

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSC 290 Digital Politics

CLASS SECTION: B01

TERM: W 2022

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face to Face & Online

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: 4:30 – 5:30 PM / Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00 PM online

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 is an introduction to selected topics or problems in Political Science. Topics may vary from term to term. Please check with the department or instructor for information about the current course.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in ENGL 151
- C in ENGL 161
- C in ENGL 163
- C in ENGL 164
- C in any PADM course

CO-REQUISITE(S): Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S): Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

1. *Describe critically the intersection of digital life and politics.*
2. *Identify the link between search engine processes and political polarization.*
3. *Critically evaluate the key elements of digital campaigning; apply this knowledge to the US context.*
4. *Define and assess the political importance of misinformation and fake news on politics.*
5. *Explore social media's cultural and political influence in a variety of contexts.*
6. *Critically examine the role of online activism*

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

There is no textbook for this course. All course readings will be available online or via the D2L content page under “course readings”.

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: Jan. 10 & 12	Welcome, class structure, modules, assignments, D2L, & technology	
Week 2: Jan. 17 & 19	<p>Political Communications Orders <i>Read: Klyueva, Anna. 2013. "Chronology" in Encyclopedia of Social Media and Politics. Kerric Harvey & Geoffrey J. Golson, eds. New York: Sage.</i> <i>Epstein, Ben. 2018. The Only Constant Is Change: Technology, Political Communication, and Innovation over Time. Oxford: Oxford University Press. "The Social and Technological History of Political Change" pages 25 – 48.</i></p>	RQ1 Due Jan. 17 at 5:00 PM
Week 3: Jan. 24 & 26	<p>Information Curation, Echo Chambers, and Democracy <i>Read: Sunstein, Cass R. 2018. #Republic: Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Read: "The Daily Me" pages 1 – 30.</i></p>	RQ2 Due Jan. 24 at 5:00 PM Short Essay 1 Due Jan. 29 at 11:59 PM
Week 4: Jan. 31 & Feb. 2	<p>Electoral Campaigns & Perceived Voters Hersh, Eitan. 105. <i>Hacking the Electorate: How Campaigns Perceive Voters.</i> 2015. Read: "Introduction" pages 1 – 23. Read: A More Perfect Union Wikipedia Watch: Obama More Perfect Union Speech 2008</p>	RQ3 Due Jan. 31 at 5:00 PM
Week 5: Feb. 7 & 9	<p>Computational Propaganda Wooley, Samuel C. & Philip N. Howard Eds. 2019. <i>Computational Propaganda: Political Parties, Politicians, and Political Manipulation on Social Media.</i> New York: Oxford University Press. Read: "Introduction" pages 1-11 & "United States" 185 – 196, (skim or skip 196 - 206), 206 - 211.</p>	RQ4 Due Feb. 7 at 5:00 PM
Week 6: Feb. 14 & 16	<p>Fake News Lazer, David et al. <i>The science of fake news.</i> Science (Sept 2018). Allcott, Hunt, and Matthew Gentzkow. 2017. 'Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election'. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 31 (2): 211–36.</p>	RQ5 Due Feb. 14 at 5:00 PM Short Essay 2 Due Feb. 19 at 11:59 PM
Week 7: Feb. 21 & 23	Reading Break (no classes)	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Assignments
Week 8: Feb. 28 & Mar. 2	US Presidential Digital Campaigning Stromer-Galley, Jennifer. 2019. <i>Presidential Campaigning in the Internet Age</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. "Introduction: The Paradox of Digital Campaigning in a Democracy" pages 1 – 24.	RQ6 Due Feb.28 at 5:00 PM
Week 9: Mar. 7 & 9	2008 US Election Cycle Stromer-Galley, Jennifer. 2019. <i>Presidential Campaigning in the Internet Age</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. "2008: Networked Campaigning and Controlled Interactivity" pages 110 – 146.	RQ7 Due Mar. 7 at 5:00 PM
Week 10: Mar. 14 & 16	2016 US Election Cycle & Analysis of 2020 Election Stromer-Galley, Jennifer. 2019. <i>Presidential Campaigning in the Internet Age</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. "2016: The Turn to Mass-Targeted Campaigning" pages 179 – 210.	RQ8 Due Mar. 14 at 5:00 PM Short Essay 3: Due Mar. 12 at 11:59 PM
Week 11: Mar. 21 & 23	QAnon, Conspiracy, and Aesthetics Lafrance, Adrienne. Nothing Can Stop What is Coming . The Atlantic. June 2020, www.theatlantic.com. Cushing, Ellen. I was a Teenage Conspiracist . The Atlantic. May 13 2020, www.theatlantic.com. Tiffany, Kaitlyn. How Instagram Aesthetics Repackage QAnon . The Atlantic. August 18 2020, www.theatlantic.com.	RQ9 Due Mar. 21 at 5:00 PM
Week 12: Mar. 28 & 30	A Short History of Trolling Phillips, Whitney. 2016. <i>This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things</i> . Cambridge: MIT Press. Read: "Introduction" pages 1-12; & "Subcultural Origins, 2003 – 2007" pages 13 – 27.	RQ10 Due Mar. 28 at 5:00 PM
Week 13: Apr. 4 & 6	Digital Culture Wars Nagle, Angela. 2017. <i>Kill All the Normies</i> . Washington: Zero Books. "Introduction" pages 1-10; "The leaderless digital counter-revolution" pages 10 – 27; & "The online politics of transgression" pages 28 – 39.	RQ11 Due Apr. 4 at 5:00 PM Short Essay 4: Due Apr. 9 at 11:59 PM
Week 14: Apr. 11 & 13	Take Home Final Review Course Wrap Up	Participation Quiz due Apr. 15 at 11:59 PM
Take Home Final Week	THF questions released Tuesday Apr. 19 at noon.	THF - Apr. 22 by 11:59 PM

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>Reading Quizzes (RQs): With each new chapter or reading students will be asked to take an online multiple-choice quiz that accompanies that week’s readings. The quizzes will address ideas and core concepts from the coming week’s classes. The RQs must be completed by 5:00 PM on Wednesdays of that week’s class. There will be 11 reading quizzes throughout the semester. Students will have 11 reading quizzes throughout the semester, the lowest scoring RQ will be dropped from their total.</p>	10%
<p>Short Essays (SE): Students will write four shorts essay throughout the semester. The short essay with the lowest grade will be dropped from the overall grade. The essays, of approximately 500 words, will answer a question from a major theme in the course. A choice of four questions will be posted at the start of each module. Students will choose from one of the four questions. Papers should be just as well-crafted as a standard essay. For more information, see the Assignment section of the D2L content page.</p>	60%
<p>Take Home Final (THF): A final exam will consist of one take home essay due at 11:59 PM on Friday April 22. Students will have 3.5 days to compose an essay of approximately 750 words in length. Students will answer one short essay question (from a selection) 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.</p>	29%
<p>Participation Quiz All students will be asked to make a meaningful contribution to class activities. Students will be required to complete an online quiz that asks students to evaluation 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.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

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>

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.