

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 the Political Science offerings.

POLS 4923 Honours Thesis

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-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-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.

POLS-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.

POLS-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. Prerequisites: POLS 2303 and 2313, or permission of the instructor.

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.

POLS-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 2613 or 2623, or permission of the instructor.

Political Philosophy

POLS-2703. Philosophy of Human Rights

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

of the best regime, the good life for a human being, and the relationship between the individual and the political community. Prerequisites: POLS 2803 (or 2806), or permission of the instructor.

POLS-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. Prerequisites: POLS 2803 and 2813 (or 2806), or permission of the instructor.

POLS-3833. Women in Western Political Thought

An examination of selected texts in ancient and modern political philosophy focusing on understanding both historical and current accounts of the role of women in the political community. Texts will vary from year to year but may include Aristotle's *Politics*, Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*, Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*, Engels' *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, and Firestone's *The Body Politic*.

POLS-3843. Catholic Social Teaching and Contemporary Issues (CATH)

Rooted in scripture, philosophy, and theology, Catholic social teaching proposes principles of justice that emphasize the dignity of the human person, the value of economic and political institutions, and the importance of a common good. This course analyses these principles and their application to contemporary social, political, and economic issues, through particular reference to official documents of the Catholic Church. Prerequisite: CATH 2003 or permission of the instructor.

POLS-4803. Seminar in Political Philosophy

This course will involve the intensive study of a theme or an author or authors in the history of political philosophy. Students will be expected to engage in advanced study and to make regular presentations to the class. Prerequisites: POLS 2803 and 2813 (or 2806), or permission of the instructor.

Honours

POLS-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.

POLS-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.

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.