

	School of Arts & Science SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT PSC 105 Introduction to Politics Winter, 2011
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COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information:

(a)	Instructor:	Ross Lambertson		
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 2:45-3:45; and by appointment.		
(c)	Location:	Paul 226A		
(d)	Phone:	370-3373	Alternative (home) – 384-3390	
(e)	Email:	lamberts@camosun.bc.ca – note that I usually do not check this during the weekend.		
(f)	Website:	http://lambertson.wordpress.com/		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, each 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: constitutions, federal and unitary systems, parliamentary and presidential systems, politics and governance at the world level.
3. Identify basic political actors: political parties, interest groups, social movements, the news media.
4. Critically evaluate 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.

3. Required Materials – for sale at the Camosun bookstore

Textbook: Eric Mintz, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, 2nd ed. (Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009). This is for sale in the College bookstore.

Term Paper Readings: Louis Menand, “Fractured Franchise: Are the wrong people voting?” *The New Yorker* (July 9, 2007); Jay Dixit, “The Ideological Animal,” *Psychology Today* (January 1, 2007). Copies of these two articles are on reserve at the College library, but you can find them and print them yourself at:

http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/books/2007/07/09/070709crbo_books_menand?printable=true and <http://www.psychologytoday.com/print/20359>

4. Course Content and Schedule

Classes are Monday/Wednesday (section 01) or Tuesday/Thursday (section 02) at 11:30 to 12:50 in Young 211. If you miss a class, you can come to the other section.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

- (a) Term paper – 30% (this paper can be rewritten and resubmitted after your instructor has graded it. The higher of the two grades will be official.)
- (b) Quizzes – 60% (three multiple choice tests, each worth 20%).
- (c) Exams – none during examination week.
- (d) Class attendance – 5% (you must attend at least twenty classes after the first week, not including the days we have tests).
- (e) Project – 5% (observing politics in action; see explanation later in this course outline).
- (f) Class participation – an extra 2% (only for students who contribute in a very positive way to the lectures (asking questions, constructively debating with the teacher). Note that this means that any student who is too shy to speak out could still in theory achieve a perfect 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. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
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.

TENTATIVE TIME-TABLE – Monday/Wednesday class (section 01)

Jan 10	First class - Introduction to the course and the next lesson
Jan 12	Understanding Politics (Chapter 1 of the textbook)
Jan 17	Nation-States, Nationalism, and Globalization (Chapter 2)
Jan 19	Government, the Economy, and Political Conflict (Chapter 3)
Jan 24	The Democratic Ideal (Chapter 4)
Jan 26	Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, and Fascism (Chapter 5)
Jan 31	Feminism, Environmentalism, and Religious Fundamentalism (Chapter 6)
Feb 2	Review and discussion of Term Paper
Feb 7	First Test – Chapters 1-6
Feb 9	Political Culture, Pol. Participation, and Pol. Socialization (Chapter 7)
Feb 14	Politics and the Media (Chapter 8)
Feb 16	Political Parties (Chapter 9) Term Paper Due – Office (P226A) – 5:00 P.M.
Feb 21	Elections, Electoral Systems, and Voting Behaviour (Chapter 10)
Feb 23	TBA
Feb 28	Taking Collective Action (Chapter 11)
Mar 2	Unconventional and Highly Conflictive Politics (Chapter 12)
Mar 7	The Constitution, Rights and Freedoms, and the Rule of Law (Chapter 13)
Mar 9	Review and discussion of Term Paper
Mar 14	Second Test – Chapters 7-13
Mar 16	Multiple Governments (Chapter 14)
Mar 21	Parliamentary Systems (Chapter 15)
Mar 23	Presidential and Semi-Presidential Systems (Chapter 16)
Mar 28	Public Policy and Public Administration (Chapter 17)
Mar 30	Politics and Government in the World's Poorer Countries (Chapter 18) Term Paper Rewrite Due - Office (P226A) – 5:00 P.M.
Apr 4	Non-Democratic Systems and the Transition to Democracy (Chapter 19)
Apr 6	Politics and Governance at the Global Level (Chapter 20)
Apr 11	Review
Apr 13	Third and Final Test – Chapters 14-20

TENTATIVE TIME-TABLE – Tuesday/Thursday class (section 02)

Jan 11	First class - Introduction to the course and the next lesson
Jan 13	Understanding Politics (Chapter 1 of the textbook)
Jan 18	Nation-States, Nationalism, and Globalization (Chapter 2)
Jan 20	Government, the Economy, and Political Conflict (Chapter 3)
Jan 25	The Democratic Ideal (Chapter 4)
Jan 27	Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, and Fascism (Chapter 5)
Feb 1	Feminism, Environmentalism, and Religious Fundamentalism (Chapter 6)
Feb 3	Review and discussion of Term Paper
Feb 8	First Test – Chapters 1-6
Feb 10	Political Culture, Pol. Participation, and Pol. Socialization (Chapter 7)
Feb 15	Politics and the Media (Chapter 8)
Feb 17	Political Parties (Chapter 9) Term Paper Due – Office (P226A) – 5:00 P.M.
Feb 22	Elections, Electoral Systems, and Voting Behaviour (Chapter 10)
Feb 24	NO CLASS – Reading Break
Mar 1	Taking Collective Action (Chapter 11)
Mar 3	Unconventional and Highly Conflictive Politics (Chapter 12)
Mar 8	The Constitution, Rights and Freedoms, and the Rule of Law (Chapter 13)
Mar 10	Review and discussion of Term Paper
Mar 15	Second Test – Chapters 7-13
Mar 17	Multiple Governments (Chapter 14)
Mar 22	Parliamentary Systems (Chapter 15)
Mar 24	Presidential and Semi-Presidential Systems (Chapter 16)
Mar 29	Public Policy and Public Administration (Chapter 17)
Mar 31	Politics and Government in the World's Poorer Countries (Chapter 18) Term Paper Rewrite Due - Office (P226A) – 5:00 P.M.
Apr 5	Non-Democratic Systems and the Transition to Democracy (Chapter 19)
Apr 7	Politics and Governance at the Global Level (Chapter 20)
Apr 12	Review
Apr 14	Third and Final Test – Chapters 14-20