



School of Arts & Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

PSC 106 - 003
Canadian Politics
Winter 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Daniel Reeve		
(b)	Office Hours:	Mondays 3:00 – 3:45 / Wednesdays 9:30 – 10:00 PM		
(c)	Location:	Wednesday s Young 211		
(d)	Phone:	370-3336	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	ReeveD@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to describe and explain (and in some cases critically assess):

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.

3. Required Materials

Robert Jackson and Doreen Jackson. Canadian Government in Transition.
4th edition. Toronto: Nelson, 2006.

Introductory Reading “Introduction to Basic Concepts – 2007-8”
“The Canadian Constitution – Selections”

All are available at the Camosun College bookstore.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Lectures:

Wednesday 6:30 – 9:20 PM Young Building Room 211

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Written Assignment:

All students will submit a 750 word paper by February 20th at 6:30 PM. This paper can be rewritten and resubmitted after your instructor has graded it. The higher of the two grades will be official grade.

The essay will contribute 30% to final grade.

(b) Exams:

Test 1: Wednesday January 30 - Test worth 20%,

Test 2: Wednesday March 12 – Test worth 25%

Test 3: Wednesday April 9 – Test worth 20%

(c) Participation:

All students will be asked to make a meaningful contribution to class discussions. Quality of participation is far more prized than quantity of comments.

Participation will contribute 5% to final grade.

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (<i>For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.</i>)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

Student wanting some practical (rather than purely academic) analysis of Canadian politics might take a look at the following:

- C. Richard Tindal, *A Citizen's Guide to Government*

- Judith Reid, *The Effective Advocate: From Passion to Progress*

Students wanting a very detailed academic study of Canadian Politics might take a look at:

- Robert J. Jackson and Doreen Jackson, *Politics in Canada: Culture, Institutions, Behaviour and Public Policy*

Copies of all these should be in the Camosun library.

Suggested Viewings if you're looking to rent a video, below are a few engaging films with a political edge.

Bob Roberts. (1992).

Primary Colors. (1998).

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room. (2005).

Wag the Dog. (1997).