



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

PSC-105-D01
Introduction to Political Science
Fall 2020

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:** Dean Murdock
- (b) **Online Office hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:30 – 2:00 PM via the D2L Collaborate space (or by appointment)
- (c) **Location:** Available via Collaborate
- (d) **Phone:** 250.889.0242 (email or via Collaborate is preferred)
- (e) **E-mail:** 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

Eric Mintz, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci, *Politics, Power and the Common Good*, 6th ed. (Toronto: Pearson, 2021). This is an online textbook. To access this textbook and accompanying quizzes go here:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/xuvfvo>

Need help?

- Visit <https://www.pearson.com/ca/en/higher-education/get-started/faq.html> for FAQs, guides, and resources.
- For more information about Revel, check out <https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/>

The app for this textbook permits students to not only read and partake in quizzes on their mobile devices (phones, tablets, laptops, and the like), but also includes a feature where each chapter is read aloud. Students can thus listen to each chapter and answer the accompanying quizzes in a variety of ways.

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

4. Course Content and Schedule

Week 1: September 8 & 10 Introductions, course modules, assignments, D2L, & Collaborate
Course Tour Bonus Reading Quiz – due Tuesday Sept.15 at 1:00 PM

Module 1: Introduction to Politics

Week 2: September 15 & 17 Ch. 1 – Understanding Politics
TBRQ1 – Due Sept. 15 at 1:00 PM

Week 3: September 22 & 24 Ch. 2 - The Nation-State and Globalization
TBRQ2 – Due Sept. 22 at 1:00 PM
Online Discussion #1: Thursday Sept. 24 at 5:00PM
D2L Reading Quiz 1 – Due Sept. 25 at 5:00PM

Module 2: Ideologies

Week 4: Sept. 29 & Oct. 1 Ch. 3 – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, & Fascism
TBRQ Due Sept. 29 at 1:00 PM

Week 5: October 6 & 8 Ch. 3 – Continued
SE1: Due Friday October 9 at 5:00 PM

Week 6: October 13 & 15 Ch. 4 – Feminism and Environmentalism
TBRQ4 – Due Oct. 13 at 1:00 PM
Online Discussion #2: Thursday Oct. 15 at 5:00PM
D2L Reading Quiz # 2 – Due Oct. 16 at 5:00PM

Module 3: Political Socialization, Parties, & Elections

Week 7: October 20 & 23 Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization
TBRQ5 - Due Oct. 20 at 1:00 PM

Week 8: October 27 & 29 Ch. 6 - Political Parties
TBRQ6 – Due Oct. 27 at 1:00 PM

Week 9: November 3 & 5 Ch. 7 – Elections, Electoral Systems & Voting Behaviour
TBRQ7 – Due Nov. 3 at 1:00 PM
SE2: Due Friday Nov. 6 at 5:00 PM

Week 10: November 10 & 12 Ch. 7 - Continued
US Election Review
Online Discussion #3: Thursday Nov. 12 at 5:00 PM
D2L Reading Quiz #3 – Due Friday Nov. 13 at 5:00PM

Module 4: Presidential Systems, Development, and the UN

Week 11: November 17 & 19	Ch. 15 – Presidential & Semi Presidential Systems <i>TBRQ8 – Due Nov. 17 at 1:00 PM</i>
Week 12: November 24 & 26	Ch. 17 - The Politics of Development in the “3 rd World” <i>TBRQ9 – Due Nov. 24 at 1:00 PM</i> SE3: Due Friday Nov. 27 at 5:00 PM
Week 13: December 1 & 3	Ch 18 – Politics and Governance at the Global Level <i>TBRQ10 – Due Dec. 1 at 1:00 PM</i> Online Discussion #4: Thursday Dec. 3 at 5:00 PM D2L Reading Quiz #4 – Due Friday Dec. 4 at 5:00 PM
Week 14: December 8 & 10	Guest Speaker – TBA Course Reflection <i>Participation Quiz – Due Dec. 8 at 1:00 PM</i> Reflection Essay: Due December 12 at 5:00 PM

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Marks will be determined based on the following work:

1. D2L Reading Quizzes (RQs) – 15%

After each module, students will be asked to take an online multiple-choice quiz in the course D2L website (in the Quiz section). The quizzes will cover the readings for that module and must be completed. Students have two attempts to successfully complete each RQ. The answers for each RQ are available once that RQ closes (5:00 PM Fridays). The online submission window will close at **5:00 PM on Fridays**. There will be 4 reading quizzes throughout the semester (one per module).

At the start the semester, students will be asked to complete the **Course Tour Bonus Quiz**. This quiz will ask students about course syllabus, different assignments, collaborate, and other aspects of the course. The quiz will be worth up to 1%. The bonus marks will be added to the final score of the Reading Quiz.

2. Textbook Reading Quizzes (TBRQs) – 15%

The online textbook for this course uses quiz questions imbedded in each chapter. So, with every online chapter, there is a TBRQ. Where the weekly reading is from an alternate source, there will be no TBRQ for that week.

In addition to the D2L reading quizzes (above) students will be required to complete the questions located inside the online textbook. These online multiple questions will be completed as the student reads the sections from the chapter and at the end of each chapter. Like the RQs, these online textbook quizzes must be completed **prior** to the start of that week's first class – **1:00 PM on Tuesdays**.

There will be 10 TBRQs throughout the semester.

3. Short Essays (SE): 45% - (3 x 15% per assignment)

Students will write three short essays (SE) of approximately 500 words each. Students will choose to answer one question from a list of possible questions. Short essays should be just as well-crafted as a standard essay. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. For more information, see the Short Essay section of the D2L content page.

4. Online Discussions (OD) – 20% (4 posts x 5% each)

At the start of each module, two online discussion questions will become available. Students will be required to post a response to one of those two questions. In addition to their initial remarks, students will also be expected to contribute to the conversation in that thread. In addition to their written response, students may add images, links, other content that contributes to the quality of the discussion. In total, students will be required to write four online discussion posts (one per module). Initial posts will run approximately 200 words. Each student post will be graded according a variety of criteria (see the Online Discussion Assignment in D2L for more details).

5. Engagement Grade - 5% (4% Reflection Essay / 1% Participation Quiz)

All students will be asked to make a meaningful contribution to online class activities. Students will be required to complete an essay that considers the learning, challenges, and insights they've gained. An online quiz accompanies the essay. Please see the Reflection Essay Assignment in the content section of the course D2L site for a full account of this task.

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.