

# POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR CONCENTRATION (B.A.) (36 CREDITS)

**Offered by:** Political Science (Faculty of Arts)

**Degree:** Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Arts and Science

**Program credit weight:** 36

## Program Description

The Major Concentration in Political Science is a 36-credit program in four fields: comparative politics, international relations, Canadian politics, and political theory, including empirical methods.

### Degree Requirements — B.A. students

To be eligible for a B.A. degree, a student must fulfil all Faculty and program requirements as indicated in Degree Requirements for the Faculty of Arts.

We recommend that students consult an Arts OASIS advisor for degree planning.

### Degree Requirements — B.A. & Sc. students

***This program is offered as part of a Bachelor of Arts & Science (B.A. & Sc.) degree.***

To graduate, students must satisfy both their program requirements and their degree requirements.

- The program requirements (i.e., the specific courses that make up this program) are listed under the Course Tab (above).
- The degree requirements—including the mandatory Foundation program, appropriate degree structure, and any additional components—are outlined on the Degree Requirements page.

Students are responsible for ensuring that this program fits within the overall structure of their degree and that all degree requirements are met. Consult the Degree Planning Guide on the SOUSA website for additional guidance.

**Note:** For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

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## Complementary Courses (36 credits)

36 credits of courses selected from the four main fields of political science (Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory) with the following specifications.

Only POLI courses at the 200-level or above (or their equivalent courses from other universities) can be counted toward this program.

No more than one-half of the credits (18 credits) may be taken in a single field of political science, unless the field is Comparative Politics in which case the maximum is 21 credits.

12 of the 36 credits must be taken at the 200 level. No more than 3 credits at the 200 level may be in any given group - the groups being Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Methods. All other 24 credits must come from 300- or 400-level POLI courses.

3 credits must be taken at the 400 level at McGill rather than as transfer credits. This requirement cannot be fulfilled with POLI 599 Internship: Political Science..

To take a 300- or 400-level POLI course, students must have taken a 200-level POLI course in the same field. Students are therefore expected to take all their 200-level courses in their first two years.

No more than 12 POLI transfer credits can be used toward the program requirements. POLI Methods courses at McGill do not have equivalencies from courses taken elsewhere.

Course lists for each group of political science courses are provided below.

## Canadian Politics

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Course	Title	Credits
POLI 221	Government of Canada.	3
POLI 222	Political Process and Behaviour in Canada.	3
POLI 226	La vie politique québécoise.	3
POLI 317	The Politics of Race in Canada.	3
POLI 318	Comparative Local Government.	3
POLI 320	Issues in Canadian Democracy.	3
POLI 321	Issues: Canadian Public Policy.	3
POLI 326	Provincial Politics.	3
POLI 336	Le Québec et le Canada.	3
POLI 342	Canadian Foreign Policy.	3
POLI 348	Gender and Canadian Politics.	3
POLI 371	Challenge of Canadian Federalism.	3
POLI 372	Indigenous Peoples and the Canadian State.	3
POLI 379	Topics in Canadian Politics.	3
POLI 410	Canadian Political Parties.	3
POLI 412	Canadian Voting/Public Opinion.	3
POLI 417	Health Care in Canada.	3
POLI 424	Media and Politics.	3
POLI 426	Partis politiques et comportements électoraux au Québec.	3
POLI 427	Selected Topics: Canadian Politics.	3
POLI 436	Aboriginal Rights in the Canadian Constitution.	3
POLI 478	The Canadian Constitution.	3

## Comparative Politics

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Course	Title	Credits
POLI 212	Introduction to Comparative Politics – Europe/ North America.	3
POLI 227	Introduction to Comparative Politics - Global South.	3
POLI 316	Black Lives Matter and American Democracy.	3
POLI 318	Comparative Local Government.	3
POLI 319	Politics of Latin America.	3
POLI 322	Political Change in South Asia.	3
POLI 324	Comparative Politics of Africa.	3
POLI 325	U.S. Politics.	3
POLI 328	Comparing European Democracies.	3
POLI 329	Russian Politics.	3
POLI 330	Law and Courts in Europe.	3
POLI 331	Politics in East Central Europe.	3
POLI 338	Topics in Comparative Politics 1.	3
POLI 339	Topics in Comparative Politics 2.	3
POLI 340	Comparative Politics of the Middle East.	3
POLI 357	Politics: Contemporary Europe.	3
POLI 361	Political Participation in Comparative Perspective.	3
POLI 369	Politics of Southeast Asia.	3
POLI 380	Contemporary Chinese Politics.	3
POLI 381	Politics in Japan and South Korea.	3
POLI 420	Memory, Place, and Power.	3
POLI 421	The Politics of Misinformation.	3
POLI 422	Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics 1.	3
POLI 423	Politics of Ethno-Nationalism.	3
POLI 424	Media and Politics.	3
POLI 425	Topics in American Politics.	3
POLI 430	Politics of Art.	3
POLI 431	Nations and Nationalism.	3
POLI 432	Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics 2.	3
POLI 435	Identity and Inequality.	3
POLI 450	Peacebuilding.	3
POLI 451	The European Union.	3
POLI 452	Conflict Simulation.	3
POLI 473	Democracy and the Market.	3
POLI 474	Inequality and Development.	3
POLI 475	Social Capital in Comparative Perspective.	3
POLI 476	Religion and Politics.	3

## International Relations

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Course	Title	Credits
POLI 243	International Politics of Economic Relations.	3
POLI 244	International Politics: State Behaviour.	3

POLI 341	Foreign Policy: The Middle East.	3
POLI 342	Canadian Foreign Policy.	3
POLI 345	International Organizations.	3
POLI 346	American Foreign Policy.	3
POLI 347	Arab-Israel Conflict, Crisis, Peace.	3
POLI 349	Foreign Policy: Asia.	3
POLI 350	Global Environmental Politics.	3
POLI 351	The Causes of Major Wars.	3
POLI 352	International Policy/Foreign Policy: Africa.	3
POLI 353	Politics of the International Refugee Regime.	3
POLI 354	Approaches to International Political Economy.	3
POLI 355	The Politics of International Law.	3
POLI 358	Political Economy of International Organizations.	3
POLI 359	Topics in International Politics 1.	3
POLI 360	Security: War and Peace.	3
POLI 362	Political Theory and International Relations.	3
POLI 441	International Political Economy: Trade.	3
POLI 442	International Relations of Ethnic Conflict.	3
POLI 443	Intervention in World Politics.	3
POLI 444	Topics in International Politics 2.	3
POLI 445	International Political Economy: Monetary Relations.	3
POLI 446	International Law and Politics of Human Rights.	3
POLI 447	Political Economy of Multinationals.	3
POLI 448	Gender and International Relations.	3
POLI 449	Diplomacy in Practice.	3
POLI 450	Peacebuilding.	3
POLI 451	The European Union.	3
POLI 452	Conflict Simulation.	3

## Political Theory

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Course	Title	Credits
POLI 231	Introduction to Political Theory.	3
POLI 333	Western Political Theory 1.	3
POLI 334	Western Political Theory 2.	3
POLI 362	Political Theory and International Relations.	3
POLI 363	Contemporary Political Theory.	3
POLI 364	Radical Political Thought.	3
POLI 365	Democratic Theory.	3
POLI 366	Topics in Political Theory 1.	3
POLI 367	Liberal Political Theory.	3
POLI 368	Political Theory and Indigeneity.	3
POLI 433	History of Political/Social Theory 3.	3
POLI 434	History of Political/Social Theory 4.	3

POLI 459	Topics in Political Theory 2.	3
POLI 470	Philosophy, Economy and Society.	3

## Methods

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Course	Title	Credits
POLI 210	Political Science Research Methods.	3
POLI 311	Introduction to Quantitative Political Science.	3
POLI 312	Intermediate Quantitative Political Science.	3
POLI 313	Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Political Science.	3
POLI 461	Advanced Quantitative Political Science.	3

## Special courses

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Course	Title	Credits
POLI 490	Independent Reading and Research 1.	3
POLI 599	Internship: Political Science.	3