fascism	RQ3 Due by 12pm on May 10
Class 5: May 15	Intersectionality in Political Science	RQ4 Due by 12pm on May 15
Class 6: May 17	Ch. 4 – Feminism and Environmentalism	RQ5 Due by 12pm on May 17
May 22	No Class – Victoria Day Holiday	No Assignments Due
Class 7: May 24	Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization	RQ6 Due by 12pm on May 24
Class 8: May 29	Ch. 6 - Political Parties	RQ7 Due by 12pm on May 29
Class 9: May 31	Ch. 7 – Elections & Voting Behaviour	RQ8 Due by 12pm on May31
Class 10: June 5	Ch. 17 - The Politics of Development	RQ9 Due by 12pm on June 5
Class 11: June 7	Ch. 18 - Politics and Governance at the Global Level	RQ10 Due by 12pm on June 7
Class 12: June 12	Ch. 18 - Politics and Governance at the Global Level	
Class 13: June 14	Course Summary Presentations	Course Summary Presentations

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 notice 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

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. RQ are open book, and students may take each quiz twice. RQ must be completed 1 hour prior to the start of that chapter's class, except for RQ1 which is due on May 8th. 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 after that RQ closes. There will be 10 reading quizzes throughout the semester.</p>	10%
<p>Syllabus Annotation and Class Charter: At the start of the semester, students will be asked to read carefully through the class syllabus, make note of anything that is unclear, and make suggestions for its improvement. We will then use that exercise to create a class charter. All students who are present for this activity and share their ideas will receive 5%.</p>	5%
<p>Self Evaluation (SE): Students will complete a brief self-evaluation at the end of each class. This evaluation is a reflective tool, to give individuals an opportunity to think about areas in which they have excelled or which need additional attention for that specific topic. It also gives the instructor feedback on what aspects of the class are working well or need to be revised. Additionally, it is an opportunity to have an informal conversation with the instructor as comments will be reviewed each class and responded to as needed. Thoughtful completion of this evaluation will receive 5% regardless of how students choose to evaluate themselves. Each evaluation will be done in class and should only take a few minutes to complete.</p>	5%
<p>Course Summary Presentation: 20% In the final class, students will share a summary of the key themes of the course that they have prepared in advance. Students may prepare this summary individually or in teams, in any format of their choosing. Some suggestions are documentary or animated videos, large-format posters, typed study guides, or flash card series, but any format that meets the assessment criteria is acceptable. Students must be in class to present their summary irrespective of the format chosen.</p>	20%
<p>Class Engagement Activities (CEA): 6% per CEA Students will complete a different activity in each class designed to encourage critical analysis of course material while building a common learning community. Assignments may include thematic questions, visual summaries, group discussions, video responses, short presentations, reflective writing and similar.</p>	60%

CEA may be completed individually and in groups. All assignments will help to clarify specific intended learning outcomes of the course in the real world, while activating different learning profiles. They will also contribute to shared learning within the class. Clear expectations and evaluation criteria will be provided for each activity, along with working time within the class. Students will choose their best 10 activities for evaluation.	
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.
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/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

The department chair for Social Sciences (of which Political Science is one discipline) is Peter Ove. He can be contacted at ovep@camosun.ca

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

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

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 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](http://camosun.ca/services/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. To contact the Office of Student Support: 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.