

STUDENT HANDBOOK, 2025-26

Department of Political Science St. Francis Xavier University

The purpose of this Handbook is to assist students in choosing and planning their academic program in political science, particularly with respect to course selection and progression. The guideline covers the degree programs, options, and requirements that are specific to the Department of Political Science. For the University and Faculty of Arts-related requirements, students should consult the Academic Calendar.

FACULTY

	Subfields	Research Areas
Nathan Allen Associate Professor & Chair	Comparative Politics International Relations	Political economy, public opinion, institutions, methods
Jim Bickerton Professor	Canadian Politics	Federalism, regionalism, regional development, parties & elections
Youngwon Cho Associate Professor	International Relations Comparative Politics	International political economy, financial globalization, international institutions, East Asia
Jamie Levin Associate Professor	International Relations Political Theory	International security, disarmament, Arab-Israeli relations
Hailey Murphy Assistant Professor (limited term)	Canadian Politics, Political Theory & Feminist Politics	Progressive movements, Women & LGBTQ2+ persons
Igor Shoikhet Assistant Professor	Political Theory	History of political thought, legal theory, law and political economy, theoretical foundations of human rights
Lavinia Stan Professor	Comparative Politics	Transitional justice, religion & politics, European politics
Rebecca Wallace Assistant Professor	Canadian Politics	Institutions, media, gender, immigration, multiculturalism, methods

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department offers the following BA degree programs in political science:

- Major
- Advanced Major
- Honours
- Joint Major
- Joint Advanced Major
- Honours with Subsidiary

Political science is comprised of various subfields, and the Department provides a full coverage of the four main subfields of the discipline as the following:

- **Political Theory** studies the great political thinkers and ideas from the classics of political thought to contemporary debates about freedom, equality, rights, identity, community, and justice.
- **Canadian Politics** examines politics in Canada, how the institutions and processes of governance work in this country, and how the Canadian government is influenced by pressures and demands from the broader society in a global setting.
- **Comparative Politics** explores the evolution and diversity of governments and governance systems in developing and developed countries, examining similarities and differences in governance and politics in various countries and regions in the world.
- **International Relations** studies politics at the global level, examining relations among states and non-state actors such as transnational corporations and international organizations, the nature of institutions and power in the global arena, politics of international economic exchanges, and questions of war and peace.

Students interested in getting a broad exposure to political science can take a mixture of courses across the four subfields to attain the breadth of the discipline. For students wishing to structure their program for greater subfield specialization and depth, the Department offers an optional concentration in each of the four subfields. Additionally, the Department also offers, together with the Department of Philosophy, an optional joint concentration in Law, Ethics, and Politics.

Major and Joint Major¹

A total of 36 credits of PSCI is required, including:

- PSCI 101 and 102
- 9 credits from the following subfield survey courses: PSCI 201, 202, 211, 212, 221, 222, 251, and 252
- 18 credits at the 300 level or above, including 3 credits from PSCI 397 or 399
- 3 additional credits at the 200 level or above

Advanced Major and Joint Advanced Major¹

A total of 36 credits of PSCI is required, including:

- PSCI 101 and 102
- 9 credits from the following subfield survey courses: PSCI 201, 202, 211, 212, 221, 222, 251, and 252
- 18 credits at the 300 level or above, including PSCI 397 or 399 and 6 credits of 400-level seminars
- Advanced major paper in a 400-level seminar
- 3 additional credits at the 200 level or above

¹ The Handbook shows the degree requirements for students who started at StFX in 2020-2021 or later. If you started before the 2020-2021 academic year, please contact the Chair of the Political Science Department to check your requirements.

Starting in the **2025-2026** academic year, you are required to add additional breadth to your degree. Please see Academic Calendar 4.1.3. for specifics.

Honours¹

A total of 60 credits of PSCI is required, including:

- a) PSCI 101 and 102
- b) 12 credits from the following subfield survey courses: PSCI 201, 202, 211, 212, 221, 222, 251, and 252
- c) 24 credits at the 300 level or above, including PSCI 397 and 399, 6 credits of 400-level seminars, and 6 credits from honours thesis (PSCI 490)
- d) 18 additional credits at the 200 level or above

Honours with Subsidiary¹

A total of 48 credits of PSCI is required, including:

- a) PSCI 101 and 102
- b) 12 credits from the following subfield survey courses: PSCI 201, 202, 211, 212, 221, 222, 251, and 252
- c) 24 credits at the 300 level or above, including PSCI 397 and 399, 6 credits of 400-level seminars, and 6 credits from honours thesis (PSCI 490)
- d) 6 additional credits at the 200 level or above

COURSE SELECTION AND PROGRESSION

Course selection and progression patterns are dependent on a student's specific program of study. In general, the first two years are meant to give students an introductory exposure to the discipline of political science and its various subfields. All political science students should take PSCI 101 and 102 in their first year, and at minimum 9-12 credits of 200-level courses in their second year.

When selecting 200-level courses, students should keep in mind that nearly all our upper-year courses (300 and 400 levels) are subfield-based—i.e., they are advanced courses in political theory, Canadian politics, comparative politics, or international relations. Getting sufficient subfield grounding is critical to progressing successfully to the upper-year courses; students should therefore take in their second year at least 9 credits (for majors and advanced majors) or 12 credits (for honours and honours with subsidiary) from the following 200-level courses:

Course	Subfield
PSCI 201 Ancient & Medieval Political Thought PSCI 202 Modern Political Thought	Political Theory
PSCI 211 Comparative Politics of Western Democracies PSCI 212 Comparative Politics of Non-Western & Developing Countries	Comparative Politics
PSCI 221 Canadian Political Institutions PSCI 222 Canadian Politics & Society	Canadian Politics
PSCI 251 Foundations of Global Politics PSCI 252 Contemporary Global Politics	International Relations

Note that the 200-level subfield survey courses come in pairs. While students pursuing a general degree can take any combination of these courses to meet their credit requirements, it is recommended that they

take a complete pair in at least one subfield. Students pursuing a subfield concentration must take both survey courses in their chosen subfield.

At 300 and 400 levels, the Department offers a wide range of advanced, more specialized courses. Students have a greater leeway to tailor their course selection to their interests, but they should ensure that their course selection will enable them to meet the requirements specific to their program of study.

When planning progression through the upper years, students should keep in mind the following important points:

1. Typically, 300-level courses are not offered every year.
2. Our 400-level seminars are the most advanced undergraduate courses and should therefore be taken in the fourth year unless there is a compelling reason to do otherwise. Seminars in Canadian politics (PSCI 421), comparative politics (PSCI 452), and international relations (PSCI 451) are offered every year; political theory seminar (PSCI 401) is offered less frequently.
3. The Department offers two sequential methods courses: PSCI 397 Research Design in Political Science and PSCI 399 Quantitative Methods in Political Science. Majors and advanced majors should take at least 3 credits of methods (typically PSCI 397), while honours students must take the full 6-credit sequence. All political science students are highly recommended to take PSCI 397 in their third year, so as to benefit fully from the training for the remainder of their study. Honours students, and major and advanced major students wishing to acquire further methods training and skills, should take PSCI 399 in the year it is offered.
4. Advanced major students are required to write a senior paper in their fourth year. Approximately 6,000 words in length, senior papers are normally written as part of the coursework in a 400-level seminar, to be supervised and evaluated by the faculty member teaching the seminar. Advanced major students should therefore consult the seminar instructor as soon as the course begins.
5. Honours theses are written as a 6-credit “course” (PSCI 490) over the entire span of the fourth year. Although the actual writing normally does not start until the fall of the senior year, students should begin thinking about possible thesis topics earlier, consult potential supervisors (advisors should be continuing faculty members of the Department), and settle on their topic and supervisor by the end of their third year. See the Department’s Honours Thesis Student Handbook for more detailed information.

OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS

Students wishing to pursue a more focused program of study may choose one of our five optional concentrations: 1) political theory; 2) Canadian politics; 3) comparative politics; 4) international relations; and 5) ethics, politics, and law. In addition to providing a more structured progression path for students interested in a particular subfield or area, these concentrations are also designed to help them attain greater depth and specialization, particularly for those planning to pursue graduate studies in political science, international affairs, public administration, law, or other related disciplines. Concentration requirements are met by taking courses from the list of designated courses as outlined below. Topics courses, if relevant, may count toward a concentration, but students must obtain the Chair’s approval. Note that while each concentration has specific credit requirements, these requirements are not additional to the credits required for a degree program such as major, advanced major, or honours; instead, all credits earned for a concentration also count toward fulfilling the degree requirements.

Concentration in Political Theory

For majors and joint majors, 18 credits of political theory are required, including:

- a) PSCI 201 and 202
- b) 12 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level or above: PSCI 301, 302, 303, 306, 308, 343, and 401

For advanced majors and joint advanced majors, 18 credits of political theory are required, including:

- a) PSCI 201, 202, and 401
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 301, 302, 303, 306, 308, and 343
- c) PSCI 401
- d) Advanced major paper in PSCI 401

For honours and honours with subsidiary, 24 credits of political theory are required, including:

- a) PSCI 201, 202, and 401
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 301, 302, 303, 306, 308, and 343
- c) PSCI 401
- d) Honours thesis (PSCI 490) in political theory

Concentration in Canadian Politics

For majors and joint majors, 18 credits of Canadian politics are required, including:

- a) PSCI 221 and 222
- b) 12 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level or above: PSCI 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 343, 344, 351, and 421

For advanced majors and joint advanced majors, 18 credits of Canadian politics are required, including:

- a) PSCI 221 and 222
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 343, 344, and 351
- c) PSCI 421
- d) Advanced major paper in PSCI 421

For honours and honours with a subsidiary, 24 credits of Canadian politics are required, including:

- a) PSCI 221 and 222
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 343, 344, and 351
- c) PSCI 421
- d) Honours thesis (PSCI 490) in Canadian politics

Concentration in Comparative Politics

For majors and joint majors, 18 credits of comparative politics are required, including:

- a) PSCI 211 and 212
- b) 12 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level or above: PSCI 312, 314, 315, 316, 318, 331, 335, 336, 345, 365, 371, 372, 391, 395, and 452

For advanced majors and joint advanced majors, 18 credits of comparative politics are required, including:

- a) PSCI 211 and 212
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 312, 314, 315, 316, 318, 331, 335, 336, 345, 365, 371, 372, 391, and 395
- c) PSCI 452
- d) Advanced major paper in PSCI 452

For honours and honours with subsidiary, 24 credits of comparative politics are required, including:

- a) PSCI 211 and 212
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 312, 314, 315, 316, 318, 331, 335, 336, 345, 365, 371, 372, 391, and 395
- c) PSCI 452
- d) Honours thesis (PSCI 490) in comparative politics

Concentration in International Relations

For majors and joint majors, 18 credits of international relations are required, including:

- a) PSCI 251 and 252
- b) 12 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level or above: PSCI 311, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 363, 364, and 451

For advanced majors and joint advanced majors, 18 credits of international relations are required, including:

- a) PSCI 251 and 252
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 311, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 363, and 364
- c) PSCI 451
- d) Advanced major paper in PSCI 451

For honours and honours with subsidiary, 24 credits of international relations are required, including:

- a) PSCI 251 and 252
- b) 9 credits from the following designated courses at the 300 level: PSCI 311, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 363, and 364
- c) PSCI 451
- d) Honours thesis (PSCI 490) in international relations

Joint Concentration in Ethics, Politics, and Law

This joint concentration is open to students pursuing a joint degree in political science and philosophy (joint majors, joint advanced majors, or honours with a subsidiary). Students in this stream must meet the credit requirements of both departments, including:

- a) PSCI 343
- b) 12 credits from the following designated PSCI courses: 301, 302, 303, 306, 308, 321, 325, 335, 343, 344, 353
- c) PHIL 251, 331, and 372
- d) 3 credits from PHIL 201, 202, and 371

Concentration Designated Courses

Political Theory

PSCI 201 Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
PSCI 202 Modern Political Thought
PSCI 301 Liberalism & Its Critics
PSCI 302 Marxism and Its Critics
PSCI 303 Controversies in Contemporary Political Thought
PSCI 306 Theory & Politics of Human Rights
PSCI 308 Global Justice
PSCI 401 Political Theory Seminar

Canadian Politics

PSCI 221 Canadian Political Institutions
PSCI 222 Canadian Politics & Society
PSCI 319 Political Communications & Media
PSCI 321 Federalism & Intergovernmental Relations
PSCI 322 Atlantic Canada
PSCI 323 Parties & Elections
PSCI 324 Provincial Politics
PSCI 325 Indigenous Politics in Canada
PSCI 326 Politics of Resentment in Canada
PSCI 327 The Gendered Campaign
PSCI 343 Law & Politics
PSCI 344 Citizenship, Identity and Diversity
PSCI 351 Canadian Foreign Policy
PSCI 367 Local Government
PSCI 421 Canadian Politics Seminar

Comparative Politics

PSCI 211 Comparative Politics of Western Democracies
PSCI 212 Comparative Politics of Non-Western and Developing Countries
PSCI 312 Art & Politics
PSCI 314 Topics in European Politics
PSCI 315 Democratization around the World
PSCI 316 Dictatorships

PSCI 318 Power and the State
PSCI 331 Comparative Nationalism
PSCI 335 Human Rights & International Justice
PSCI 336 Religion & Politics
PSCI 345 Women & Politics
PSCI 365 Russian Politics
PSCI 371 Political Economy of Development
PSCI 372 Politics in the Muslim World
PSCI 391 Latin American Politics & Government
PSCI 395 Mexican Politics
PSCI 452 Comparative Politics Seminar

International Relations

PSCI 251 Foundations of Global Politics
PSCI 252 Contemporary Global Politics
PSCI 308 Global Justice
PSCI 311 European Union
PSCI 351 Canadian Foreign Policy
PSCI 352 American Foreign Policy
PSCI 353 International Organizations
PSCI 354 Global Political Economy
PSCI 355 Global Issues
PSCI 356 Arab-Israeli Conflict
PSCI 357 Model United Nations
PSCI 358 International Security
PSCI 359 Unconventional Warfare
PSCI 363 International Relations of East Asia
PSCI 364 Fault Lines in Israel/Palestine
PSCI 451 International Relations Seminar

Ethics, Politics, and Law

PSCI 301 Liberalism and Its Critics
PSCI 302 Marxism and Its Critics
PSCI 303 Controversies in Contemporary Political Theory
PSCI 306 Theory & Politics of Human Rights
PSCI 308 Global Justice
PSCI 321 Federalism
PSCI 325 Indigenous Politics in Canada
PSCI 335 Human Rights & International Justice
PSCI 343 Law & Politics
PSCI 344 Citizenship & Diversity
PSCI 353 International Organization

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

101 Introduction to Power and Politics

This course provides a basic introduction to the study of politics by exploring key concepts, ideas and debates that are important for understanding political life. Topics covered include the nature of politics, varieties and dimensions of political power, political authority and the state. Students will be introduced to both traditional and contemporary political ideologies. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 101 or PSCI 100. Three credits.

102 Introduction to Comparative and Global Politics

International relations and national politics shape political life today. This course examines various forms of government and compares political systems and processes, electoral systems, and public policies. It introduces students to the international state system and relations among states, covering topics such as cooperation and conflict, alliances and international organizations, war and peace, the global economy and contemporary global issues. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 102 or PSCI 100. Three credits.

201 Ancient and Medieval Political Thought

A critical textual analysis of ancient and medieval thinkers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas and Augustine, with emphasis on their political thought. This course will stress the continuing relevance of these thinkers to current politics and the search for the just society. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 201 or PSCI 200. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Cross-listed as PHIL 201. Three credits.

202 Modern Political Thought

A critical textual analysis of modern thinkers such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Mill, and Marx, with emphasis on their political thought. This course will stress the continuing relevance of these thinkers to current politics and the search for the just society. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 202 or PSCI 200. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Cross-listed as PHIL 202. Three credits.

211 Comparative Politics of Western Democracies

This course covers comparative politics and/or regional politics as a field of study, and prepares students for upper level courses in the field. It will present the basic methodological and theoretical tools in the field and take a close look at countries whose political institutions, culture, and policies are similar or closely related to Canada's. These countries may include Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Sweden, or Australia, among others. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 211 or PSCI 210. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Three credits.

212 Comparative Politics of Non-Western and Developing Countries

This course covers comparative politics and/or regional politics as a field of study, and prepares students for upper-level courses in the field. It examines the evolution and diversity of governments in countries whose political institutions, culture, policies differ from Canada's. These countries may include Russia, China, Brazil, Japan, Iran, India or Nigeria, among others. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 212 or PSCI 210. Prerequisites: PSCI 101, 102. Three credits.

221 Canadian Political Institutions

This course covers the key political structures and institutions of the Canadian state (the Constitution, the political executive, parliament, federalism, intergovernmental relations, the public service, and the courts) which constrain, shape, and give impetus to Canadian politics, governance,

and decision-making. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 221 or PSCI 220. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Three credits.

222 Canadian Politics and Society

This course covers the cultural and regional context of how citizens interact with the Canadian state. Topics covered include political parties, elections, advocacy groups, and other forms of political participation, the role of the media, and the implications for the political process of key social divisions such as gender, language, and race. Language politics, multicultural groups, the women's movement and aboriginal peoples will receive attention. The course concludes with a discussion of Canada's place in the world. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 222 or 220. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Three credits.

231 United States Politics

This course introduces U.S. government with a focus on the historical development of American political institutions. It examines the U.S. federal system and constitutional development, as well as executive, legislative, and judicial powers with particular attention to the founding and its enduring legacy in American political culture. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 231 or PSCI 230. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Three credits.

241 Business and Government

This course examines the historical roots and the current contours of the business-government relationship. While the focus is on Canada, conditions in other advanced capitalist states will also be considered. Topics include the mechanisms of business power, the micro-politics of industries and case studies of corporate-state relations. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 240 or PSCI 241. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Three credits.

251 Foundations of Global Politics

This course examines international relations as a field of study, offering a comprehensive survey of the conceptual, theoretical, and historical foundations of global politics. It provides students with a wide range of analytical and interpretive tools to make sense of global politics and prepare them for more advanced courses in International Relations. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 251 or PSCI 250. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Three credits.

252 Contemporary Global Politics

This course examines a set of contemporary problems and issues in global politics, focusing primarily on security-related questions, the politics of international economic relations, and transnationalism. Among the topics examined are: international security, nuclear deterrence and proliferation, humanitarian intervention, terrorism, economic globalization and its consequences, the problem of poverty and development for the global South, environmental challenges, new transnational actors, and global governance. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 252 or PSCI 250. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. PSCI 251 recommended. Three credits.

291 Violence, Conflict, and Politics

An introduction to the comparative study of types of collective political violence: war, terrorism, ethnic or identity-based conflicts, coup d'état, revolution, civil war, and genocide. Specific case studies are examined along with the main theoretical approaches in the field. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100. Three credits.

301 Liberalism and Its Critics

A critical study of liberal political theory, its basic concepts and its limitations in a multi-cultural age. Theorists considered include: John Stuart Mill, John Rawls, Joseph Raz, Charles Taylor, John Gray

and Wendy Brown. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 201 & 202 or 200 recommended). Three credits.

302 Marxism and Its Critics

A study of Marxism as a critical theory and a critique of political economy. The course will discuss Marx, Engels, Kautsky, Bernstein, Luxemburg, Lenin, Trotsky, Gramsci, Lukacs, Pashukanis, Bloch, Habermas, Arendt, Popper, Hayek, Kolakowski, Cohen, and Mills, among other Marxist thinkers and critics. Themes will include the interplay between social science, philosophy, politics, economics, ethics, law, revolution, and social transformation. Prerequisites: PSCI 101, 102 and 3 credits of PSCI at the 200 level (202 recommended). Three credits.

303 Controversies in Contemporary Political Thought

Critical study of the major ideas and issues in contemporary political theory, focused on assessing and engaging central moral debates in domestic and global politics. Emphasis will be placed on applying political theories and concepts to examine real-world cases. Main themes: political authority and obligation, democracy, multiculturalism, war and intervention, environment, gender and power. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 201 & 202 or 200 recommended). Three credits.

306 Theory and Politics of Human Rights

This course critically examines the theory and politics of human rights, including conceptual, historical, legal, and practical controversies surrounding human rights and the institutions that have been designed to protect them. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 201 & 202 or 200 recommended). Three credits.

308 Global Justice

This course critically explores political theories of global justice that fall in both the statist or nationalist camp and the cosmopolitan camp, along with rights-based approaches that address pressing global concerns through the lens of political philosophy, including global gender justice, world poverty and global responsibility, democracy and global governance, the ethics and politics of global migration, animal rights, climate change and intergenerational justice, and indigenous struggles. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 201 & 202 or 200 recommended). Three credits.

311 The European Union

This course examines European integration since World War II, with emphasis on the European Community (EC) and the European Union (EU), their institutions and policy processes, and the consequences of European unity for the political process in European societies. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

312 Art and Politics

This course introduces students to what modern artists have to say about politics and what governments do and say about art. It provides some of the historical and theoretical tools needed to analyze the political role of art in our time. Students will examine literary works, painting, music, and architecture, and discuss specific policies on art. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 or 210 recommended). Cross-listed as ART 312. Three credits.

314 Topics in European Politics

This course examines themes and issues relevant to European politics and societies, ranging from political institutional arrangements, state-society relations, and the role of civil society and social capital to public policy, immigration, church-state relations, security, as well as the EU enlargement and Neighborhood Policy. By examining different European countries, Europe as a whole and the European Union, students are encouraged to develop their own project to understand politics in that region. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 314 or PSCI 310. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

315 Democratization around the World

This course investigates the problems facing countries from different parts of the world that have sought to move from non-democratic political systems to democracy. Students will learn the social, cultural and economic conditions necessary for the process of democratization; analyze the institutional structures and constitutional designs most conducive to the transition from authoritarianism to democracy; and consider the consequences of democratization for development. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

316 Dictatorships

This course introduces students to the nature and varieties of dictatorships in our time by examining their causes of emergence, what sustains them, and why they (sometimes) fall. This comparative politics course covers cases of dictatorial rule in countries such as China, Cuba, Egypt, North Korea, Russia, and Rwanda. Students will examine the political institutions and the public policies (e.g. economic, cultural, human rights) of dictatorships. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

318 Power and the State

The state is a central concept within the social sciences and one of the most significant sources of power in the modern world. Despite this, states today appear increasingly in crisis, with their very legitimacy questioned. In this course, we will explore the development of the modern state in order to better understand our present. Topics include: the power of disinformation; surveillance; Trump; and Black Lives Matter. The course concludes with a reflection on democracy. Cross-listed as SOCI 308. Prerequisites: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200-level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

319 Political Communications and Media

This course examines political communications and their impact on public opinion and political behaviour, with a particular focus on Canadian media. The course will explore key themes, including: news construction and the media landscape, media effects and public opinion; mass media, social media, and political entertainment; and political communications on campaigns. Cross-listed as PGOV 319. Prerequisite: PGOV 101 or PSCI 101; or permission of the instructor. Three credits.

321 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations

This course examines the theory and practice of federalism, with a focus on Canadian federalism. Topics include theories of federalism, comparative federal systems, inter-governmental relations, fiscal arrangements, federal- provincial diplomacy, and constitutional reform. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

322 Atlantic Canada

A course on modern government and politics in the four Atlantic provinces. Regional development and dependence are the themes within which students will explore federal-provincial relations, fiscal and administrative changes, development policies, political culture, and party systems. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

323 Parties and Elections

This course is concerned with parties and elections in Canada. Topics include party and electoral systems; intra-party politics and political personnel; party financing; representation and policy development; political marketing, campaigns and voting behaviour. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

324 Provincial Politics

A comparative study of the differing political cultures, institutions, behaviour, and public policies of the Canadian provinces. Students will seek explanations for the similarities and differences in the social and economic structures and political histories of the provinces. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

325 Indigenous Politics in Canada

An introductory course to Indigenous politics and governance, this course will cover the history of Aboriginal-Crown relations, the political mobilization of Aboriginal Peoples and the constitutional entrenchment of their rights, key court decisions and political struggles, and the governance challenges of the contemporary era. Topics to be covered include the treaty process, the Indian Act, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspectives, citizenship and sovereignty, land claims and modern treaties, and forms of self-government. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

326 Politics of Resentment in Canada

This course examines the politics of resentment in Canada, focusing on intergroup conflict and divisions within the Canadian federation. The course will explore the major “fault lines” that shape Canadian politics, including tensions regarding language, regionalism, race and immigration, Indigenous relations, and gender equality. We will also assess how Canadian political institutions—including the electoral system, party system, courts, media, and more—respond and/or contribute to such tensions. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

327 The Gendered Campaign: Women and Political Officeholding

This course will examine women as candidates and leaders in contemporary elections, broadly exploring the framing of women as political officeholders. Focusing on women’s pathways to politics in Canada and abroad, we will reflect on the unique opportunities and barriers that women face in seeking political careers and their issues in office. Special attention will be paid to intersectionally throughout the course and challenging assumptions about “male norms” in the political realm. Cross-listed as WNGS 331. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 or WNGS 100, 3 credits at the 200 level. Three credits.

331 Comparative Nationalism

An analysis of the historical origins of nationalism and of its central concepts and justifications. Both Western and non-Western nationalism (focusing on four or more cases) will be examined in a comparative context. Evidence for the recent decline of the nation state will be explored. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 331 or PSCI 330. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

335 Human Rights and International Justice

Human rights and international justice are important components of politics. This course examines the theoretical and practical concerns shaping the study and promotion of human rights today. Using a variety of material and case studies, we examine the debate over whether rights are universal; the institutions and organizations enforcing human rights; and the role states play in protecting human rights. A strong component of this class is state responses to massive human rights violations. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

336 Religion and Politics

An examination of the impact of religion on politics and politics on religion. Students will consider the relationship between religion and politics in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America. Case studies will demonstrate interactions between the state and Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism, as well as the influence of religion on citizenship, education, the party system, and social issues. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 336 or PSCI 295. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Cross-listed as RELS 336. Three credits.

343 Law and Politics

This course explores the role of the courts in politics, particularly in Canada. Possible topics include recent constitutional developments; the impact of the Charter of Rights; the judicialization of politics; philosophy of law; and strategic litigation. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

344 Citizenship, Identity, and Diversity

This course examines various aspects of Canadian citizenship, identity, and diversity. Topics include citizenship theory, the evolution of the Canadian citizenship regime, processes of citizenization, majority and minority nationalisms, Aboriginal citizenship and multiculturalism. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

345 Women and Politics

An introduction to the study of women and politics, this course has three parts: feminist political thought and the women's movement; political participation and representation; and public policy. Topics include feminist political thought in the Western political tradition; the evolution and politics of the women's movement; political parties and legislatures; women and work; women and the welfare state. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Cross-listed as WMGS 345. Three credits.

351 Canadian Foreign Policy

This course introduces students to the study of Canadian foreign policy, examining the historical context of Canada's external relations, actors and institutions in its foreign policy-making process, and contemporary issues and controversies in Canadian foreign policy. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

352 American Foreign Policy

This course introduces students to the study of US foreign policy, examining major political, economic, and social forces that shape and constrain the making of American foreign policy. Among the issues examined are the historical and doctrinal context of US foreign policy, actors and institutions in the American foreign policymaking process, and contemporary external security and foreign economic policies of the US. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

353 International Organizations

A study of the development and role of international organizations in global politics, examining the achievements and limits of institutionalized multilateral cooperation among states. Institutions examined include the UN, NATO, the WTO, the IMF, and the World Bank. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

354 Global Political Economy

This course examines the politics of international economic relations. Topics include transnational corporations and the globalization of production, the multilateral trade system and regionalism, the global monetary and financial system, and economic development in the global South. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Cross-listed as DEVS 354. Three credits.

355 Global Issues

This course examines the state's supremacy and its capacity to manage such global issues as: transnational flows of goods, services, money, and ideas; the phenomenon of failed states in the post-Cold War period; global environmental issues; weapons proliferation; terrorism and other forms of transnational crime; and the rise of transnational social activist groups. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Cross-listed as DEVS 355. Three credits.

356 Arab-Israeli Conflict

This course examines the multifaceted dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition to exploring various historical, political, societal, economic, and religious cleavages behind the conflict, the course also examines peace initiatives and the prospects for their success in the region. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

357 Model United Nations

Introduction to the structures, activities, and operations of the UN, the protocols and procedures of UN deliberations, and contemporary international issues and agendas faced by the UN and its member states. The course is built around student preparation for, and participation in, simulated UN deliberations at the five-day annual NMUN Conference in New York City scheduled for March. Conference attendance is mandatory; there are additional travel-related costs; and fund raising is required. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 357 or PSCI 392 offered in 2014-15 and 2016-17. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

358 International Security

This course examines both the causes of war and the various strategies and tactics pertaining to how war has been—and is presently—conducted, as well exploring conflict mitigation and peacemaking strategies. Taking a pluralistic view of security studies, the course uses various

frameworks of analysis drawing from classical works, rationalist approaches, structuralist accounts, normative works, and constructivist explanations for war and peace. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 358, 392 offered in 2018-19, 394 offered in 2017-18, or 392 offered in 2016-17. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

359 Unconventional Warfare and New Security Threats

Since the end of the Cold War, and especially since September 11, 2001, new security issues have proliferated in the international arena, including espionage, transnational terrorism, guerrilla warfare, insurgency, and electronic warfare. The course begins by defining these phenomena conceptually and explores how they have been used strategically as means to an end. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 359 or PSCI 394 (2019-2020). Prerequisites: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200-level (PSCI 251 & 252 recommended). Three credits.

363 International Relations of East Asia

An examination of contemporary international relations and foreign policies of major regional actors in East Asia including China, Japan, North and South Korea, and the US. Topics include the political economy of East Asian regionalism, institution-building, the regional security complex, the rise of China, and the ongoing nuclear crisis in the Korean Peninsula. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 251 & 252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

364 Fault Lines in Israel/Palestine

This course is a companion to PSCI 356. It will be conducted on-the-ground in Israel and the Palestinian Territories over a 10-12 day period. The course aims to foster understanding, empathy, and a nuanced analysis of Israeli and Palestinian politics and culture using a mixed-methods format (formal lectures and seminar discussions, guided tours of relevant sites, meetings with Israeli and Palestinian cultural figures, policymakers, activists, and academics, and informal encounters). Prerequisites: PSCI 101 & 102 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (251/252 or 250 recommended). Three credits.

365 Russian Politics

This course explores the reasons for the collapse and the pursuit of political and economic alternatives to state socialism in the Russian Federation. Students are encouraged to develop their own project, examining the manner in which forms of ownership, constitutional developments, party formation, political personalities, and domestic and international pressure influence events in post-communist Russia. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

367 Local Government

The policies, programs, and services developed and delivered by local governments have a profound impact on our daily lives. This course examines the form, function, and financing of local governments and governance systems in Canada, the challenges they face, and how they develop local solutions to address challenges that are regional, national, and global in scale. It also explores best practices and new approaches that can help local governments better serve their citizens. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 367 and PGOV 399. Cross-listed as PGOV 360. Prerequisite: PGOV 101, or PSCI 101, or permission of the instructor. Three credits.

371 Political Economy of Development

Countries in the developing world face a distinct set of political challenges, particularly as they relate to fostering economic growth and providing effective public services. This course will explore the political determinants of development as well as the effect of economic conditions on

political outcomes. Key issues include the origins of state weakness, the relationship between political institutions and economic growth, the causes of corruption, and the effect of diversity on governance outcomes. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 371 or 370. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Cross-listed as DEVS 371. Three credits.

372 Politics in the Muslim World

A comparative examination of politics in Muslim-majority countries. This course will focus on the interaction of religion with issues of political order and development. We will consider the prospects of democracy, the strategies of religious political parties, the interplay of religious and national identities, and the constitutional status of religion across cases. Particular attention will be paid to politics of the largest Muslim countries. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

389 Selected Topics

Three credits

391 Latin American Politics and Government

This course examines issues related to the challenges of development and democracy in the region. It provides historical background as well as discussions of theoretical approaches and specific public policies. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

395 Mexican Politics

This course looks at Mexico's distinct political tradition. It presents and discusses Mexico's main political actors (political parties, groups, social movements) and institutions (democratic, republican, federal, presidential), and examines the political challenges of democratization and liberalization. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

397 Research Design in Political Science

This course is all about asking interesting questions in political science and then coming up with ways to answer these questions. We will introduce the concept of variance and causality, units of analysis, and strategies for case selection. At the end of the course, students will be able to formulate research questions, generate a research design, and discuss a range of methodological approaches that can be used to explore the world of politics. Cross-listed as PGOV 304. Credit will be granted for only one of PSCI 397 or PSCI 399 offered up until 2019- 2020. Prerequisites: PSCI 101 & 102 and 6 credits of PSCI at the 200 level. Cross-listed as PGOV 304. Three credits.

399 Quantitative Research Methods

This course introduces students to the use of quantitative analysis in political science. While studying the logic of statistical inference, students will learn practical skills, including survey questionnaire design, dataset management, and data presentation. By the end of the course students will be able to critically assess quantitative political science research and apply quantitative tools to pursue their own research questions. Cross-listed as PGOV 303. Prerequisites: PSCI 101 & 102 and 6 credits of PSCI at the 200 level. Cross-listed as PGOV 303. Three credits.

401 Political Theory (Seminar)

This seminar critically analyzes selected political thinkers, themes, issues and/or controversies in political theory, and their current relevance to the discipline of Political Science and politics. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 201 & 202 recommended). Three credits.

421 Canadian Politics (Seminar)

This seminar deals with the analysis of power in Canada, through the study of selected institutions, policy fields and cases. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 221 & 222 recommended). Three credits.

451 International Relations (Seminar)

This seminar examines advanced theories of International Relations and contemporary issues in global politics. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100, and 251 & 252. Three credits.

452 Comparative Politics (Seminar)

This seminar discusses major issues in comparative politics and examines the advanced theories, methods, and concepts in the field. Prerequisite: PSCI 101 & 102 or 100 and six credits of PSCI at the 200 level (PSCI 211 & 212 recommended). Three credits.

490 Thesis

Restricted to students in the BA Honours program. Six credits.

499 Directed Studies

See section 3.5. Six credits.