



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

PSC-106-002
Canadian Politics
Winter 2019

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:** Daniel Reeve
- (b) **Office hours:** Monday 12:00 – 1:00, Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 (other times can be arranged)
- (c) **Location:** Paul 226A
- (d) **Phone:** 250.370.3373
- (e) **E-mail:** reeved@camosun.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to (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

Mintz, Eric et al. *Canada's Politics: Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government* (3rd Edition). Toronto: Pearson, 2017.

Copies of this work will be available in the bookstore. Two copies will also be available for short term access through the reserve section of the library.

Additional course readings will be available online through the course D2L site.

4. Course Content and Schedule:

Week 1: January 7 & 9 (M&W)	Introductions Review course outline, assignments, D2L, & technology Writing Workshop
Week 2: January 14 & 16	Ch. 1 - Introduction <i>RQ1 – Due Jan. 14 by 1:00 PM</i>
Week 3: January 21 & 23	Ch. 5 – Political Culture <i>RQ2 – Due Jan. 21 by 1:00 PM</i> SE1: Due January 25 at 11:59 PM
Week 4: January 28 & 30	Ch. 6– Political Participation & Civic Engagement <i>RQ3 – Due Jan. 28 by 1:00 PM</i>
Week 5: February 4 & 6	Ch. 8 – Political Parties <i>RQ4 – Due Feb. 4 by 1:00 PM</i> SE2: Due Feb. 8 at 11:59 PM
Week 6: February 11 & 13	Ch. 9– Elections, Electoral Systems, & Voting <i>RQ5 – Due Feb. 11 by 1:00 PM</i>
Week 7: February 18 & 20	Reading Week – No Classes
Week 8: February 25 & 27	Ch. 13. – The Executive <i>RQ6 – Due Feb. 25 by 1:00 PM</i> SE3: Due March 1 at 11:59 PM
Week 9: March 4 & 6	Ch. 14 – Parliament <i>RQ7 – Due March 4 by 1:00 PM</i> Debate Short Essay: Due March 7 at 11:59 PM
Week 10: March 11 & 13	Ch. 14 – Continued Debate Prep Session #1 – March 13 (Mandatory) SE4: Due March 15 at 11:59 PM
Week 11: March 18 & 20	Ch. 15 - The Public Bureaucracy <i>RQ8 – Due March 18 by 1:00 PM</i>
Week 12: March 25 & 27	Ch. 17 – Domestic Policy <i>RQ9 – Due March 25 by 1:00 PM</i> SE5: Due March 28 at 11:59 PM
Week 13: April 1 & 3	Guest Speaker (TBA) 2nd Debate Prep Session – April 3 (Mandatory)
Week 14: April 8 & 10	In Class Debate – April 8 (Mandatory) Take Home Final Review Day
Take Home Final	(Posted noon April 15, closes noon April 18)

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Marks will be determined based on the following work:

1. Reading Quizzes – 10%

With each new chapter or reading students will be asked to take an online multiple-choice quiz that accompanies the textbook. The quizzes will cover the reading for that week (a chapter) and must be completed **prior** to the start of that week's class. The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that week's first class – Mondays at *1:00 PM*. There will be 9 reading quizzes throughout the semester.

3. Short Essays: 40% (10% per assignment)

Students (individually or as part of a group) will write four short essays a minimum of approximately 250 words each. A choice of four questions will be posted at the start of each section. Students / groups will choose from one of the four questions. Students or groups may submit up to five SEs with the four highest grades counting towards their final grade. Papers should be just as well-crafted as a standard essay. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. For more information, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.

4. Debate – 30% (15% Debate Short Essay & 15% Debate Group Performance)

The mandatory debate essay, submitted individually, of approximately 250 words is due **March 7** at 11:59 PM. For the group part of the project, students will register (through the D2L) into one of three groups (Pro / Con and Judges). Along with two mandatory prep days, the mandatory in class debate will occur on **April 3**. For more details, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.

5. Engagement Grade - 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. See the D2L site for a full account of participation grading.

6. Take Home Final – 15%

Students (individuals only) will have three days) to compose one essay of approximately 500 words in length (**due at noon on April 18**). Students will answer one short essay questions which draw from themes covered since the beginning of the semester. The essay will be submitted through the course's Drop box. 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

The course will use a variety of digital technology. Access to free Wi-Fi – via Camosun's free student Wi-Fi is highly recommended.

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.

Grading Systems <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/policies/policies.php>

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://www.camosun.bc.ca/policies/E-1.5.pdf> 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.