HONOURS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Students may apply for admission to the Honours program following completion of the first five full-year course equivalents, provided a grade point average of 3.4 has been achieved. Maintenance of a 3.4 GPA is required for continuation in the Honours program.

To apply, please contact the Honours Coordinator, Dr. Pablo Policzer at Policzer@ucalgary.ca. The Arts Student Centre will normally consider applications for admission at the time of Fall session registration.

A B.A. (Hons.) requires the completion of 9 full course equivalents. Honours students may take up to a maximum of twelve full-course equivalents in Political Science. In addition to those required by the B.A., these include:

- POLI 310: History of Political Thought
- POLI 359: Introduction to Comparative Politics plus one other half-course equivalent in Comparative Politics at the 300, 400 or 500 level
- POLI 381: Introduction to International Relations plus one other half-course equivalent in International Relations at the 300, 400 or 500 level
- POLI 399: Quantitative Research Methods
- And the Honours seminar POLI 590 as well as POLI 591, the Honours Dissertation
- Students must also pass two half-courses in a language other than English, or equivalent.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AS A MINOR

Students may formally declare a Minor Field and have this officially recorded on the transcript of record, provided that they complete at least five, and not more than six, full-course equivalents in Political Science, of which at least three full-course equivalents must be at the senior (300 and up) level.

STUDENT ADVISING

Consult the Program Office http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate, Undergraduate Director, Dr. Robert Huebert at rhuebert@ucalgary.ca or Ella Wensel at ewensel@ucalgary.ca

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Department encourages students to participate in its COOP program which provides students with the opportunity to gain work experience while completing their degree. For more information contact: Faculty of Arts Co-op Program at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/co-op, located in SS 102.

POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (PSA)

The Political Science student organization is located in Room SS 707.

GRADUATE STUDIES, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Please consult the Graduate Director at poli-grad@ucalgary.ca if you are interested in graduate studies at the University of Calgary.

APPEAL OF GRADES

Consult the formal appeals procedures in the Calendar and/or the Head, Dr. Brenda O’Neill at bloneill@ucalgary.ca.
**Political Science**

Political Science is about how societies should and do deal with conflict and cooperation. At its most basic level Political Science entails asking how and why life and property should be protected and how cultural and economic aspirations are expressed and accommodated. The study of local, regional, national and international political systems involves investigation of how individuals, social movements, groups and parties relate to each other and to government; how governmental systems operate; and how and why policies such as welfare, health and multiculturalism work. Political scientists analyze the causes and consequences of war, disputes over territory and resources, problems of environmental degradation, poverty, role of gender in political discourse, aboriginal studies, terrorism and refugees, and the nature and consequences of globalization. Political science researchers make use of such concepts as justice, liberty, equality, representation and democracy, and explore ideologies that try to make sense of the political world, such as conservatism, liberalism, socialism, fascism, feminism and environmentalism.

**Nature of the Discipline**

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science provides students with an understanding and appreciation of the art of politics by enabling them to explore the location and use of power in society. The course offerings in Political Science span four sub-fields of the discipline: Canadian Politics; International Relations; Comparative Politics and Political Theory. The boundaries of these fields are not rigid; although a specific course may be grouped under a general sub-field heading, the course content may likely touch upon many fields, for no aspect of politics or political science can be studied in perfect isolation.

**Careers:**

Political Science at the University of Calgary prides itself in offering a set of courses and learning experiences aimed at widening student’s horizons. Because our course offerings and methodologies are diverse, students entering our program are not directed into a narrow occupational field, but rather, have a choice of a number of different, though related fields. This broad preparation makes political science an ideal degree for those wishing to keep their career options as open as possible.

If they choose to, students completing a B.A. in Political Science may obtain specific, career-oriented training in a number of areas. Training in primary research skills—whether archival, qualitative or quantitative—as well as in analytical and communication skills can be used in a range of areas and careers. These include public opinion polling, market research, public relations, management, human resources, political risk analysis, political advocacy, and working with political parties. As well, political science graduates work for the many companies that now have government relations departments or are employed as lobbyists and political analysts for companies and interest groups wishing to influence government. Public services across Canada are hiring making it a good time for those with an understanding of the principles and institutions of government to gain employment. Degrees with an emphasis on international or comparative politics as well as international political economy provide good access to job opportunities in foreign affairs, international organizations and corporations and a stepping stone to further study, such as in international law or the study of foreign languages. Many of our students go on to successfully complete Law and MBA programs.

Students of exceptional ability who are interested in an academic career have good prospects. The Honours program remains the best path to academic careers as well as to the learned professions such as law.

**BA Majoring in Political Science**

A minimum of 7 (and maximum of 10) full-course equivalents in Political Science which must include the following:

1. Any **two** of the following:
   - POLI 201: Introduction to Government and Politics
   - POLI 213: Political Ideologies
   - POLI 279: Politics of the Global South
   - POLI 283: Issues and Trends in World Politics

2. POLI 321: Politics & Government in Canada

3. Any **three** of the following:
   - POLI 310: History of Political Thought
   - POLI 359: Introduction to Comparative Politics

4. **Two** full course equivalents in Political Science at the 400 and/or 500 level. (These normally have 300 level prerequisites)

5. As well, majors must complete the Faculty of Arts requirements. Please consult the University Calendar, Degree Navigator or the Undergraduate Programs Office (403-220-3580, http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate) for a complete list of Arts requirements.