

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 enrol in one or more of the courses offered. There are no prerequisites, except where specifically indicated.

Major in Political Science

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

For Canadian Politics and Government, the 6 credit requirement is satisfied by completing one or more of POLS 2106, 3103, 3113, 3123, 3133, and/or 3203.

For International Relations and Foreign Policy, the 6 credit requirement is satisfied by completing one or more of POLS 2606, 3513, 3523, and/or 4603.

For Comparative Politics, the 6 credit requirement is satisfied by completing POLS 2303 and 2313.

For Political Philosophy, the 6 credit requirement is satisfied by completing POLS 2806.

Students majoring in Political Science are strongly encouraged to take POLS 4903 Capstone Seminar – Problems in Political Inquiry, and PHIL 2513 Introduction to Logic.

Minor in Political Science

The Minor in Political Science requires 6 credit hours at the introductory level and 12 credit hours from at least two different fields of Political Science.

Honours

An Honours BA in Political Science consists of 54 credit hours in Political Science, including:

POLS 2106	Canadian Government and Politics
POLS 2606	International Relations and Foreign Policy
POLS 2303	Comparative Politics of the Developed World
POLS 2313	Comparative Politics of Developing Areas
POLS 2806	The Western Tradition of Political Philosophy
POLS 3913	Honours Thesis Proposal
POLS 4903	Capstone Seminar – Problems in Political Inquiry
POLS 4923	Honours Thesis

In addition, students must take another 3 credit hours at the 4000 level. Of the remaining courses, two must be at the 3000 or 4000 level.

Honours students are strongly encouraged to take MATH 1103 Introduction to Mathematical Reasoning.

Candidates will be 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 must complete Political Science 3913 with a minimum grade of B before they may enroll in Political Science 4923, which they must also complete with a minimum grade of B.

Students in Political Science may count the following Great Ideas courses toward their Major or Honours programs: GRID 2012, 3206, and 3306. However, each of these courses counts for only 3 credits in their Political Science programmes.

Introductory Courses

1003. Foundations of Liberal Democracy

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fundamental principles of the liberal democratic political regime. The course will be divided into three main components: a discussion of liberalism; a discussion of equality; and an examination of how liberal democratic principles are incorporated into parliamentary and congressional political regimes. 3 credit hours.

1006. Introduction to Political Science

This course is normally taught as part of the Aquinas Programme. 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. 6 credit hours.

1013. Law, Power, and Politics

This course provides an introduction to the concepts of citizenship, the rule of law, political obligation, civil disobedience, and revolution. It will involve the study of power in terms of the forms of domination and the concept of legitimacy. We shall explore questions such as "why obey the law?" and "what are the legitimate limits of government authority?" 3 credit hours.

1103. Law, Power, and Canadian Politics

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. 3 credit hours.

1113. Politics and Women

This course is concerned with women's approach to democratic citizenship. It establishes the historical and conceptual basis of the problem of citizenship for women against which it discusses women's political participation and the feminist critiques of it. 3 credit hours.

1603. Law, Power, and Global Politics

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. 3 credit hours.

Canadian Government and Politics

2106. Canadian Politics

This course examines some of the perennial problems in Canadian political life — French-English relations, regional discontent, federalism, multiculturalism, electoral politics, and institutional reform. Prerequisite: POLS 1103 or permission of the instructor. 6 credit hours.

3103. Political Parties and Elections in Canada

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 Québécois) are also considered. 3 credit hours.

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. 3 credit hours.

3123. The Canadian Constitution: Federalism (CRIM 3233)

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. 3 credit hours.

3133. The Canadian Constitution: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms (CRIM)

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 decision and student presentations. 3 credit hours.

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. 3 credit hours.

3206. Public Administration

This course is designed to introduce students to the theory and practice of public administration. The course consists of two semesters of classroom instruction in the theory of public administration. Attention will also be given to the development of skills necessary for use in the civil service. 6 credit hours.

3213. New Brunswick Politics

This course introduces students to the institutions and politics of New Brunswick. Issues discussed may include the development of the modern state in New Brunswick, the accommodation of religion and language, party politics, leadership, intergovernmental relations, and the province's place in Canadian politics. 3 credit hours.

4103. Seminar in Canadian Government and Politics

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 2106 or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

4106. Nationalism in French Canada (Seminar) (HIST 4856)

This course will examine the changing interpretations of nationalism in French Canada during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and their effect on the development of the present-day

province of Quebec. Prerequisite: Canadian survey or Quebec history course. 6 credit hours.

Comparative Government and Politics

2303. Comparative Politics of the Developed World

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: 6 credits in Political Science or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2313. Comparative Politics of the Developing Areas

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: 6 credits in Political Science or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

2323. Religion and Politics (RELG 2183)

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. 3 credit hours.

3303. U.S. Government and Politics

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, will be examined in a debate format. 3 credit hours.

3313. U.S. Foreign Policy

This course examines the foreign policy of the United States of America. We will examine 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 U.S. economic policy in an era of globalization will be explored. Central to the course will be an investigation of the relationship of the U.S. to other major powers and to international institutions. 3 credit hours.

3403. Government and Politics of Western Europe

Countries studied are the United Kingdom, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany. Emphasis is placed on the political history, political culture, institutions of government and politics (especially political parties), and current issues. 3 credit hours.

3413. The European Union and “Europe”

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. 3 credit hours.

4303. Seminar in Comparative Politics

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. Prerequisite: POLS 2303 and 2313, or permission of the instructor. 3 credit hours.

International Relations and Foreign Policy

2603. Political and Economic Integration in the Americas

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. 3 credit hours.

2606. International Relations

This course provides students with a comprehensive overview of the basic theories of international relations in the 20th century, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, and critical theories. The course discusses these theories in relation to major issues and problems in the contemporary international system, such as environmental issues, nuclear proliferation, and culture in world politics. 6 credit hours.

3506. Human Rights in International Relations and Foreign Policy (NATI)

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. 6 credit hours.

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. 3 credit hours.

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. 3 credit hours.

3603. The United Nations

This course emphasizes the role of international organizations in international politics; that is, the UN is seen as part of international politics, and our interest lies in its policies as well as in its structure and processes. In addition, discussion of problems such as finance and membership, and a range of international political issues involving the UN will be discussed. These will include the maintenance of international peace and security, development, population, and the environment. Each topic will include selected case studies such as the Middle East, the debt crisis, and the elaboration of UN programmes on population and the environment. 3 credit hours.

3613. Model United Nations

This course will prepare students for participation in a Model United Nations, either Canadian or American sponsored. In a model UN 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. 3 credit hours.

4603. Seminar in International Relations

This is a seminar directed primarily at senior Political Science Majors and Honours students. The specific topic of the seminar will change from year to year, but will consider, in depth, an issue or issues in international relations. Students will be expected to do advanced research and to present and defend their work in class. Prerequisite: POLS 2606 or permission of the instructor.

Political Philosophy**2703. Philosophy of Human Rights (HMRT 3033) (PHIL 3313) (CRIM 2703)**

This course will introduce to students philosophical questions concerning the foundations of human rights. On what are human rights based? What makes something a human right? Are human rights universally and permanently valid or is the notion of human rights merely a construct of Western culture? The course will familiarize students with alternative theoretical answers to these and other related questions. 3 credit hours.

2806. The Western Tradition of Political Philosophy (PHIL 3306)

This course will introduce students to the following seminal texts in the Western political tradition: Plato, *The Republic*; The Apology of Socrates; Aristotle, *The Politics*; Machiavelli, *The Prince*; Hobbes, *Leviathan*; Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*; Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality*; Marx, *1844 Manuscripts*; Communist Manifesto; Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*. Prerequisite: 6 credit hours in POLS at the 1000 level or permission of the instructor. 6 credit hours.

3706. Shakespeare and Politics (ENGL 3706)

This course will explore the works of Shakespeare in the context of Renaissance political thought as reflected in his plays and in early modern political texts. We will focus on the plays, although Shakespeare's non-dramatic works may be included, as well as modern film adaptations. Prerequisite: ENGL 1006 or permission of instructors. 6 credit hours.

3813. Classical Political Philosophy

In this course, students will engage in an intensive study of a small number of texts by some of the following authors: Herodotus, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Plato, Xenophon, and Aristotle. Among the problems to be considered are: the nature of justice, the character of the best regime, the good life for a human being, and the relationship between the individual and the political community. Prerequisite: POLS 2806. 3 credit hours.

3823. Modern Political Philosophy

The focus of this course is on the problems modern political philosophy has confronted in attempting to show how nature can be used as a standard for judging the best life and the just political order. The writings of one or two of the following authors will be considered: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Burke, Jefferson, Nietzsche, and Heidegger. Prerequisite: POLS 2806. 3 credit hours.

Honours**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. At the end of the course, students will be required to present and defend their proposals before their classmates and the full-time members of the Department of Political Science. 3 credit hours, September to April.

4903. Capstone Seminar - Problems in Political Inquiry

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. 3 credit hours.

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 4913, "Honours Thesis Proposal," with a minimum grade of "B" to be eligible for POLS 4923. 3 credit hours, first semester.

Independent Study**4003, 4013, 4006. 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. 3 or 6 credit hours, depending on the project.

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.