

# Department of Political Science

## General Interest Courses

The study of politics is an important element of a liberal education. Students with a general interest in politics are invited to enroll in one or more of the courses offered. Students in senior-level Political Science courses must have completed 3 credit hours at the 1000 level in Political Science or have permission of the instructor.

## Major in Political Science

Students majoring in Political Science are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours in Political Science, including any 1000-level POLS course and 6 credit hours in each of the four fields of Political Science offered at St. Thomas.

- i) For **Canadian Government and Politics**, the 6-credit requirement is satisfied by completing POLS 2103 and one other Canadian politics course at the 2000 or 3000 levels.
- ii) For **Comparative Government and Politics**, the 6-credit requirement is satisfied by completing POLS 2303 and 2313.
- iii) For **International Relations and Foreign Policy**, the 6-credit requirement is satisfied by completing two of the following: POLS 2613, 2623, 3313, 3513, 3523, 3533, and/or 4603.
- iv) For **Political Philosophy**, the 6-credit requirement is satisfied by completing POLS 2806 or POLS 2803 and 2813.

## Minor in Political Science

The Minor in Political Science requires 3 credit hours at the introductory level and 15 additional credit hours from Political Science courses.

The list of courses above totals 36 credit hours of the remaining 18 credits required for Hon-

### **POLS-1603. Global Politics (HMRT 1203)**

This course provides an introduction to the concepts of nation and state, sovereignty, forms of government, and political conflict. It does so through consideration of issues in world politics, such as human rights and social justice, ecological imbalance, economic inequalities, war, global governmental institutions and organizations.

## **Canadian Government and Politics**

### **POLS-2103. Canadian Constitutional Politics**

This course will examine fundamental disagreements at the core of the Canadian polity that have plagued constitutional debate since its creation. Special attention is paid to the constitutional implications of conflicting conceptions of individual, provincial, ethno-linguistic, and multi-national equality.

### **POLS-2113. Contemporary Issues in Canadian Politics**

This course will examine a number of issues animating Canadian politics. Themes may include public policy problems, the stresses of Canadian federalism, the fortunes of political parties, ethics in government, and Canada in the global political context.

### **POLS-3103. Political Parties and Elections in Canada (ENVS)**

Canada's major national parties are examined in regard to their historical evolution, internal structure, ideological orientation, and public image and reputation. Trends in voting behaviour are discussed, as are the implications of voting patterns in Canada. Distinctive provincial political parties (such as the Parti Quebecois) are also considered.

### **POLS-3113. Canadian Federalism: Theory and Practice**

This course examines the idea of federalism in Canada and how those ideas take shape in the practice of Canadian federalism. Attention is paid to the political theory of federalism, the institutions of federalism, and the diversities which underlie the Canadian federal system.

### **POLS-3123. The Canadian Constitution: Federalism (ENVS)**

This course will focus on the manner in which the evolution of constitutional law has shaped the Canadian federal system. The course will proceed primarily by means of class discussion of leading constitutional decisions and by student presentations.

### **POLS-3133. The Canadian Constitution: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms (HMRT 3233)**

This course will focus on the impact our constitution has had on civil liberties in Canada. The course will proceed primarily by means of class discussion of leading constitutional decisions and student presentations.

### **POLS-3203. Canadian Provincial Government and Politics**

The course offers a comparative view of the Canadian provinces. Provincial cabinets, party systems, legislative development, and economic and social issues are considered. Special attention is directed to the problem of Quebec in Confederation.

### **POLS-3213. Media and Politics in Canada (COPP 3033, ENVS)**

## **POLS-3223. Public Administration**

This course is designed to introduce students to the theory and practice of public administration. Attention will also be given to the development of skills necessary for use in the civil service.

ties, styles, and ideas in relation to their institutional and cultural contexts.

**POLS-3333. Introduction to Political Economy**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of political economy as a subfield of political science. The first part of the course examines main conceptual frameworks in the study of the relationship between states and markets on the basis of classic readings. The second part of the course covers topics in market regulation, politics of development, and international political economy. Prerequisites: 3 credits from POLS 1000 level or permission of the instructor.

**POLS-2623. International Relations II**

This course introduces students to the critical and non-mainstream variants of International Relations (IR) theory. These include Marxism, Gramscianism, feminist theories of IR, and other forms of critical theory. These theories are illustrated and developed through the use of case studies and examinations of the institutions and structures of the international system. They are also contrasted with mainstream IR theories. Prerequisite: POLS 1013, or permission of the instructor.

**POLS-3313. US Foreign Policy**

This course examines the foreign policy of the United States of America. It examines the roles of the Presidency, bureaucracy, and Congress in the making of foreign policy. The history of American foreign policy will be studied to contextualize present foreign policy and likely future scenarios. The impact of US economic policy in an era of globalization will be explored. Central to the course will be an investigation of the relationship of the US to other major powers and to international institutions.

**POLS-3503. Human Rights in International Relations and Foreign Policy (HMRT 3243)**

This course considers human rights in international relations. It focuses on how the emerging human rights regime is affecting the practice of traditional state sovereignty. Special attention will be paid to the political and philosophical arguments around such issues as universal human rights versus cultural relativism, and the problems associated with humanitarian intervention.

**POLS-3513. Canadian Perspectives on International Law**

The course covers the major topics of international law: the law creation process, the law application process, participants in international law, territory and resources, and international dispute settlement. The lectures on each topic focus on particular Canadian economic, political, or geographic characteristics that raise legal questions, and discuss how Canada has interpreted and tried to influence the law in question.

**POLS-3523. International Relations in the Asia Pacific Region**

This course will focus on how the relations of the regional powers (China, Japan, and the United States) intersect and affect the shape of the Asia Pacific's politics and economics. The course will also provide an overview of the interactions between the other regional states and the various efforts to build Asia Pacific-wide economic and security institutions.

**POLS-3533. Canadian Foreign Policy**

This course is a study of Canada and its role in the world. It will focus, in particular, on the historical development of Canada's foreign policy and the continuities between the past and the present. Is Canada a principal power or is it highly constrained by the imperatives of its relationship with the United States? A significant component of the course will be spent in evaluating Canada's role in a post-Cold War and post-9/11 world. Particular attention will be paid to issues related to the question of multilateralism and Canada's evolving approach to this tradition. Prerequisite: POLS 2613 or POLS 2623, or permission of the instructor.

**POLS-3603. The United Nations**







### **POLS-4923. Honours Thesis**

The Honours Thesis is an extended scholarly paper on a topic written under the supervision of a faculty member who agrees to serve as thesis Director. Students will be expected to follow the Guidelines for the Honours Thesis published by the Department of Political Science. Students must have completed POLS 3913, Honours Thesis Proposal, with a minimum grade of B to be eligible for POLS 4923.

## Independent Study

### **POLS-4013. Independent Study**

Students may undertake independent studies under the direction of a member or members of the Department with the permission of the Department Chair. The course is limited to students of proven academic merit. It is expected that the students will have a clear idea of their area of study, and they will be expected to submit a written proposal about it, including a preliminary bibliography, research topic, and argument justifying it as an independent course of study.