



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

PSC-105-001
Introduction to Politics
Summer 2018

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is available on the web @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/psc.html>

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor:** Nick Montgomery
- (b) Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2pm Paul 334 or by appointment.
- (c) Class Location:** Y221, Lansdowne Campus
- (e) E-mail:** montgomeryn@camosun.bc.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course a 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 and processes: constitutions, federal and unitary systems, parliamentary and presidential systems, elections, politics and governance at the world level.
3. Identify basic political actors: political parties, interest groups, social movements, and the news media.
4. Describe 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.
5. Critically evaluate some aspect of political life. (Topics may change from semester to semester, but could consist of such things as democracy, human rights, civil disobedience, social democracy, political radicalism, etc.)

3. Required Materials

Select chapters from: Eric Mintz, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, 4th ed. (Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2014).

This textbook is available at the Lansdowne Campus book store. Copies of the textbook are also available at the reserve desk of the school's library.

Other required readings: links provided in Course Content and Schedule section below.

4. Course Content and Schedule

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

WEEK 1
Class 1: Tuesday May 8

Introduction to PSC 105

Class 2: Thursday May 10

Understanding Politics and Power

Required reading: *PPCG* Ch. 1 - Understanding Politics

WEEK 2
Class 3: Tues May 15

Capitalism, political economy, and class

Required reading: Capitalism: an introduction

<http://libcom.org/library/capitalism-introduction>

Supplementary material:

What is class? <https://vimeo.com/194944111>

Guest lecture by Seb Bonet

Discussion of Short Essay (SE) expectations

Class 4: Thurs May 17

Politics of colonialism and indigenous resistance

Required readings: Pamela Palmater – The ongoing legacies of Canadian genocide

<https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/the-ongoing-legacies-of-canadian-genocide>

AND

Leanne Simpson and Naomi Klein – Dancing the world into being: a conversation with Idle No More's Leanne Simpson

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/peace-justice/dancing-the-world-into-being-a-conversation-with-idle-no-more-leanne-simpson>

Supplementary material:

Pacific Trails Pipeline: Overview and Unist'ot'en Resistance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5x6k5yvq5k>

Unist'ot'en Camp: Holding their ground

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qUw3bqIHks>

Chevron: Pacific Trails Pipeline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpnqhsvwhFY>

May 21: SE1 paper due

WEEK 3
Class 5: Tuesday May 22

The Nation-State, bureaucracy, and globalization

Required reading: *PPCG* Chapter 2

Supplementary material:

David Graeber on the value of work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpoJlkqEXYo>

Foundations of Policing in the US

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttqfdHzBnTE>

Class 6: Thursday May 24

Political Ideologies

Required reading: *PPCG* Ch. 3. – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism & Fascism

AND

'Antifa' vs. the 'alt-right': Comparing anti-fascists to those they oppose is unfair

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/opinion-steven-zhou-antifa-alt-right-1.4302851>

Supplementary material:

Defining the Alt Right and the New American Fascism

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2016/09/28/defining-the-alt-right-and-the-new-american-fascism/>

ANTIFA: <https://vimeo.com/251910507>

Berkeley Mayor: Classify Antifa as a Gang:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AaKVvWr_PY

WEEK 4

Class 7: Tues May 29

Environmental Politics

Required reading: *PPCG* pp 90-99.

AND

Salmon Confidential (PDF):

<http://www.alexandramorton.ca/salmon-confidential-booklet/>

Supplementary material

First Nations, environmentalists occupy salmon farm (CBC):

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/first-nations-environmentalists-occupy-b-c-salmon-farm-1.4268234>

Salmon Farming (industry) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U-dEKI0MpY>

Salmon farming and indigenous resistance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUFNEK7Ejps>

Salmon frontlines

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09EgHFiyHoY>

SE2 due May 30

Class 8: Thursday May 31

Feminism, Gender, Heteropatriarchy, and Consent

Required reading: Audre Lorde: Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference

<https://www.colorado.edu/odece/node/782/attachment>

AND

PPCG (textbook) pp 81-90

Supplementary material

Destroying Domination: <https://vimeo.com/261565601>

WEEK 5

Class 9: Tuesday June 5

Electoral Politics and Political Parties

Required reading:

Ch. 6 128-141 AND C 7 153-165

Guest lecture: Laurel Collins

Politics of Everyday Life Individual Project due June 5 at 11:59

Class 10: Thursday June 7

Global Politics and International Relations

Required Reading:

Ch. 9 – Politics and Governance at the Global Level

Politics of Everyday Life Assignment Prep Day #1 (June 7)

WEEK 6

Class 11: Tuesday June 12

The Politics of Development, Growth and the “Third World”

Required reading:

Ch. 8 185-197

AND

Vandana Shiva: How economic growth has become anti-life

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/01/how-economic-growth-has-become-anti-life>

Supplementary material

IMF and Africa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zKGGi64iVE>

Vandana Shiva: Giving up Growth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UIJvG7-okM>

SE3: Due June 11 at 11:59 PM

Class 12: Thursday June 14

**Politics of Everyday Life Group Prep Day #2 (June 14)
Participation evaluation explanation and reflections**

WEEK 7

Class 13: Tuesday June 19

**Politics of Everyday Life Group Project due June 19
Group Presentation & Evaluation
Course Review & Reflection**

Class 14: Thursday June 21

Wrap-up and Final (explain take-home exam)
Course evaluations
Closing

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Marks will be determined on the basis of the following work:

1. Short Essays: 45% (3 essays, 15% per assignment)

Individual students will write **three** short essays (SE) of approximately 250-300 words each. A choice of four questions will be posted on D2L for each of the three essays. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. Students must include the word count for each essay at the end of that essay. For more information, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.

Deadlines: Late submitted essays will be penalized 10% per day.

SE1: 11:59 on May 21

SE 2: 11:59 PM on May 30

SE 3: 11:59 PM on June 13

2. Politics of Everyday Life Project (PELP): 27% (12% Individual submission, 15% Group submission)

Students will register (through the D2L) into one of six groups on different course themes. Brief descriptions of Individual and Group portions of the assignment are below. See D2L for further details.

Individual assignment (12%): students will submit 2-3 photos that relate to the course theme group in which they are enrolled, along with a short explanation (150-200 words) that explains how the course theme is represented in their photos.

Group assignment (15%): beginning by sharing and discussing their photos from the individual assignment, students will design a presentation that analyzes politics and power in relation to their group's theme. The presentation may involve their original photos, and/or new ones, and other material (objects, photos, images, etc) to provide examples and opportunities for analysis. Students will decide together how to present their final work: it could be displayed on a poster board, or digitally via power point or other software, or any other creative method that results in a visual presentation. The key is to create a presentation that students have collaborated on to create something visual and cohesive (i.e. not just a collection of individual works). Students must attend both prep days (partial prep day June 7th and full prep day June 14th) to receive full marks for this assignment.

3. Engagement Grade - 10%

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.

4. Final take-home exam – 18%

In the final take-home exam, students will compose an essay answer from a choice of several essay topics. Answers should be 500-600 words. Students will have 60 hours to complete their answers. Students will draw on course themes and concepts to formulate their answer, and will submit their final essay through D2L. For more information, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.

6. Grading System

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

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

n/a

8. College Supports, Services and Policies

Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. 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		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.