

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC-105: Introduction to Politics

CLASS SECTION: RH03

TERM: Winter 2022

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: Dean Murdock

EMAIL: murdockd@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Available via Collaborate

HOURS: Fridays, 2:30-3:30pm (or 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, *Power and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science*, 6e Canada Version. (Toronto: Pearson, 2021).

An electronic version of the textbook is available for purchase by visiting

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/2ld35g>

Copies of the textbook are available in the Reynolds Library

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 or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1: Feb 2 & 4	Introductions, course overview Ch. 1 What is politics?	
Week 2: Feb 7, 9 & 11	Ch. 1 – Cont'd Ch. 2 - Nation-States and Globalization	
Week 3: Feb 14 & 16	Ch. 3 - Liberalism, Conservatism	Lecture Quiz #1 Due Feb 16 by 5pm
Week 4: Feb 23 & 25	Ch. 3 - Cont'd Socialism & Fascism, Writing Workshop	
Week 5: Feb 28, Mar 2 & 4	Ch. 4 – Feminism, Environmentalism & Populism	Short Essay #1 Due Mar 4 by 5pm
Week 6: Mar 7, 9 & 11	Reconciliation & Indigenous Rights	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 7: Mar 14, 16 & 18	Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization	Lecture Quiz #2 Due Mar 18 by 5pm
Mar 21 – April 1	Spring Break	
Week 8: Apr 4, 6 & 8	Ch. 6 – Political Parties	
Week 9: Apr 11 & 13	Ch. 8 – Interest Groups, Social Movements, & Political Communication Group project intro & prep	Lecture Quiz #3 Due Apr 13 by 5pm
Week 10: Apr 20 & 22	Ch. 7 – Elections	Short Essay #2 Due Apr 22 by 5pm
Week 11: Apr 27 & 29	Ch.7 – Cont'd Electoral Systems & Voting Behaviour Group project prep	Group presentation Due Apr 29 by 5pm
Week 12: May 2, 4 & 6	Ch 18 – Politics & Governance at the Global Level	Lecture Quiz #4 Due May 6 by 5pm
Week 13: May 9, 11 & 13	Group Presentations	Self-reflection Essay Due May 13 by 5pm

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 scan 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>Lecture Quizzes (4 x 10%) Students will write four Lecture Quizzes this term. Quizzes are online on the course D2L site (in the Quiz section). The multiple choice quizzes are based on readings, course lecture content and in-class discussions. Students will have up to two days to complete the quiz (80 mins per attempt; maximum two attempts). Online submission closes at 5:00 PM on Fridays.</p>	40%
<p>Short Essays (2 x 20%) Students will write two short essays of approximately 500 words each. Short essays should be just as well-crafted as a standard essay. For more information, see the Short Essay section of the course D2L site.</p>	40%
<p>Group Project Students will work in groups and present to the class on a selected political topic. Groups will have two in-class prep days. In-class presentations will occur at the end of the term. For more details, see the Group Project Assignment section of the D2L site.</p>	15%
<p>Self-reflection Essay Students will complete an essay that considers the learning, challenges, and insights they've gained. For more information, see the Self-reflection Essay section of the course D2L site.</p>	5%
TOTAL	100%

Late Assignments

If you cannot complete an assignment on time and you have a reasonable excuse (illness, accident, family affliction, religious obligations, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible to discuss options to make up your work. If you do not have a reasonable excuse, I will still accept late assignments with a 10% per day late penalty.

Please note: If you do not complete all required work for this course, you may be denied a passing grade.

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>

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](#) (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.