

POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLI)

Students are urged to be extremely careful not to register again for a course for which they have already earned credit. Academic Regulation 17(b) (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/academic-regulations/regulations/retaking-course/>) is directly relevant to this matter.

POLI 1201 Politics: Contemporary Issues

3 credit hours

This course explores the multi-faceted nature of contemporary politics, and, in so doing, introduces students to various aspects of the Political Science discipline. The aim of the course is to convey how ideas, frameworks, institutions and actors relate to current political debates and ongoing democratic challenges, both locally and globally. Through a critical examination of significant political theories and practices students will develop a broad and general understanding of the nature, scope and range of political action in the contemporary world.

POLI 1210 Political Ideas: "Isms" and Beliefs

3 credit hours

An introduction to political ideologies (including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, fascism, feminism, anti-racism and green ideology) and their role in shaping modern political life. Particular attention is given to the meaning of "ideology" in general and its place in contemporary politics, as well as to the emergence of new ideologies and their relationship to social, economic and cultural forces.

POLI 1220 Political Analysis

3 credit hours

An introduction to the theoretical approaches and techniques used in analyzing political events and claims. Emphasis is placed on critical and institutional perspectives, as well as on debates over various approaches to political analysis and to the question of the interpretation of political issues and conflicts.

POLI 1230 Law and Politics

3 credit hours

An examination of the practical and theoretical connections between law and politics. The course will concentrate on contemporary public law issues and constitutional reform in liberal-democracies.

POLI 1250 Politics and Globalization

3 credit hours

This course will introduce students to the political, economic, social and cultural processes which commonly fall under the term globalization. The objective is to introduce students to some of the central global forces that are shaping our contemporary political world.

POLI 1260 Politics and Development: People, Ideas and Goods

3 credit hours

Students examine the politics of the relationship between the Global North and Global South. Students study various aspects of Political Science and International Development by exploring the themes of global flows – that of ideas, peoples, and goods.

POLI 1800 – 1825 Special Topics in Political Science

6 credit hours

Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 1826 – 1849 Special Topics in Political Science

3 credit hours

Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 2304 Canadian Politics in the 21st Century

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course introduces students to the institutions, ideas and identities which structure and shape Canadian governance in the 21st century. Political features and forces are outlined, grounded historically and considered in light of current developments. Shifting political as well as economic, social and cultural climates are examined. Throughout, fundamental representational and democratic challenges are evaluated.

POLI 2335 History of Political Thought

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

A survey of significant developments in Western political thought from the classical period of Athens to the 20th century through a focus on major Western political theorists. Key thinkers may include Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Wollstonecraft, Marx, Goldman and Nietzsche.

POLI 2381 Comparative Politics: Political Regimes and Government Institutions

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours at the 1000 level in POLI

Students are introduced to the field of Comparative Politics with an emphasis on the core concepts, government institutions, and political regimes around the world. The nature of political authority, democratization processes, and social and economic transformations are explored in the context of domestic politics in a number of different countries.

POLI 2383 International Relations I: Actors, Structures, Processes

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours at the 1000 level in POLI

Students are introduced to the field of International Relations with an emphasis on the main political actors, the dominant international structures, and central global processes of international and world politics.

POLI 2800 – 2825 Special Topics in Political Science

6 credit hours

Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 2826 – 2849 Special Topics in Political Science

3 credit hours

Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 3001 Politics and Peace: Northern Ireland (formerly POLI 4001)

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students examine a wide range of political, social and economic issues related to the conflict in Northern Ireland. Students draw upon a selection of primary and secondary sources directly related to better understanding what is euphemistically known as "The Troubles".

POLI 3205 Politics and Sex

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

The study of politics is about the study of power. The overall objective of this course is to show how power infuses gender in ways that focus on sexuality. Students explore the connections between politics, gender and sexuality by looking at such topics as rape, sexual violence, pornography, prostitution and trafficking.

POLI 3245 Public Policy: Theories, Models & Typologies

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students examine the theories of public policy analysis by addressing key concepts, problem definition, policy instruments and design, and policy implementation within the context of modern governance.

POLI 3246 Public Policy: Practice and Case Studies

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours at the 1000 level in POLI

This course is a critical analysis of selected public policies, associated policy communities and networks, and their impacts upon society. A case study approach is used to examine selected public policies, apply theories and models of public policy analysis, and contextualize them in terms of political, economic and social forces.

POLI 3303 Democracy and Dissent

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students examine the fundamental concepts of democratic theory, including rights, equality, freedom, and sovereignty. Students will become familiar with classic democratic principles and will learn to distinguish between democratic dissent, neoliberal democracy, populism, and authoritarian forms of governance.

Note: Students who have taken POLI 3302 may not receive credit for POLI 3303

POLI 3307 Provincial Government and Politics (formerly POLI 2307)

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

An analysis of the dynamics and structure of selected provincial government in Canada. Provincial political parties, voting behaviour, legislatures, bureaucracies and policy formulation constitute the core of this course. Inter-provincial and federal-provincial relations are examined.

POLI 3310 Government and the Media

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

An examination of the influence of the media, and the impact of government policy, especially as set out in federal and provincial legislation, on the growth and operation of the mass media in Canada. Particular attention will be given to the continuing debate over television and radio regulation and ownership, restraints on film and the press, and issues raised by new technology.

POLI 3312 American Government

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

An analysis of the American political system, its political culture, social base, constitutional order, governmental structure and policymaking processes. Special emphasis is placed on the party system, voting behaviour, and the Presidency.

POLI 3314 Politics of the Global South GDST 3314

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students explore the Global South's main political and social challenges. They gain a general understanding of selected countries and regions and examine specific topics of relevance, such as gender, migration, religion, human rights, urban politics, and social movements. Equally important, students become familiar with creative and powerful democratic experiments, and have the opportunity to reflect critically on lessons that the so-called developed world could potentially learn from them.

POLI 3315 Canadian Foreign Policy

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course is an introduction to the study of Canadian foreign policy. Straddling the subfields of Canadian politics and international relations, this course provides students with tools to analyze Canada's role in the global and globalizing context.

POLI 3316 Politics in the European Union

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students review the origins and development of the European Union (EU) with a focus on its institutions, policy-making processes and the challenges inherent in the creation and functioning of a supranational political regime. Students examine theories of integration as they pertain to the EU.

POLI 3318 Politics of The Middle East

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

The politics of the Middle East Region are addressed, including a survey of the regional states and non-state actors, the international dynamics of politics within and among the Arab states, Turkey, Israel, and Iran, as well as the impact of Western interactions with the region.

POLI 3321 International Organizations

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students examine the tensions between emerging forms of global governance and existing structures of inter-governmentalism. Students explore international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and topics such as international peacekeeping, humanitarian law, international trade, and civil society.

POLI 3322 Global Political Economy

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course explores the theory and practice underlying the political forces structuring the global economy. Particular attention will be paid to interactions between the global economy and international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

POLI 3330 Public Administration

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

A study of the structure and operation of the administrative branch of government, both in theory and practice. Included will be an examination of the evolution of the Canadian federal public administration and public service, with some attention for comparative purposes to related experiences in other nations. The administrative responsibilities and powers of the modern state will be assessed and a sampling of recent organizational theories will be undertaken.

POLI 3350 Indigenous Politics: Past, Present and Future

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours at the 1000 level in POLI

Students examine Indigenous politics with a focus on political legacies, contemporary challenges, and future political opportunities and constraints. Students explore Indigenous politics vis-à-vis legislatures, courts, and international bodies through broader notions of governance and justice, movement mobilization and protest. The focus is on Canada, but may include comparative political dimensions.

POLI 3382 Contentious Politics: Mobilization Today and Tomorrow

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

The course examines theories of Comparative Politics that focus on the role of ideas and interests in modern politics. Students explore theories that explain the phenomena that are part of conflictual politics: social movements, civil disobedience, civil wars, insurgencies, and protests. The course includes modules on political violence, environment, and the role of religion and identity (class, gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity).

POLI 3384 International Relations II: Ideas, Identities, Borders (formerly POLI 2384)

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: POLI 2383

Students explore the field of International Relations with emphasis on how ideas, identities, and borders shape our understanding of international and world politics.

POLI 3418 International Law

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

A study of the features of public international law as they have developed and have been invoked in diplomatic practice, international law adjudication, and national courts.

POLI 3419 Comparative Constitutional Law

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

A comparative analysis of constitutional systems, this course focuses upon the theory and exercise of judicial review, in the context of Canadian, American, European, or other constitutions. It combines lectures, readings, and the case method.

POLI 3440 Canadian-American Relations

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course focuses on Canadian-American relations since 1945. The course examines different theoretical approaches to the relationship, as well as a variety of case studies to analyze the nature and extent of Canada-U.S. relations both in the bilateral context and in the multilateral context.

POLI 3447 Canadian Political Parties

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

The purpose of this course is to identify and explain continuity or change in Canadian party politics. Particular emphasis will be placed on the ability of political parties to adapt to new challenges posed by Canada's rapidly transforming economic, social and political context.

POLI 3450 Gender and Canadian Politics

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students explore various gendered dimensions of Canadian politics. Gender is considered in light of other intersecting identities, and politics is broadly conceived to include both the institutional (or formal) political as well as non-institutional (or informal) politics. Studies of gender and politics in other countries may also be examined to provide a comparative perspective.

POLI 3454 Issues in Canadian Defence

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course examines Canadian defence policy and arms procurement strategies. Particular emphasis will be placed on political, economic, and technological challenges to contemporary Canadian defence policy-making.

POLI 3456 Issues in International Security

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

The objective of this course is to introduce students to how security has been theorized and debated in the field of International Relations and Security Studies. Students will examine different approaches to the study of security and will explore some of the areas of research that are part of the field of Security Studies.

POLI 3462 Political Ideas of the Enlightenment

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI.

A critical examination of the political ideas and theories that grew out of the modern European Enlightenment. Special attention is paid to Immanuel Kant's understanding of the nature, role and effects of "public reason" and to his assessment of the conditions necessary for international cooperation and peace. Other thinkers to be discussed may include John Locke, the Baron of Montesquieu, David Hume, G.W.F. Hegel, Harriet Taylor and John Stuart Mill.

POLI 3463 Counter-Enlightenment Thought

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

A survey and critical investigation of modern responses to liberal Enlightenment thought, from the analyses first undertaken by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Edmund Burke, through to the crucial contributions to this tradition made by Friedrich Nietzsche, Karl Marx, and the critical theorists who followed in their wake. Special attention is paid to the critique of individualism and to alternative ideals of community and civil society.

POLI 3501 Research Methods

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course is an examination of contemporary methodologies in political science. Included is a discussion of theories and approaches developed by the empirical school of political scientists. Emphasis is placed on the selection of methods as related to theory and research questions.

POLI 3546 Political Parties and Democratic Change

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

The historical evolution, as well as the contemporary promises and pitfalls of political parties are critically examined. The party ideal is appraised in relation to changing political and representational realities. Given growing public dissatisfaction with political parties as democratic vehicles, representational alternatives are examined. The focus is on Canada, but party politics and democratic change in other countries will provide comparative insights.

POLI 3800 – 3825 Special Topics in Political Science

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

These courses will analyze specialized areas of political science that are not normally covered in our regular Department offerings. Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 3826 – 3849 Special Topics in Political Science

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

These courses will analyze specialized areas of political science that are not normally covered in our regular Department offerings. Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 4150 Comparative Immigration Politics

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI at the 1000 level in addition to the Department's Policy for 4000-level courses.

Students gain an advanced level of understanding of the dynamics driving the politics of immigration in liberal-democratic states, focusing primarily on Canada, the United States, Western Europe, and Australia. Students examine the factors that impact immigration policy-making (e.g., history and culture of immigration, public opinion and the media, and key political actors) and the politics of immigrant integration in each national context. The normative challenges that international migration poses for liberal democracies are debated.

POLI 4311 Nations & Nationalism: Identities, Orders, Borders

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course provides a survey of the theories of and approaches to the study of nationalist thought and practice. Phenomena of nations, nation-states, and nationalist ideologies and nationalist movements are explored.

POLI 4317 Charter Politics and Constitutional Change

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

A comparative examination of selected sources and authorities respecting fundamental law in democratic countries. The course will provide students of constitutional law with a theoretical basis for the analysis of constitutions and relevant judicial decisions.

POLI 4402 Model United Nations GDST 4402

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: POLI 3321 (or equivalent) and instructor approval

The objective of this course is to foster a greater understanding of the United Nations (UN). Students may have an opportunity to participate in a university-level Model UN simulation. The goal is to gain an in-depth knowledge of the UN's organizational structure, activities and rules of procedure by engaging in experiential learning in and outside the classroom.

POLI 4404 Advanced Model United Nations

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: POLI 4402 Model United Nations and instructor approval.

The objective of this course is to offer students an opportunity for advanced level research on the United Nations. Students must have successfully completed POLI 4402 and attended a university level UN simulation.

POLI 4449 Public Policy Challenges: Gender, Race and Class

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course examines a number of contemporary public policy debates and dilemmas in light of gender, race and class dynamics. The aim is to gain a better appreciation of the complexity of approaches to, and experiences of, various policy areas. The course begins by unpacking the nature and effects of the state and state policies and then moves to explore a range of economic, social, political and legal policy concerns.

NOTE: Courses at the 4000-level are reserved for upper-level students who have successfully completed at least two years of full-time study in university (60 credit hours).

POLI 4451 Gender and International Relations

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students explore theoretical and empirical issues raised by a “gender-based analysis” of international relations.

POLI 4466 Contemporary Theories of the State

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

A survey of contemporary theories concerning the nature of the state in the present global, ‘transnational’ moment. The diversity of the theoretical field will be emphasized through an examination of liberal, Marxist, structuralist, feminist and continental approaches to state theory.

POLI 4467 Climate, Security, and Global Development GDST 4467

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in GDST or thirty (30) credits overall

Students will examine how security as a concept frames the problem of climate change and its impacts, and how competing security frameworks shape national and international policy interventions to mitigate climate change. Asking whose security matters, students will explore the practical, political, and ethical challenges of developing equitable and effective climate policy in a globally divided world.

POLI 4470 Marx: The Early Writings

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students in this advanced political theory seminar will examine Karl Marx’s early political and philosophical writings to explore how he reinterprets and transforms the liberal democratic values of rights, freedom and equality. The focus on primary and selected secondary texts is intended to provide students with an introduction to Marx’s political-philosophical thought.

POLI 4471 Marx: The Later Writings

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students in this upper-level political theory seminar will examine the later writings of Karl Marx, including his advanced political economic theories. Close readings of primary texts, along with an introduction to 20th century developments in Marx scholarship, clarify how Marx’s political, philosophical and economic theory fundamentally challenges the liberal democratic tradition.

POLI 4480 Human Rights, Modern Perplexities

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students gain an understanding of the historical and philosophical context in which human rights emerged as a modern political concept. Students consider the evolution of human rights from early modern natural law theory, through the French Revolution of 1789, to the aftermath of 20th century totalitarianism, focusing in particular on the intersections between nature, politics, philosophy and the law.

POLI 4481 Human Rights, Contemporary Paradoxes

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students develop an appreciation of the conceptual difficulties related to international human rights in the contemporary context. Recent debates in critical political and legal theory, particularly regarding the issue of international interventions and humanitarian aid are examined.

POLI 4490 Far-Right Politics

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

Students examine far-right politics, its implications for contemporary life, and its potential impact on the future of democracy. Movements, parties, narratives, and subcultures are explored. As students discover the complexity of dealing with controversial or polarizing political actors and themes, they cultivate essential scholarly traits such as open-mindedness and self-critique.

POLI 4493 Global Social Movements

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

This course examines global social movements as new political forces within world politics. It will explore the main theoretical perspectives in the field of international relations that have addressed the political significance of global social movements. The course will also examine the forms of interaction between the constituents of global social movements (e.g. non-governmental organizations) and the institutions of global governance.

POLI 4500 Honours Thesis GDST 4500

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: Open to Honours students in Political Science and Global Development Studies

Through regular meetings with their Honours Supervisor, students will use this course to prepare an honours essay in their major area of study.

POLI 4510 Honours Seminar GDST 4510

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Open to Honours students in Political Science and Global Development Studies.

The Honours Seminar will examine selected aspects of one of the following fields: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Global Development Studies, and Political Thought.

POLI 4520 Honours Colloquium GDST 4520

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Open to Honours students in Political Science and Global Development Studies.

The Honours Colloquium exposes Honours students to specialized dimensions of Political Science and Global Development Studies and offers opportunities to develop advanced research and writing skills.

POLI 4800 – 4825 Special Topics in Political Science

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

These courses will analyze specialized areas of political science not normally covered in our regular Departmental offerings. Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 4826 – 4849 Special Topics in Political Science

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: Three (3) credit hours in POLI

These courses will analyze specialized areas of political science not normally covered in our regular Departmental offerings. Course content varies from year to year.

POLI 4850 – 4875 Directed Reading in Political Science

6 credit hours

Prerequisite: permission of Department.

These courses, with the department's approval, are organized by an individual faculty member in agreement with the department as a whole, and are designed to supplement or provide an alternative to regular courses in political science, according to the special needs and interests of individual students and faculty members.

POLI 4876 – 4899 Directed Reading in Political Science

3 credit hours

Prerequisite: permission of Department.

These courses, with the department's approval, are organized by an individual faculty member in agreement with the department as a whole, and are designed to supplement or provide an alternative to regular courses in political science, according to the special needs and interests of individual students and faculty members.