

	<p>School of Arts & Science SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT PSC 106 Canadian Politics Fall 2013</p>
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COURSE OUTLINE

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

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Dan Reeve
(b)	Office Hours:	11:30 – 12:30 Tuesdays & Thursdays (other times can be arranged)
(c)	Location:	Paul 226A
(d)	Phone:	250.370.3373 (email is preferred)
(e)	Email:	reeved@camosun.bc.ca

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

- (a) Text: Mintz, Eric et al. Canada's Politics: Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government (2nd Edition). Toronto: Pearson, 2014.
- (b) For students who wish to purchase an electronic version of the text, they can do so by going to www.coursesmart.com and enter "0132924692" in the search field. Or, enter "Mintz" but ensure you scroll to select the correct title and edition. The price is \$45.30 for a 180-day subscription to the e-text.
- (c) Other: Some readings will be accessed online. Links are in syllabus

4. Course Content & Schedule

1. *Syllabus Quiz* – 2%

This quiz must be completed by **Friday September 6th at 5:00 PM**. A short, true / false, multiple choice online quiz that tests students to ensure they have read, reviewed, and understand the course syllabus.

2. *Constituency Assignment* - 10%

The Constituency Assignment is due **Friday September 27th by 5:00 PM**. It must be submitted in Word and submitted to the PSC 106-002 – Constituency Assignment Drop Box. For more details see the assignment hand-out.

3. *Mid Term Quiz* – 15%

The first online test will be offered from **Monday October 14th at 9:00 AM to Friday October 18th at 5:00 PM**. The Mid-Term Quiz will cover all readings, videos, discussion topics from beginning of course to the end of week 6. It will consist of two timed sections. The True / False section will consist of 10 questions. Students will have 15 minutes, or 90 seconds per question, to read, consider, and answer the questions. The multiple choice section will consist of 20 questions. Students will have 30 minutes, or 90 seconds per question, to read, consider, and answer the questions. Students will take each section separately. They will see the correct answers and their mark once they have finished the section. It is highly recommended student prepare in advance as they would an in-class quiz.

4. *Follow the Leader Assignment* - 10%

This assignment is due **Friday November 1 by 5:00 PM**. It must be submitted in Word and submitted to the PSC 106-002 – Follow the Leader Drop Box. For more details see the assignment hand-out.

3. *Term Paper* - 20%

This assignment is due **Friday November 29 by 5:00 PM**. It must be submitted in Word and submitted to the PSC 106-002 – Term Paper Drop Box. For more details see the assignment hand-out.

4. *Final Quiz* – 15%

This quiz will be offered from **Monday, December 2 at 9:00 AM to Friday December 6 at 5:00 PM**. It covers all readings, videos, discussion topics *since* the Mid-Term exam. It will follow the same format (True/False and Multiple Choice) as the Mid-Term Quiz and will carry the same time restrictions.

5. *Chapter Reading Micro Quizzes* – (8 micro quizzes worth 1% each) – 8%

Over ten weeks, students will be asked to take eight online multiple choice quizzes that accompany that week's textbook readings. Students may complete all ten quizzes, if they wish. The lowest two scores will be disregarded. The quizzes will cover the readings for each new chapter. The online submission window will open the previous Friday at 5:00 PM and close at 5:00 PM on the Monday of that week. For example, chapter one's on-line reading quiz opens on Friday September 6th and closes Monday September 9th at 5:00 PM. In short, the reading quizzes are designed to ensure students keep pace with the readings on a weekly basis, but permit students to miss two reading quizzes without penalty.

6. *Weekly Discussion Responses* – (5 discussions worth 4% each) – **20%**

Over ten weeks, students will submit a written response to **five (and only 5)** of the ten weekly discussion question. Students will be graded out of 8 for each week they submit. Students will be asked to not only submit their initial answer to the question, but also consider and respond to the on-going conversation. An initial answer to the week's question must land between 150 to 200 words. *The initial submission must be made by no later than Wednesday at noon.* No student will be permitted to post more than 400 words total for any given week. The writing should reflect a university level, although full citation will not be required. All discussion and debate will demand a respectful tone and reflect everyone's willingness to disagree honourably. Failure to comply with this simple academic standard will result in a mark of zero for that week. In other words, this is not a place to flame anyone. All students are encouraged to review the weekly conversations as the main themes from a discussion question may be incorporated into the quizzes.

5. Course Organization

This course is divided into 14 weeks. The course is designed to ensure that students keep pace with material on a week-to-week basis. Many assignments, reading quizzes and weekly discussions for example, must be completed that week or result in a mark of zero.

This schedule will provide a guide to readings, assignments, and quiz dates:

Week 1: Sept. 3 - 6	<p>Wednesday Sept. 4 at 7:00 PM in Young 211</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Review course outline & D2L</p> <p>Weekly Reading Quiz (8%)</p> <p>Mid-Term & Final Quiz (15% X 2)</p> <p>Weekly Discussion Questions (20%)</p> <p>Syllabus Quiz (2%)</p> <p>Overview of assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constituency Assignment (10%) • Follow the leader (10%) • Major Synopsis (20%) <p><i>Syllabus Quiz closes Friday at 5:00 PM</i></p>
Week 2: Sept. 9 - 13	<p>Read: Ch. 1: Introduction to Canadian Politics</p> <p>Watch:</p> <p>Discussion Question 1: <i>Describe some of the major types of democracy. Explain what system would best replace Canada's representative democracy.</i></p> <p>(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)</p> <p>Quiz: Reading Quiz 1 closes Monday at 5:00 PM</p>

- Week 3: Sept. 16 - 20 **Read:** Ch. 5: Political Culture
Watch:
Discussion Question 2: *What better explains Canada's political culture – founding fragments theory or the formative events theory? What are the greatest divides in Canada's political culture? What are the greatest unifiers?* (Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 2 closes Monday at 5:00 PM
- Week 4: Sept. 23 - 27 **Read:** Ch. 7: Political Involvement
Watch:
Discussion Question 3: *What can be done to revitalize youth engagement in conventional politics such as voting and party membership?*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 3 closes Monday at 5:00 PM
Submit: Constituency Assignment due Friday Sept. 27th by 5:00 PM
- Week 5: Sept. 30 – Oct. 4 **Read:** Ch. 9: Political Parties
Additional Reading: See “The Contender” article in week 5 course pack
Discussion Question 4: *Justin Trudeau will be the next PM of Canada: agree or disagree? Defend your reasoning.*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 4 closes Monday at 5:00 PM
- Week 6: Oct. 7 - 11 **Read:** Ch. 10: Elections and electoral systems
Watch:
Discussion Question 5: *Should Canada's SMP voting system be replaced? If so, what system would serve Canadians best?*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 5 closes Monday at 5:00 PM
- Week 7: Oct. 14 – 18 **Mid-Term Quiz: Covers all readings from beginning of course.**
On line test will be offered from Monday at 9:00 AM to Friday at 5:00 PM.
- Week 8: Oct. 21 - 25 **Read:** The Political Executive: Pages 416-440
Watch:
Discussion Question 6: *Is the PM too powerful? Explain some of key aspects of the PM's influence and decide if the PM wields too much power.*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 6 closes Monday at 5:00 PM

- Week 9: Oct. 28 – Nov. 1 **Read:** Ch. 16: Parliament
Watch:
Discussion Question 7: *The Senate is a relic of by-gone era, it must be abolished; agree or disagree?*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 7 closes Monday at 5:00 PM
Submit: Follow the Leader Assignment due Friday Nov. 1 by 5:00 PM
- Week 10: Nov. 4 - 8 **Read:** MPs - Pages 274-277, 449, and Samara, April 18, 2011. ***“It’s My Party”:***
Parliamentary dysfunction Reconsidered.
Go to Samara, [It’s My Party: Parliamentary Dysfunction Reconsidered](#), click on *Full Report PDF on right navigation bar*
Watch:
Discussion Question 8: *Party discipline is a necessary evil that helps majority governments act decisively; agree or disagree?*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 8 closes Monday at 5:00 PM
- Week 11: Nov. 12 - 15 **Read:** Ch. 17: The Public Bureaucracy
Watch:
Discussion Question 9: *Some level of affirmative action is necessary to help ensure the civil service better represents the population it serves; agree or disagree?*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 9 closes Monday at 5:00 PM.
- Week 12: Nov. 18 - 22 **Read:** Ch. 12: The Charter
Watch:
Discussion Question 10: *Should all aspects of prostitution be made legal? Consider the recent judgment by the Supreme Court of Canada*
(Discussion opens Monday at 9:00 AM and closes Friday at 5:00 PM. Initial submission due by Wednesday at noon.)
Quiz: Reading Quiz 10 closes Monday at 5:00 PM
- Week 13: Nov. 25 - 29 **Read:** The Judicial System: Pages 515-525
Watch:
Discussion: No Discussion this week.
Quiz: No Reading Quiz this week
Submit: Synopsis due Friday November 29th by 5:00 PM
- Week 14: Dec. 2 - 6 **Final Quiz** – Covers all materials since Mid-Term Quiz
On line test will be offered from Monday at 9:00 AM to Friday at 5:00 PM.

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. 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 the College web site in the Policy Section.