



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

PSC-106-D02
Canadian Politics
Winter 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

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.

1. Instructor Information

- (a) **Instructor:** Daniel Reeve
- (b) **Online Office Hours:** 2:15 – 2:45 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays in the D2L online Collaborate space (other times can be arranged)
- (c) **Office Location:** No face-to-face office hours this semester
- (d) **Phone:** Not applicable. Speak with me during online office hours or via email
- (e) **E-mail:** reeved@camosun.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to (and in some cases critically assess):

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

Tousutti, Livianna et al. Canada Politics Today: Democracy, Diversity, and Good Government. Toronto: Pearson, 2021.

This is an online textbook. To access this textbook and accompanying quizzes go here:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/r0g12p>

If you need help, check out these Revel student resources:

<https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/support/>

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: January 12 & 14 Introductions, course modules, assignments, D2L, & Collaborate
Writing Workshop
Course Tour Bonus Reading Quiz – due Saturday Jan. 16 at 11:59 PM

Module 1: Introduction to Politics, Political Culture, & Civic Engagement

Week 2: January 19 & 21 Ch. 1 – Canadian Politics Today
RQ1 - Due Jan. 19 at 2:00 PM

Week 3: January 26 & 28 Ch. 5 – Political Culture
RQ2 – Due Jan. 26 at 2:00 PM

Week 4: February 2 & 4 Ch. 6 Political Participation & Civic Engagement
RQ3– Due Feb. 2 at 2:00 PM

Week 5: February 9 & 11 Module Overview
No RQ
Guest Speaker
Online Discussion #1 Due: Thursday Feb. 11 at 11:59 PM
SE1: Due Saturday Feb. 13 at 11:59 PM

Module 2: Interest Groups, Political Parties & Elections

Week 6: February 16 & 18 Reading Break – No classes.

Week 7: February 23 & 25 Ch. 7- Interest Groups, Lobbyists & Social Movements
RQ4 – Due Feb. 23 at 2:00 PM

Week 8: March 2 & 4 Ch. 8 Political Parties
RQ5 – Due March 2 at 2:00 PM

Week 9: March 9 & 11 Ch. 9 – Elections
RQ6 - Due March 9 at 2:00 PM

Week 10: March 16 & 18 Module Overview
Guest Speaker - TBA
No RQ this week
Online Discussion #2 Due: Thursday March 18 at 11:59 PM
SE2: Due March 20 at 11:59 PM

Module 3: The Executive, Parliament & Public Policy

Week 11: March 23 & 25 Ch. 13 – The Executive
RQ7 - Due March 23 at 2:00 PM

Week 12: March 30 & Apr. 1 Ch. 14 – Parliament
RQ8 – Due March 30 at 2:00 PM
SE 1 or Se 2 Re-write due April 3 at 11:59 PM

Week 13: April 6 & 8 Ch. 15 – Public Administration & Public Policy
RQ9 – Due April 6 at 2:00 PM

Week 14: April 13 & 15 Module Overview
Guest Speaker - TBA
Online Discussion #3 Due: Thursday April 15 at 11:59 PM
SE3: Due April 17 at 11:59 PM
Participation Quiz – Due April 24 at 11:59 PM
Reflection Essay: Due April 24 at 11:59 PM

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Marks will be determined based on the following work:

1. D2L Reading Quizzes (RQs) – 10%

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 (2:00 PM Tuesday). The online submission window will close one hour prior to the start of that week's first class – **2:00 PM on Tuesdays**. There will be nine reading quizzes throughout the semester. The lowest grade on one of the nine RQs will be dropped from the student's overall grade.

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 grade of the course.

2. Short Essays (SE): 45% (15% per assignment)

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. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. 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 March 19 at 11:59 PM. No late re-submissions will be permitted. For more information, see the Short Essay section of the D2L content page.

3. Online Discussion (OD) – 30% (10% per post)

At the start of each module, an online discussion question will become available. Students will create three posts in all. Students will be required to post a response to that module's OD question. In addition to their initial remarks, students will also be required to contribute to the conversation in that thread. In addition to their written response, students will be encouraged to add images, links, other content that contributes to the quality of the discussion. Initial posts will run approximately 150 words. Students will also be expected to respond to two other student posts (asking questions and making comments) along with replying to two student posts from their initial post. Each student post will be graded according a variety of criteria (see the Online Discussion Assignment in D2L for more details).

4. Engagement Grade - 15% (12% Reflection Essay / 3% 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 D2L site for a full account of participation grading.

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, 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.