

Political Science

Political Studies or Political Science, as it is more commonly known, is one of the newest and fastest growing disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Program Overview

Political Science

From a period in the early 1960s when there were few departments of political science, the discipline has expanded to the point where reputable universities must contain Political Studies departments. The growth of Political Studies can be largely attributed to its subject matter: politics. Political Studies examines politics, government and political ideas, themes which concern the everyday life of ordinary citizens as well as scholars, bureaucrats and politicians. The breadth of the subject means that Political Studies is a highly pluralistic discipline. Political Studies touches on political history, political philosophy, political sociology, political economy, political geography and political anthropology. The discipline is linked by a common effort to understand the vast field of politics and government.

Fields of Study

Canadian Politics involves the study of the institutions and processes of Canadian politics and government. The focus is on developing a critical understanding of how politics and government is structured in this country.

Political Theory is the examination and discussion of important political ideas. The accent is on the critical analysis of the theories of classical political philosophy as well as the ideas of contemporary political thinkers.

Comparative Politics is a multidimensional field incorporating studies of institutions and processes, public policy and theories of the state. This area deals with area studies, studies of a single foreign country as well as the analysis of various political phenomena in a number of different settings.

International Relations is one of the oldest parts of what is now considered political science. It involves the study of relations between states, diplomacy, war, peace and, of course, international organizations.

Public Policy and Administration is probably the newest part of the discipline. The emphasis is on explaining the outputs of government--what governments do (and do not do). As well there is an attempt to assess policy making structures with an eye towards prescription as well as analysis.

Political Behaviour focuses on understanding the attitudes and behaviours of those involved in politics. The subject matter is extremely wide but the primary emphasis is on methodology and voting behaviour. The methodological skills which are developed can be utilized in most of the other subfields.

Political Studies at TRU

Courses are offered in Political Studies at all levels of undergraduate education. The emphasis at present is on Canadian Politics and Government and Political Theory but courses are available in all subfields. The offerings in first and second year are quite broad providing interested students with a wide ranging introduction to the discipline. This wide exposure is particularly valuable to students who wish to focus on Political Studies either at TRU or elsewhere. At present, upper level courses are offered each year both in Canadian and Political Theory. All courses are not offered annually but rather on a rotating basis. Students who remain at TRU for four years will have the opportunity to take almost every course.

Career Options

The Major in Economics and Political Studies provides excellent opportunities for employment or further study in the following areas:

- Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels of government
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) - national and international levels
- Crown corporations and private sector firms
- Graduate Studies in Political Science, Economics, or Business
- Preparation for Law School

Admission Information

Academic Requirements

Major in Economics and Political Studies

The Major in Economics and Political Studies is a unique cross-disciplinary degree offering which provides students with the political and economic skills and knowledge for a broad range of government and private sector jobs.

The Major in Economics and Political Studies program requires the completion of at least 57 credits in Economics and Political Science, of which a minimum of 30 credits must be at the upper-level (3000 and 4000 level) of which no less than 6 credits must be at the 4000 level. The program consists of core and elective courses.

Sample Courses

POLI 2140: Resistance and Revolution

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the discipline of political science by intensively studying one political phenomenon, that of revolution. The course begins with a discussion of the nature of social scientific inquiry, and proceeds to an examination of the characteristics of revolutions and various theories which attempt to explain their occurrence.

POLI 4110: Humanitarian Intervention: A Canadian Perspective

The course examines a shift in Canada's foreign policy that has taken us from being a peacekeeper to a peacemaker. The topics of international law, the massacre of civilians, the establishment of an international criminal court and Canada's part in the "war on terrorism" will be among the many issues studied.



Admission to TRU

TRU is a unique, comprehensive university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees and two-year professional diplomas, along with certificates, trade-entry and apprenticeship training and university preparation courses.

Applications for Admission to most programs are accepted starting Oct. 1 each year for programs that begin in August or September of the following year. Check the website for application deadlines, program start dates, and detailed admissions processes: Open, Limited and Selective.

Applications to the TRU Bachelor of Arts program are available from:

Academic Admissions Office
Thompson Rivers University
900 McGill, PO Box 3010
Kamloops, British Columbia V2C 5N3
Tel: 250.828.5036

Email: admissions@tru.ca

Program Costs

Please see the current calendar for details

Visit: www.tru.ca/calendar

Cost Calculator:

www.tru.ca/admissions/fees/costs.html

Program Contacts

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Additional Information

Please visit our web pages for more information: www.tru.ca/arts/php