

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC-105: Introduction to Politics

CLASS SECTION: 002

TERM: Fall 2021

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face to Face

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Daniel Reeve

EMAIL: reeved@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 230

HOURS: Mondays & Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:30 PM; other times can be arranged

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines some basic concepts in political science. Using examples from various countries, it introduces students to the nature of politics, government, the state, constitutions, international politics, political economy, human rights, and the process of democracy. It also examines different perspectives for understanding and evaluating the political world.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Atchison, Amy, editor. *Political Science is for Everybody*. U of T Press, 2021.

This textbook has an online version. To purchase access to the online version, go here: [political science is for everybody](#)

Alexis, Andre. *Fifteen Dogs*. Coach House Books, 2015.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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.)

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Assignments
Week 1: Sept. 8	Introductions, course modules, assignments, & D2L	Course Tour Bonus Reading Quiz due Sept.13 at 3:00 PM
Week 2: Sept. 13 & 15	Introduction: Identity, state, intersectionality, power Read <i>Fifteen Dogs</i> : Chapter 1	<i>RQ1 Due Sept. 13 at 3:00 PM</i>
Week 3: Sept. 20 & 22	Ch. 1 – Ideologies, home truths, politics	<i>RQ2 Due Sept. 20 at 3:00 PM</i>
Week 4: Sept. 27 & 29	Dog Day 1 (Sept. 27): Attendance Required Module 1 Review (Sept. 29)	DD Bonus Quiz 1 due 3:00 PM Sept. 27 Micro Project 1: Sept. 28 at 11:59 PM SE1: Oct. 2 at 11:59 PM
Week 5: Oct. 4 & 6	Ch. 3: Ideologies: Neoliberalism, patriarchy, democracy, & populism Read <i>Fifteen Dogs</i> : Chapters 2	<i>RQ3 Due Oct. 4 at 3:00 PM</i>
Week 6: Oct. 13	Canadian Election Review Day	
Week 7: Oct. 18 & 20	Ch. 4 – Civil Society & Social Movements	<i>RQ4 Due Oct. 18 at 3:00 PM</i>
Week 8: Oct. 25 & 27	Ch. 8 – Executives	<i>RQ5 Due Oct. 25 at 3:00 PM</i>
Week 9: Nov. 1 & 3	Dog Day 2 (Nov.1): Attendance Required Module Review Day 2 (Nov. 3)	DD Bonus Quiz 2 due 3:00 PM Nov. 1 Micro Project 2: Nov. 2 at 11:59 PM SE2: Nov. 6 at 11:59 PM
Week 10: Nov. 8 & 10	Ch. 5 – Political Parties Read <i>Fifteen Dogs</i> : Chapter 3	<i>RQ6 Due Nov. 8 at 3:00 PM</i>
Week 11: Nov. 15 & 17	Ch. 6 – Electoral Systems	<i>RQ7 Due Nov. 15 at 3:00 PM</i> Optional Short Essay Rewrite Due Nov. 20 at 11:59 PM
Week 12: Nov. 22 & 24	Ch. 15 – International Law & Human Rights	<i>RQ8 Due Nov. 22 at 3:00 PM</i>
Week 13: Nov. 29 & Dec. 1	Dog Day 3 (Nov. 29): Attendance Required Module Review Day (Dec. 1)	DD Bonus Quiz 3 due 3:00 PM Nov. 29 Micro Project 3: Nov. 30 at 11:59 PM SE3: Dec. 4 at 11:59 PM
Week 14: Dec. 6 & 8	Dog Day Showcase and Course Reflection Guest Speaker	<i>Participation Quiz – Due Dec. 11 at 11:59 PM</i>

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines scan be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>D2L Reading Quizzes (RQ) 1.875% per quiz; 8 quizzes throughout the semester</p> <p>With each new chapter or reading 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 reading for that week (a chapter) and must be completed prior to the start of that week’s class. Students have two attempts to successfully complete each RQ. The answers for each RQ are available once that RQ closes (3:00 PM on Tuesday). The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that week’s first class – 3:00 PM on Tuesdays. There will be eight reading quizzes throughout the semester. The lowest grade on one of the eight RQs will be dropped from the student’s overall grade.</p> <p>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 .5%. The bonus marks will be added to the final grade of the course.</p>	15%
<p>Short Essays (SE): 25% per assignment; 3 shorts essays throughout the semester</p> <p>Students will write three short essays (SE) of approximately 300 words each; one short essay per module. A choice of questions will be posted at the beginning of each module. Students will answer one question from that module’s selection. Short essays should be just as well-crafted as a standard essay.</p> <p>A rewrite option for either short essay one or short essay two will be available. Students can revise, rewrite, and resubmit one of those two essays by November 20 at 11:59 PM. For more information, see the Short Essay section of the D2L content page.</p>	75%
<p>Micro Project (MP): 3% per project; 3 projects over the semester</p> <p>In groups of two or three students, students will create a meme or short video (of approximately 30 seconds) that captures one of the themes identified for that section of Fifteen Dogs novel. Students will have one full class day (‘Dog Days’) to brainstorm and create their micro project. Students will submit an image formatted pdf or video link associated with their group to the MP Assignment folder. For more information, see the Meme Project section of the D2L content page.</p> <p>There will be three Dog Day Bonus Quiz (worth .5% each) prior to each Dog Day. Multiple choice quizzes will cover material from the novel.</p>	9%
<p>Participation Quiz</p> <p>All students will be asked to make a meaningful contribution to online class activities. Students will be required to complete an online quiz that asks students to evaluate their commitment to the course. Please see a copy of the quiz that is posted online. Please note, the participation quiz is to be completed in the Quiz section of D2L.</p>	1%
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

The department chair for Social Sciences (of which Political Science is one discipline) is Peter Ove. He can be contacted at ovep@camosun.ca

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started: <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.