



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

**PSC-105-D01**  
**Introduction to Politics**  
**Summer 2020**

**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:** Roberta Jenkins
- (b) **Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm-6pm, or by appointment
- (c) **Office Location:** All office hours will be held online:  
Zoom ID 941-5923-2496, Password Jenkins105
- (d) **Office Phone:** As office is vacant through the pandemic, contact is via email only
- (e) **E-mail:** [JenkinsR@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:JenkinsR@camosun.bc.ca)  
\*Please note that emails will be answered within 24 hours on weekdays. Email will not be answered on weekends.

**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**

Textbook (available in the campus bookstore):

Eric Mintz, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, 5th ed. (Toronto: Pearson, 2018).

Supplementary readings, news items and videos will be posted on D2L as they become relevant.

#### 4. 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 in the textbook, students must complete an online multiple choice quiz that accompanies the reading for that chapter only. The quizzes are open book, and students may take each quiz twice. The online submission window for each quiz will remain open for 3 days, at the same time as that chapter of the text is the focus of our class. In most weeks we will be looking at 2 chapters of text, so the quiz for the first chapter will be available Monday through Wednesday, while the quiz for the second chapter will be available Thursday through Saturday. These quizzes are very short – only a few questions each – and are meant to help you to keep up with your reading. Although the value of each is small, the value of all of them together is significant. Don't worry if you don't succeed on one or two, but make sure you are trying each one!

##### 2. **Class Engagement:** 25% (2.5-5% per assignment)

Students will complete a variety of activities designed to encourage critical analysis of class materials while building a common learning community. Assignments may include thematic questions, visual summaries, short essays, postings to class discussion boards, or video responses related to case-studies, videos or supplementary readings provided throughout the term. All assignments will help to clarify specific intended learning outcomes of the course in the real world, while activating different learning profiles. They will also contribute to shared learning within the class, as a way for us to get to know each other better despite studying asynchronously. Clear expectations and evaluation criteria will be provided for each activity, along with some working time **within the expected 5-hour class time** you should expect to spend for each week of our class. Any assignments not completed within the week's deadline will be assessed a 20% penalty for each week they are late.

Students must also complete a brief self-evaluation at the end of each week on D2L. This evaluation is a reflective tool, to give individuals an opportunity to think about areas in which they have excelled or which need attention for that specific topic, and to give the instructor feedback on what aspects of the class are working well or need to be revised. Additionally, it is an opportunity to have an informal conversation with the instructor, as comments will be reviewed each week and responded to as needed. Thoughtful completion of this evaluation will count as 1 engagement assignment, regardless of how students choose to evaluate themselves. Each evaluation should take only a few minutes to complete.

##### 3. **Group Presentation:** 20%

Working in team, students will prepare a digital presentation related to one weekly class theme. Each week a different team will post their presentation for the rest of the class to view and comment on. Team members and posting dates will be chosen through D2L. Presentations should clearly and simply illustrate some aspect of their assigned theme, and should use a current case study to help show the relevance of the topic to the real world. Appropriate citations must be included for all images and information. Analysis should be thoughtful and concise. Every team member must have a significant, identifiable role in the presentation (preferably, but not necessarily, a speaking role). Presentations may take any form desired by the students (narrated powerpoint/prezi or other slide generator, animation, documentary or other), but must work as a unified and coherent work (not a collection of 4 independent works showcased one after another). Digital presentations must be 15 minutes or less in length. A detailed breakdown of assignment expectations will be available on D2L under the assignments section.

**4. Essay:** 20% (Annotated Bibliography: 10%, Completed Essay: 10%)

Each student will be asked to compose an independent research essay of approximately 1500 words by **June 16**. Detailed instructions for this assignment can be found in the assignments section of D2L. Prior to completion of the essay, there is one preparatory writing stage, an annotated bibliography, to help students craft their final argument that will be marked independently of the final work.

The annotated bibliography is due **May 26, 2020**, and is worth 10%. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, documents or other artefacts related to your thesis that are each followed with a short paragraph that describes and evaluates their content (the 'annotation'). The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited (Aug 15, 2019, <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliograph>). [A detailed description of this assignment can be found in the assignments section on D2L.](#) Feedback will be provided on the annotated bibliography to help students produce a high quality final essay.

**5. Midterm Exam:** 10%

The multiple-choice midterm exam will be conducted through D2L between **May 25-27**. Students may complete the exam at any point during the exam period. It will review all course content completed up to that point of our study, including chapters 1-5 in the text.

**6. Final Exam:** 15%

A final exam will consist of one part multiple choice and one part short essay. Multiple choice questions will draw from course content complete after the midterm exam only (including chapters 6-9 in the text). Short essay will address themes from the entire course. The final will be given through D2L between **June 22-24**.

## 5. Course Content and Schedule

### ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

Week 1: May 5	Introductions, Assignments Overview, Self-Evaluation Ch. 1 - Understanding Politics <i>Reading Quiz 1 available on D2L until May 10</i>
Week 2: May 12	Ch. 2 - The Nation-State and Globalization <i>Reading Quiz 2 available on D2L May 11-13</i> Ch. 3. – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism & Fascism <i>Reading Quiz 3 available on D2L May 14-16</i>
Week 3: May 19	Ch. 4 – Feminism and Environmentalism <i>Reading Quiz 4 available on D2L May 18-20</i> Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization <i>Reading Quiz 5 available on D2L May 21-23</i>
Week 4: May 26	<b><i>Annotated Bibliography Due May 26</i></b> <b><i>MIDTERM EXAM to be completed between May 25-27</i></b> Ch. 5 – Continued: Political Culture in the real world
Week 5: June 2	Ch. 6 – Political Parties <i>Reading Quiz 6 available on D2L June 1-3</i> Ch. 7 – Elections, Electoral Systems, and Voting <i>Reading Quiz 7 available on D2L June 4-6</i>
Week 6: June 9	Ch. 8 – Politics and Development in the “3rd World” <i>Reading Quiz 8 available on D2L June 8-12</i>
Week 7: June 16	<b><i>Essay Due June 16</i></b> Ch. 9 – Politics and Governance at the Global Level <i>Reading Quiz 9 available on D2L June 15-19</i>
Week 8: Jun 22-24	<b><i>FINAL EXAM to be completed between June 22-24</i></b>

## 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.