



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

**PSC-106-001**  
**Canadian Government**  
**Winter 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:** Daniel Reeve
- (b) **Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30AM – Noon & 1:30 – 2:30 PM (or via appointment)
- (c) **Location:** Paul 226A, Lansdowne Campus
- (d) **Phone:** 250.370.3373
- (e) **E-mail:** [reeved@camosun.ca](mailto:reeved@camosun.ca)

### **2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

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

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 (T&Th)	Introductions Review course outline, assignments, D2L, & technology Writing Workshop
Week 2: January 14 & 16	Ch. 1 - Introduction <i>RQ1 – Due Jan. 14 by 9:00 AM</i>
Week 3: January 21 & 23	Ch. 5 – Political Culture <i>RQ2 – Due Jan. 21 by 9:00 AM</i>
Week 4: January 28 & 30	Ch. 6– Political Participation & Civic Engagement <i>RQ3 – Due Jan. 28 by 9:00 AM</i>
Week 5: February 4 & 6	<b><i>In Class Short Essay 1 (Feb. 4)</i></b> Ch. 8 – Political Parties <b><i>RQ4 – Due Feb. 6 by 9:00 AM</i></b>
Week 6: February 11 & 13	Ch. 8 – Parties Continued Ch. 9– Elections, Electoral Systems, & Voting <b><i>RQ5 – Due Feb. 13 by 9:00 AM</i></b>
Week 7: February 18 & 20	<b>Reading Week – No Classes</b>
Week 8: February 25 & 27	Ch. 9 – Elections Continued <b><i>In Class Short Essay 2 (Feb. 27)</i></b>
Week 9: March 3 & 5	Ch. 14 – Parliament <i>RQ6 – March 3 by 9:00 AM</i>
Week 10: March 10 & 12	Ch. 13. – The Executive <i>RQ7 – Due March 10 by 9:00 AM</i>
Week 11: March 17 & 19	<b>In Class Short Essay 3 (March 17)</b> Guest Speaker (TBA)
Week 12: March 24 & 26	Ch. 15 - The Public Bureaucracy <i>RQ8 – Due March 24 by 9:00 AM</i>
Week 13: March 31 & April 2	Ch. 17 – Domestic Policy <i>RQ9 – Due March 31 by 9:00 AM</i>
Week 14: April 7 & 9	<b>In Class Short Essay 4 (April 7)</b> Take Home Final Review Day
Take Home Final	<b>(Posted noon April 14, closes 11:59 PM April 17)</b>

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Marks will be determined based on 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. The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that chapter. For all but reading quizzes three and four (which close on Thursdays) reading quizzes close on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM.

2. **Short Essays:** 60%

Students will write a up to **four** in class short essays (SE) of approximately 250 words each with the three highest grades counting towards their final grade. For each short essay, and the section it covers, students will have access to a list of four questions. From those four questions two will appear for in the class essay. The four questions will be posted at the start of each section. On the day of the in class short essay, students will be provided with two of the four questions. They will answer one of the two.

Attendance is required at each in class short essay day.

Students will write their in class short essay without any outside assistance, notes, textbook, the use of the internet, or the like. For more information, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.

3. **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.

4. **Take Home Final** – 25%

A final exam will consist of a take home essays due at **11:59 PM** on **Friday April 17**. 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

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.

### 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.