



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Department of Social Sciences**

**PSC-105-001**  
**Introduction to Political Science**  
**Fall 2019**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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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.

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**1. Instructor Information**

- (a) **Instructor:** Dean Murdock
- (b) **Office hours:** Fridays 11:00am-12:30pm (or via appointment)
- (c) **Location:** Young 302, Lansdowne Campus
- (d) **Phone:** 250-370-3658
- (e) **E-mail:** [MurdockD@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:MurdockD@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 will be available at the Lansdowne Campus book store as soon as possible. Copies of the textbook will soon (mid-September) be available at the reserve desk of the school's library.

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

Week 1: Sept. 4	Introductions, D2L, Eduroam, & Debate
Week 2: Sept. 9 & 11	Ch. 1 - Understanding Politics <i>RQ1 – Due Sept. 9 by 10:30 AM</i>
Week 3: Sept. 16 & 18	Ch. 2 - The Nation-State and Globalization <i>RQ2 – Due Sept. 16 by 10:30 AM</i>
Week 4: Sept. 23 & 25	Ch. 3 – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism & Fascism <i>RQ3 – Due Sept. 23 by 10:30 AM</i>
Week 5: Sept. 30 & Oct. 2	Ch. 3 - Continued Writing Workshop
Week 6: Oct. 7 & 9	Ch. 4 – Feminism and Environmentalism <i>RQ4 – Due Oct. 7 by 10:30 AM</i>
Week 7: Oct. 16	Guest Speaker <b><i>SE1: Due Oct. 19 at 11:59 PM</i></b>
Week 8: Oct. 21 & 23	Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization <i>RQ5 – Due Oct. 21 by 10:30 AM</i>
Week 9: Oct. 28 & 30	Ch. 6 – Political Parties <i>RQ6 – Due Oct. 28 by 10:30 AM</i> <b>Debate Short Essay due at Nov. 2 at 11:59 PM</b>
Week 10: Nov. 4 & 6	Ch. 7 – Elections, Electoral Systems, and Voting <i>RQ7 – Due Nov. 4 by 10:30 AM</i> <b><i>SE2: Due Nov. 9 at 11:59 PM</i></b>
Week 11: Nov. 13	<b>Debate Prep Day 1 - Mandatory</b>
Week 12: Nov. 18 & 20	Ch. 8 – Politics and Development in the “3rd World” <i>RQ8 – Due Nov. 18 by 10:30 AM</i> Rewrite Submission Deadline Nov. 23 at 11:59 PM
Week 13: Nov. 25 & 27	Ch. 9 – Politics and Governance at the Global Level <i>RQ9 – Due Nov. 25 by 10:30 AM</i> <b><i>SE3: Due Nov. 30 at 11:59 PM</i></b>
Week 14: Dec. 2 & 4	<b>Debate Prep Day 2 - Mandatory (Dec. 2)</b> <b>Debate Day - Mandatory (Dec. 4)</b>
Take Home Final	<b>(Posted noon Dec. 9, closes Dec. 12 at 11:59 PM)</b>

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

### 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 Mondays at 10:30 AM

### 2. Short Essays: 45% (15% per assignment)

Students will write a 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 10% per day. Students will be permitted to rewrite one of the first two submitted short essays. For more information, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.

### 3. 4. Debate – 25% (15% Debate Short Essay & 10% Debate Group Performance)

The mandatory debate essay, submitted individually, of approximately 250 words is due **November 2** 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 **Dec 4**. For more details, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.

### 4. 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.

### 5. Take Home Final – 15%

A final exam will consist of a take home essays due at **11:59 PM** on **Thursday December 12**. Students will have **84 hours** to compose an essay of approximately 500 words in length. Students will answer one short essay question which draws from themes covered since the beginning of the semester. The essay will be submitted through the course's D2L Assignment drop box. For more information, see 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

## 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.