

POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOURS (B.A.) (48 CREDITS)

Offered by: Political Science (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Program credit weight: 48

Program Description

The Honours program in Political Science focuses on four fields in Political Science: comparative politics, international relations, Canadian politics, and political theory, including empirical methods that complement the the four substantive fields of Political Science. Students may enter the Honours program at the start of U2. To enter, remain and graduate in Honours, students must achieve/maintain a 3.3 average in their political science courses and more than half of the political science grades must be at the B+ level or higher. According to Faculty regulations, Honours students must maintain a minimum CGPA of 3.00 in general.

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.

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.

Required Course (3 credits)

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Course	Title	Credits
POLI 210	Political Science Research Methods.	3

Complementary Courses (45 credits)

45 credits of complementary courses selected with the following specifications:

12 credits must be taken at the 200 level – 3 credits must be taken in each of the four fields: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Canadian Politics.). The remaining 33 credits must come from POLI courses at the 300 level and above.

6 credits in POLI Methods courses must be taken at the 300 or 400 level. The 9-credit methods requirement (including POLI 210 Political Science Research Methods.) can only be fulfilled with courses taken at McGill. Credits transferred from other universities are not accepted for this purpose.

At least 12 credits of political science courses must be at the 400 level and above, including one mandatory 500-level Honours Seminar which must be taken at McGill.

No more than one-half (24 credits) of a student's political science credits may be in any one field (Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory). However, if the field is Comparative Politics the maximum is 27 credits.

To take an upper-level POLI course (i.e. courses at the 300, 400 or 500 level), 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 15 Political Science transfer credits can be used toward the program requirements.

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 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
POLI 521	Seminar: Canadian Politics and Government.	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 349	Foreign Policy: Asia.	3
POLI 322	Political Change in South Asia.	3	POLI 350	Global Environmental Politics.	3
POLI 324	Comparative Politics of Africa.	3	POLI 351	The Causes of Major Wars.	3
POLI 325	U.S. Politics.	3	POLI 352	International Policy/Foreign Policy: Africa.	3
POLI 328	Comparing European Democracies.	3	POLI 353	Politics of the International Refugee Regime.	3
POLI 329	Russian Politics.	3	POLI 354	Approaches to International Political Economy.	3
POLI 330	Law and Courts in Europe.	3	POLI 355	The Politics of International Law.	3
POLI 331	Politics in East Central Europe.	3	POLI 358	Political Economy of International Organizations.	3
POLI 338	Topics in Comparative Politics 1.	3	POLI 359	Topics in International Politics 1.	3
POLI 339	Topics in Comparative Politics 2.	3	POLI 360	Security: War and Peace.	3
POLI 340	Comparative Politics of the Middle East.	3	POLI 362	Political Theory and International Relations.	3
POLI 357	Politics: Contemporary Europe.	3	POLI 441	International Political Economy: Trade.	3
POLI 361	Political Participation in Comparative Perspective.	3	POLI 442	International Relations of Ethnic Conflict.	3
POLI 369	Politics of Southeast Asia.	3	POLI 443	Intervention in World Politics.	3
POLI 380	Contemporary Chinese Politics.	3	POLI 444	Topics in International Politics 2.	3
POLI 381	Politics in Japan and South Korea.	3	POLI 445	International Political Economy: Monetary Relations.	3
POLI 421	The Politics of Misinformation.	3	POLI 446	International Law and Politics of Human Rights.	3
POLI 422	Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics 1.	3	POLI 447	Political Economy of Multinationals.	3
POLI 423	Politics of Ethno-Nationalism.	3	POLI 448	Gender and International Relations.	3
POLI 424	Media and Politics.	3	POLI 449	Diplomacy in Practice.	3
POLI 425	Topics in American Politics.	3	POLI 450	Peacebuilding.	3
POLI 430	Politics of Art.	3	POLI 451	The European Union.	3
POLI 431	Nations and Nationalism.	3	POLI 452	Conflict Simulation.	3
POLI 432	Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics 2.	3	POLI 575	Seminar: International Politics.	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			
POLI 522	Seminar: Comparative Politics 1.	3			
POLI 524	Seminar: Comparative Politics 2.	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

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 458	(De-) Coloniality.	3
POLI 459	Topics in Political Theory 2.	3
POLI 470	Philosophy, Economy and Society.	3
POLI 561	Seminar: Political Theory.	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 499	Honours Essay.	3
POLI 599	Internship: Political Science.	3