

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 or LAPS 1003, and 6 credit hours in each of the four fields of Political Science offered at St. Thomas.

- i) For **Canadian Constitutional 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 Politics of the Developed World**, the 6-credit requirement is satisfied by completing POLS 2303 and 2313.
- iii) For **Comparative Politics of the Developing Areas**, the 6-credit requirement is satisfied by completing two of the following: POLS 2613, 2623, 3313, 3503, 3513, 3523, 3533, 3603, 3613, and/or 4603.
- iv) For **The Western Tradition of 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 any POLS course at the introductory level or LAPS 1003, and 15 additional credit hours from at least two different fields of Political Science.

Honours in Political Science

An Honours BA in Political Science consists of 54 credit hours in Political Science including a 1000-level POLS course or LAPS 1003, and:

- POLS 2103 Canadian Constitutional Politics and one other Canadian politics course at the 2000 or 3000 levels
- POLS 2303 Comparative Politics of the Developed World
- POLS 2313 Comparative Politics of the Developing Areas
- POLS 2613 International Relations I
- POLS 2623 International Relations II
- POLS 2803 The Western Tradition of Political Philosophy I
- POLS 2813 The Western Tradition of Political Philosophy II
- or
- POLS 2806 The Western Tradition of Political Philosophy
- POLS 3903 An Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in Political Science
- POLS 3913 Honours Thesis Proposal
- POLS 4903 Capstone Seminar – Problems in Political Inquiry
- POLS 4923 Honours Thesis

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.

Introductory Courses

▶ **J. -1003.** *Introduction to Political Science*

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.

▶ **J. -1006.** *Introduction to Political Science*

▶ J. -1603. Introduction to International Politics (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

▶ J. -2103. Canadian Federalism (1203)

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.

▶ J. -2113. Canadian Political Parties (1203)

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.

▶ J. -3103. Canadian Political Parties (1203)

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.

▶ J. -3113. Canadian Federalism (1203)

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.

▶ J. -3123. Canadian Constitutional Law (1203)

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.

▶ J. -3133. Canadian Constitutional Law (1203) (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.

▶ J. -3203. Canadian Provinces (1203)

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.

▶ J. -3213. Canadian Media (1203) (3033, 3213)

This course will examine the role of media in Canadian politics and government. It will examine the effect of media on policy agenda setting and public opinion, and how political

► **J, -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.

► **J, 3343J** *Canadian Judicial Process*

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.

► **J, -4103.** *Advanced Seminar in Political Science*

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.

Comparative Government and Politics

► **J, -2303.** *Comparative Government and Politics*

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.

► **J, -2313.** *Comparative Government and Politics*

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.

► **J, -2323.** *Religion and Politics*

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.

► **J, -2333.** *Comparative Government and Politics* (► **2023**)

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

► **J, -3306.** *United States Government*

This course examines the national political institutions of the United States of America - Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, and the federal bureaucracy. Political parties, interest groups, elections, and the role of the media will also be studied. Issues surrounding the modern presidency, as well as those involving social and moral issues.

PJ -3323. Leadership in Political Science

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.

PJ -3333. Political Economy

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of political economy as a sub-field 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.

PJ -3363. Latin American Politics & Democracy

This course offers a comparative introduction to Latin American politics, with a particular focus on the themes of democracy, state-building, and political institutions. It examines the way in which past authoritarian regimes continue to influence democratic progress in Latin America, as well as the other challenges that contemporary regimes face from factors such as state capacity, corruption, inequality, and violence. In this way, the course emphasizes the ways in which Latin America has pushed us to rethink theories based on the European experience and to redefine our understanding of democracy. Pre-requisites: At least 6 credit hours in Political Science or permission of the instructor.

PJ -3413. European Union Politics

This course examines the formation and present politics of the European Union (EU), a unique community of democratic countries that agreed to delegate some of their sovereignty to common institutions. The course will look at the history of European integration, the key institutions and policies of the EU, and ongoing debates about European identity, EU enlargement, and economic developments in the Euro zone.

PJ -3423. Politics & Society in Russia and Eurasia

This course examines politics and society in Russia and Eurasia, focusing on the post-communist transitions, Russia's relations with other post-Soviet states, and the nexus between domestic and international politics of the region. Prerequisite: POLS 2303, or permission of the instructor.

PJ -4303. Seminar in Political Science

Designed as an upper-level seminar for students of Political Science, this course will focus on theories of comparative politics and their application to a major issue of interest to the discipline. Prerequisites: POLS 2303 and 2313, or permission of the instructor.

International Relations and Foreign Policy

PJ -1603. International Relations

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.

► **J, -2603.** *Globalization and the American Dream*

This course will examine economic and political integration theory in relation to theories of globalization, using the European Union and the Americas as central cases. The course will analyze, in depth, the issues of social justice, labour and environmental standards, poverty, gender issues, capitalism, and social democracy. This course will have online interactive features and may be taught in collaboration with other universities.

► **J, -2613.** *International Relations Theory*

This course introduces students to International Relations (IR) theory, with a focus on the mainstream theories in the field, namely realism and its variants, and liberalism and constructivism. These theories are illustrated and developed through the use of case studies and examinations of the institutions and structures of the international system. Prerequisite: POLS 1013, or permission of the instructor.

► **J, -2623.** *Critical Theory in International Relations*

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.

► **J, -3313.** *Foreign Policy of the United States*

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.

► **J, -3503.** *Human Rights in International Relations* (— **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 humani(ound such is

▶ J. -3533. International Relations

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.

▶ J. -3603. The United Nations

This course will examine the UN as an international political institution, its structure and processes in the context of contemporary and enduring issues of world politics, including peace, security, development, and environmental sustainability.

▶ J. -3513. Model United Nations (3.253)

This course will prepare students for participation in a Model United Nations, either Canadian or American sponsored. In a model UN simulation, students represent an assigned country's foreign policy on assigned issues on the UN agenda. The course will begin with an examination of the UN and its procedures. Subsequent topics will include researching the assigned UN issues and the assigned country's policy on them, preparation of working papers and motions, and strategies for effective conference participation. Fund raising for the trip required; half credit course, but meets first and second terms; limited enrolment.

▶ J. -4603. Seminar in International Relations

This is a seminar directed primarily at senior Political Science students.

Special Topics

► J. -3003. *Special Topics*

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and particular needs of students.

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Honours

► J. -3903. *Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods*

An introduction to quantitative research methods and descriptive statistics as applied to the study of political phenomena. In addition to covering basic statistical principles, the course focuses on key issues related to research design, sampling and case selection, measurement and operationalization, data collection and analysis, and the communication and interpretation of results. Pre-requisites: At least 9 credit hours in Political Science or permission of the instructor.

► J. -3913. *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.

► J. -4903. *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.

► J. -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

► J. -4003/4013. *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.