

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC-106: Canadian 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 Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

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

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dan Reeve

EMAIL: reeved@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 230

HOURS: Mondays & Wednesday 11:30 AM – 12:30 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.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This introductory course examines political parties, elections, the role of the prime minister and Cabinet, the public service, the legislature, and the judiciary.

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. The nature of politics, government, and the state, with special reference to Canada.
2. The basics of the executive branch of government – the formal, political, and non-political elements, with special reference to the Prime Minister and the cabinet.
3. The basics of Parliament – its elements, functions, procedures, and problems.
4. The basics of the public service – its elements, functions, processes, and problems.
5. The basics of the justice system – types of law, the courts, the administration of justice, and the Charter,
6. The basics of political parties – their roots, ideologies, financing, leadership selection, and campaigning.
7. The basics of the electoral system, and possible alternatives, as well as the role of the press.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Tousutti, Livianna et al. *Canadian Politics Today: Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government*. Toronto: Pearson, 2021.

This is an online textbook. To access the textbook, go here: [Canadian Politics Today](#)

PSC 106 and PSC 104 share the same textbook. If you purchased the textbook for PSC 104, use it for PSC 106. If you purchased the PSC 104 online textbook, it's unlikely it will remain available till the end of the semester.

If you need help, check out this line for [Revel student resources](#) .

The app for this textbook permits students to not only read on their mobile devices (phones, tablets, laptops, and the like), but also includes a feature where each chapter is read aloud. Students can thus listen to each chapter in a variety of ways.

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 Clinic	Course Tour Bonus Quiz – Due Jan. 15 at 9:00 AM
Week 2: Jan. 15 & 17	Read: Ch. 1 – Canadian Politics Today	RQ1 – Jan. 15 at 9:00 AM
Week 3: Jan. 22 & 24	Read: Ch. 5 – Political Culture	RQ2 - Jan. 22 at 9:00 AM
Week 4: Jan. 29 & 31	Read: Ch. 6 – Political Participation & Civic Engagement	RQ3 - Jan. 29 at 9:00 AM
Week 5: Feb. 5 & 7	In Class SE1 Feb. 5 (attendance required) Read: Ch. 8 - Political Parties (Feb. 7)	In Class Short Essay 1 RQ4 - Feb. 7 at 9:00 AM
Week 6: Feb. 12 & 14	Read: Ch. 8 Continued (Feb. 12) Read: Ch. 9 – Elections (Feb. 14)	RQ5 - Feb. 14 at 9:00 AM
Week 7: Feb. 19 & 21	Reading Week	
Week 8: Feb. 26 & 28	Read: Ch. 9 Continued (Feb. 26) Read: Ch. 14 – Parliament (Feb. 28)	RQ6 – Feb. 28 at 9:00 AM
Week 9: Mar. 4 & 6	Read: Ch. 14 Parliament – Continued (Mar. 4) In Class SE2 Mar. 6 (attendance required)	In Class Short Essay 2
Week 10: Mar. 11 & 13	Read: Ch. 13 – The Executive	RQ7 - Mar. 11 at 9:00 AM
Week 11: Mar. 18 & 20	Read: Ch. 15 – The Public Bureaucracy	RQ8 – Mar. 18 at 9:00 AM
Week 12: Mar. 25 & 27	Read: Ch. 7 – Interest Groups & Lobbyists In Class SE3 Mar. 27 (attendance required)	RQ9 - Mar. 25 at 9:00 AM In Class Short Essay 3
Week 13: April 3	Guest Speaker TBA	
Week 14: Apr. 8 & 10	In Class Short Essay Prep Session In Class Short Essay Final (attendance required) Participation Self-Evaluation Quiz – Apr. 13 at 11:59 PM	ICSEF Apr. 10 at 10:00 AM

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

Marks will be determined based on the following work:

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<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>	<p>1% (bonus)</p>
<p>Reading Quizzes (RQ): 1% each; 10% total</p> <p>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. RQ will be due either on Mondays or Wednesdays depending on when a given chapter begins.</p> <p>The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that chapter’s first class (9:00 AM). The answers for each RQ are available one day after that RQ closes. There will be 9 RQs throughout the semester; the lowest graded RQ will be dropped from each student’s overall grade.</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>Random Discussion Assignment (RDA): 2% each; 5 RDAs; 4 RDAs graded.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Students will not know the dates of the RDA. Five RDAs will occur (worth 2% 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>	<p>8%</p>
<p>In Class Short Essays (ICSE): 20% per ICSE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>	<p>60%</p>
<p>In Class Short Essay Final (ICSEF): 20%</p> <p>A final short essay will be written on April 10. Like the previous ICSEs, students will know in advance the four topics in advance. Students will answer one of the four questions. The potential questions will examine the course as a whole. That is, the questions will draw from themes covered since the beginning of the semester. The questions will be finalized within the ICSEF prep session. Students will compose an essay of approximately 500 words in length. For more information, see the D2L content page.</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p>Engagement Self-Evaluation Quiz</p> <p>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>	<p>2%</p>
<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>100%</p>

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

Students will be expected to attend class regularly. Failure to regularly attend class may result in a failing grade.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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