



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

PSC-105-001
Introduction to Politics
Winter 2019
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10am -11:20am
Ewing 201

COURSE OUTLINE

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

* 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:** Alison James
- (b) **Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30pm – 2:30pm
- (c) **Location:** Paul 334
- (d) **Phone:** Please use e-mail
- (e) **E-mail:** alisonj@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*, 5th ed. (Toronto: Pearson, 2018).

A course pack created from the necessary chapters is available at the Lansdowne Campus bookstore. Copies of the textbook will be available at the reserve desk of the school's library.

4. Course Content and Schedule

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

Week 1: Jan 7 & 9	Jan 7 - Introductions Jan 9 - Writing Workshop
Week 2: Jan 14 & 16	Ch. 1 - Understanding Politics <i>RQ1 – Due Jan 14 by 9:30 AM</i>
Week 3: Jan 21 & 23	Ch. 2 - The Nation-State and Globalization <i>RQ2 – Due Jan 21 by 9:30 AM</i> <i>SE1: Due Jan 23 at 11:59 PM</i>
Week 4: Jan 28 & 30	Ch. 3. – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism & Fascism <i>RQ3 – Due Jan 28 by 9:30 AM</i>
Week 5: Feb 4 & 6	Ch. 4 – Feminism and Environmentalism <i>RQ4 – Due Feb 4 by 9:30 AM</i> <i>SE2: Due Feb 6 at 11:59 PM</i>
Week 6: Feb 11 & 13	Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization <i>RQ5 – Due Feb 11 by 9:30 AM</i>
Week 7: Feb 18 & 20	Reading Break – no class
Week 8: Feb 25 & 27	Ch. 6 – Political Parties <i>RQ6 – Due Feb 25 by 9:30 AM</i>
Week 9: Mar 4 & 6	Ch. 7 – Elections, Electoral Systems, and Voting
Week 10: Mar 11 & 13	Ch. 7 – Elections, Electoral Systems, and Voting cont. <i>RQ7 – Due Mar 11 by 9:30 AM</i> <i>SE3: Due Mar 13 at 11:59 PM</i>
Week 11: Mar 18 & 20	Ch. 8 – Politics and Development in the “3rd World” <i>RQ8 – Due Mar 18 7 by 9:30 AM</i> <i>Optional SE re-write due by 11:59pm on Mar 24.</i>
Week 12: Mar 25 & 27	Guest speaker - Dr. Grace Lore NO CLASS MAR 27
Week 13: Apr 1 & 3	Apr 1: Politics and Governance at the Global Level Apr 3: Country Case Study sharing session <i>RQ9 – Due Apr 1 by 9:30 AM</i> <i>Country Case Study Project due Apr 2 at 11:59 PM</i>
Week 14: Apr 8 & 10	Wrap-up and exam prep <i>Case Study Response Document due Apr 10 at 11:59 PM</i>

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

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

1. **Reading Quizzes:** 10% (1.1% per quiz)

With each new chapter students will be asked to take an online multiple choice quiz that accompanies the textbook. The quizzes will cover the reading for a chapter and must be completed **prior** to the start of that week's class. Students may take each quiz twice. The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that class – typically Wednesday at 9:30 AM.

2. **Short Essays:** 30% (10% per assignment)

Students will write three short essays of approximately 250 words each. A choice of four questions will be posted at the start of each section. Students will choose from one of the four questions. Papers should be just as well-crafted as a standard essay. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day. Students will be permitted to rewrite one of the first two submitted short essays.

3. **Country Case Study Project:** 30% (15% portfolio submission, 15% response document)

Students will create a country case study portfolio that will involve explaining the political system of a particular country, integrating news stories, and political cartoons, artwork, and music from the country. 15% of the grade will be for the portfolio submission. You will also be asked to swap portfolios with another student and submit a response document about their portfolio for the other 15%. Further details about this assignment will be given in a handout and discussed in class.

4. **Participation** - 5%

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.

5. **Final exam** – 25%

The final exam will occur during the exam period.

6. Instructor Policies

7. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Competency Based Grading System

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

The **Writing Centre** on campus is a highly recommended resource for support with your written assignments. They offer one on one or group appointments. More information can be found here: <http://camosun.ca/services/writing-centre/>

9. 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.