



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

PSC-105-D01
Introduction to Political Science
WINTER 2021

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:	Mondays & Wednesdays from 12:30 – 1:00 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/ngz7ct>

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), 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: Jan 11 & 13	Introductions, course assignments, D2L, & Collaborate
Week 2: Jan 18 & 20	Ch. 1 - Understanding Politics <i>TBRQ1 – Due Jan 18 by 1:00 PM</i>
Week 3: Jan 25 & 27	Ch. 2 - Nation-States and Globalization <i>TBRQ2 – Due Jan 25 at 1:00 PM</i>
Week 4: Feb 1 & 3	Ch. 3 – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism & Fascism <i>TBRQ3 – Due Feb 1 by 1:00 PM</i> Lecture Quiz 1 – Due Feb 5 by 5:00 PM
Week 5: Feb 8 & 10	Writing Workshop Ch. 3 - Continued SE1 – Due Feb 12 by 5:00 PM
Week 6: Feb 15 & 17	Reading Break * No Classes *
Week 7: Feb 22 & 24	Ch. 4 – Feminism, Environmentalism & Populism <i>TBRQ4 – Due Feb 22 by 1:00 PM</i>
Week 8: Mar 1 & 3	Ch. 5 – Political Culture, Participation & Socialization Group Project Intro & prep - Attendance Mandatory (Mar 3) <i>TBRQ5 – Due Mar 1 by 1:00 PM</i>
Week 9: Mar 8 & 10	Ch. 6 – Political Parties <i>TBRQ6 – Due Mar 8 by 1:00 PM</i> SE2 – Due Mar 12 by 5:00 PM
Week 10: Mar 15 & 17	Ch. 7 – Elections, Electoral Systems, and Voting Behaviour <i>TBRQ7 – Due Mar 15 by 1:00 PM</i> Lecture Quiz 2 – Due Mar 19 by 5:00 PM
Week 11: Mar 22 & 24	Group Project Prep – Attendance Mandatory (Mar 22) Guest Speaker
Week 12: Mar 29 & 31	Ch. 17 - Politics & Development in the World’s Poorer Countries <i>TBRQ8 – Due Mar 29 at 1:00 PM</i> SE3 – Due Apr 2 by 5:00 PM
Week 13: Apr 7	Ch 18 – Politics & Governance at the Global Level <i>TBRQ9 – Due Apr 7 at 1:00 PM</i>

	Lecture Quiz 3 – Due Apr 9 by 5:00 PM
Week 14: Apr 12 & 14	Group Presentations – Attendance Mandatory (Apr 12 & 14)
	Participation Quiz & Reflection Essay - Due Apr 16 at 5:00 PM

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Marks will be determined based on the following work:

Textbook Reading Quizzes (TBRQs) – 10%	The online textbook for this course uses quiz questions embedded in each chapter. So, with every online chapter, there is a TBRQ. There are nine TBRQs in total. These online textbook quizzes must be completed prior to the start of that week’s first class – 1:00 PM on Mondays (unless otherwise stated). Quizzes completed after the deadline will not receive a grade (unless discussed in advance with the Instructor).
Lecture Quizzes – 20%	Students will write three Lecture Quizzes this term. Quizzes are online on the course D2L site (in the Quiz section). The multiple choice quizzes are based on course lecture content and in-class discussions. Students will have two days to complete the quiz (maximum two attempts). The online submission window will close at 5:00 PM on Fridays . Quizzes completed after the deadline will not receive a grade (unless discussed in advance with the Instructor).
Short Essays (SE) – 45% (3 x 15% per assignment)	Students will write three short essays (SE) of approximately 500 words each. Short essays should be just as well-crafted as a standard essay. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day (unless discussed in advance with the Instructor). For more information, see the Short Essay section of the course D2L content page.
Group Project – 20%	Students will work in groups and present to the class on a selected political topic. Along with two mandatory prep days, the mandatory in class presentations will occur at the end of the term. For more details, see the Group Project Assignment section of the D2L content page.
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. The participation Quiz is available in the Quiz section of the D2L site. 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. 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, Student Ancillary Fees, Academic Integrity, Grade Review & Appeals, Student Misconduct and Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities 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.