

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.

Students majoring in Political Science are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit

The list of courses above totals 36 credit hours of the remaining 18 credits required for Honours: students must take 3 credit hours at the 4000 level; and for the other 15 credit hours, two courses must be at the 3000 or 4000 levels.

Candidates are expected to maintain a grade point average of 3.0 in the Honours subject. In calculating the grade point average for Honours, all courses in the Honours subject will be counted. Students must achieve at least a B in each of Political Science 3913 and 4923.

Students who wish to take the Honours BA in Political Science are strongly encouraged to consult with the Chair of the Department before the end of their second year. Students are expected to take Political Science 3913 during their third year.

Students in Political Science may count the following Great Books courses toward their Major or Honours programs: GRBK 2006/2106, 2206, 2306, 3206, 3306, and 3506. However, each of these courses counts for only 3 credits in their Political Science programs.

Students who have taken POLS 1006 and GRBK 2006/2106 will have satisfied the POLS 2803 and 2813 (or 2806) requirement for the Honours and Majors programs. Students must, however, satisfy the minimum credit requirements in those programs.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the problem of power and the principles of liberty and equality in modern government through the reading of several great books on the topic. It will draw on texts by authors such as Aristotle, Shakespeare, Locke, Melville, Mill, Marx, Tocqueville, Jack London, Robert Penn Warren, Chinua Achebe, and Virginia Woolf. We may also study a small number of films in the course.

This course is normally taught as part of the Aquinas Program. Through the study of a small number of core texts, it provides an introduction to some of the key questions at the centre of political life. The course provides students with a solid foundation in the history of political thought. It also concentrates on the development of the skills in logical analysis, writing, and political argument necessary for upper-level courses in the discipline.

This course is an introduction to the study of politics. It has two objectives. The first is to give students a sense of the meaning and importance of politics. The second is to study a number of the concepts essential to the study of contemporary politics: the state, sovereignty, legitimacy and authority, law, power, equality, democracy, nationality, freedom, and citizenship are typically covered. The specific content and readings used vary from section to section.

This course provides an introduction to the concepts of the regime, authority, the rule of law, citizenship, and political obligation. It does so through a consideration of the institutions of Canadian government and covers the following topics: the framing of the constitution, federalism, parliamentary government, the Charter of Rights, the judiciary, political parties, public opinion, interest groups, and constitutional reform.

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.

This course examines several important themes surrounding Canada's judicial process including types of law, Canada's courts, jury trials, the movement of a case from investigation through to appeal; judicial appointment and independence; and interest group use of courts for policy ends. The course will also cover important legal cases and salient contemporary issues. Prerequisite: POLS 1103 or permission of the instructor.

This is a seminar directed primarily at Political Science Majors and Honours students. The specific topic of the seminar will change from year to year. Students will be expected to do advanced research and to present and defend their work in class. Prerequisite: POLS 2103, or permission of the instructor.

This course introduces students to the comparative study of governments in the industrial and post-industrial societies. It examines the question of how various political systems are classified, dealing with such issues as organization of the state, governance and policy-making, representation, and political legitimacy. Prerequisite: 3 credits in Political Science, or permission of the instructor.

This course introduces students to the comparative study of governments in the developing world. It focuses on such issues as the politics of development, modernization, and the interplay of political and social forces in selected developing nations. Prerequisite: 3 credits in Political Science, or permission of the instructor.

Religious traditions and actors mobilize and in turn are mobilized by political movements at international, national, and community-based levels. Within a multi-religious and comparative framework, this course explores the way in which religious and political identities, actors, and systems interact on issues related, for example, to religiously-based political parties, democratization movements, nationalism, fundamentalism, and the politics of resistance.

This course will explore how social media and internet tools are transforming the world of communications and public policy. The course will explore cases around the world where social media and the access to information on the internet is influencing public policy and the political process. Prerequisite: COPP 2013

Political Leadership and the Study of Leadership

This course will be a study of the fundamental concepts and prevalent theories of political leadership using a comparative methodology involving local, national, and global levels of leadership. It will allow students to study the significance of individual leaders' personalities, styles, and ideas in relation to their institutional and cultural contexts.

Political Economy and the Study of Political Science

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.

Political Science and the Study of International Relations

and examinations of the institutions and structures of the international system. Prerequisite: POLS 1013, or permission of the instructor.

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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.

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9. Honours Thesis Proposal

The purpose of this course is to afford students who seek to write the Honours thesis an opportunity to develop a thorough thesis proposal, including a substantial annotated bibliography. A small number of classes will be held at the beginning of the course in order to show students how to prepare the proposal. Thereafter, the class will meet only occasionally.

10. Political Science Seminar

This course is intended to serve as a capstone seminar for Majors and Honours students in Political Science. The course is an investigation of the perennial issues involved in the study of politics. We shall examine critically the dominant approaches in Political Science with the aim of understanding how the method utilized affects the substance of any account of political phenomena.

11. 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.

12. Independent Studies

12.1 Independent Studies

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.