



POLITICAL STUDIES

What is Political Studies?

Political Studies examines the dynamics of human interaction in which individuals and groups compete, and cooperate, to achieve their goals, in the context of competing visions, values and interests. It is therefore a study of power, particularly in connection with law and public policy.

Because people often disagree about, say, civil liberties, sustainable development, and distributive justice, they divide themselves into various groups: nations, political parties, trade unions, business associations, environmental organizations, to mention but a few. Political Studies tries to understand what happens when individuals and groups struggle with one another to achieve their different goals. Within states there are mechanisms called governments to oversee and guide political struggle, and studying politics can help us better appreciate why various types of government behave the way they do.

What is unique about Political Studies at the UM?

As a Political Studies student in the Faculty of Arts, you will explore the dynamics of political interactions in the context of competing visions, values and interests, particularly in the pursuit of varying public goals, including the quest for political power and the control of government. The Department has many opportunities for you to explore, with the ability to specialize in one of the following areas: political theory, Canadian politics, international relations, comparative politics or public administration.

Student will gain an enhanced awareness of the political process, a greater sense of personal involvement and an increased willingness to accept the responsibilities of democratic citizenship in our country.

The Political Studies Department also offers a co-op program available for students in the 4 Year Advanced and Honours degree programs.

The Department also offers small student-faculty ratios, a Legislative internship program and a large annual student-led conference.

Program Options

- B.A. Honours Program - 4 years
- B.A. Double Honours Program - 4 years
- B.A. Advanced Major - 4 years
- B.A. General Major - 3 years
- Minor
- Co-op option available in the Advanced and Honours programs

Career Opportunities

- Campaign Manager
- Elections Officer
- Government Relations Advisor
- Legislative Assistant
- Political Lobbyist
- Political Aide

