

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC-208: Local Government and Politics

CLASS SECTION:

TERM:

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S):

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](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dan Reeve

EMAIL: reeved@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 230

HOURS:

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 Canadian local government and politics with a focus on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Topics include electoral systems, local electoral politics, regional and municipal administration, service delivery and fiscal challenges, municipalities' relationship to Indigenous self-government, provincial and federal governments, and trends in urban development.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in ENGL 151
- C in ENGL 161
- C in ENGL 163
- C in ENGL 164
- C in any PADM course

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 system of municipal and regional government in British Columbia and trends in urban development and relations with First Nations in Canada.
2. Describe various forms of Indigenous self-government
3. Identify key institutions, players, and issues in Canadian local politics.
4. Describe theories of politics and public administration at the regional and municipal level.
5. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in Canada at the local level.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

(a) Sancton, Andrew. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 3rd Ed. (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2021

(b) Additional course readings will be available online or via the D2L content page under “course readings”.

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	OTHER NOTES
Week 1: Jan. 10	Review course outline, assignments, D2L, & technology Exploration of Local Government & Politics	First class is online in D2L Collaborate
Week 2: Jan. 17	Local Government Reading: Textbook Ch. 1 Group Discussion Reading: Happy City. (Chapter 1)	RQ1: Jan. 17 at 5:00 PM GDRQ 1: Jan. 17 at 5:00 PM
Week 3: Jan. 24	Central & Local Governments: Delegated Power, Subsidiarity Reading: Textbook Ch. 2 Group Discussion Reading: Walkable City Rules. (Introduction & Ch. 1)	RQ2: Jan. 24 at 5:00 PM GDRQ 2: Jan. 24 at 5:00 PM
Week 4: Jan. 31	Provinces & Municipalities Reading: Textbook Ch. 3 & Housing Related Article Guest Speaker: (Province?)	RQ3: Jan. 31 at 5:00 PM
Week 5: Feb. 7	Municipalities & Other Governments Reading: Ch. 4 (pages 40 – 44) & A Quiet Evolution (Chapter 1) Group Discussion Reading 3: Naut’sa mawt Community Accord Reading: Select Questions for ICSE 1	RQ4: Feb. 7 at 5:00 PM GDRQ 3: Feb. 7 at 5:00 PM
Week 6: Feb. 14	In Class Short Essay 1 Website Project Introduction & WP Prep Session 1	Attendance Mandatory
Week 7: Feb. 21	Reading Week	
Week 8: Feb. 28	Rural & Urban Municipalities Reading: Textbook Ch. 6 Group Discussion Reading: Cities on Speed: Bogota Change	RQ5: Feb. 28 at 5:00 PM GDRQ 4: Feb. 28 at 5:00 PM
Week 9: March 6	Municipal Politics Reading: Textbook Ch. 10 & Not Just Bikes: The Politics of Toronto's Car Addiction Guest Speaker – (Dean?)	RQ6: March 6 at 5:00 PM WP Work Plan – Due March 9
Week 10: March 13	Developers, Councillors, and Citizens Reading: Textbook Ch. 11 Select Questions for ICSE 2 Guest Speaker (Marianne Alto – Emailed Dec. 18)	RQ7: March 13 at 5:00 PM WP Individual Short Essay - Due Saturday March 16
Week 11: March 20	Mayors and Local Political Leadership Reading: Textbook Ch.12 Select Questions for ICSE 2 Guest Speaker TBA (Lisa Helps)?	RQ8: March 20 at 5:00 PM
Week 12: March 27	In Class Short Essay 2 WP Prep Session 2	Attendance Mandatory
Week 13: April 3	Policy-Making Reading: Ch. 12 Guest Speaker (Jenkyns CAO Victoria)	RQ9: April 3 at 5:00 PM
Week 14: April 10	WP Showcase – April 10 (Attendance Required) Class Potluck and Course Reflection	Engagement Self-Evaluation Quiz: April 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

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>Reading Quizzes (RQ): With each new textbook chapter students will be asked to take an online multiple-choice quiz in the course D2L website (in the Quiz section). The quizzes will cover the textbook reading for that week. They must be completed prior to the start of that week’s class. Students have one attempt to successfully complete each RQ. The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that week’s class – 5:00 PM on Wednesdays. The answers for each RQ are available once 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>	12%
<p>In Class Short Essays (ICSE): 20% 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. 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 80 minutes to write their answer. For more information, see the D2L content page.</p>	40%
<p>Group Discussion Reading Quiz (GDRQ): Online multiple-choice reading quizzes that cover readings for that week’s group discussion. These quizzes are to be completed one hour prior to the start of Wednesday’s class. Students have one attempt to successfully complete the GDRQ. There will be 4 GDRQs.</p>	6%
<p>Random Discussion Assignment (RDA): 1.5% each; 5 RDAs; 4 RDAs graded. 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 1.5% 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%).</p>	6%

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>Website Project (WP): 35% (20% Individual Short Essay, 5% Group Work Plan, 10% Website Showcase)</p> <p>The three-part project asks students to select a key idea from course (list provided) and as a group create a website that highlights key ideas from that theme. Individually students will respond with a short essay to a specific question that relates to their topic area. The short essay will run approximately 500 words. The WP Individual Short Essay is due March 16 at 11:59 PM. Groups will submit a work plan that explains how they will divide the project among their colleagues. The work plan will explain content and page layout. It will serve as a blue-print for the website. It is due February 17 at 11:59 PM. Along with two mandatory prep days, groups will showcase their completed websites on the last day of class April 10. For more details, see the Website Page Assignment section of the D2L content page.</p>	35%
<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>	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.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Some classes throughout the semester are mandatory. Attendance will be taken. Those who fail to attend without contacting the instructor in advance will be penalized for their failure to attend those classes. The last week of classes are mandatory.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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.