

# POLITICAL STUDIES

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## Departmental Notes

*Subject Code:* **POLS**

*World Wide Web Address:* <http://www.queensu.ca/politics/home> (<http://www.queensu.ca/politics/home/>)

*Head of Department:* Jonathan Rose ([polshead@queensu.ca](mailto:polshead@queensu.ca))

*Departmental Manager:* Gail MacAllister  
([pols.manager@queensu.ca](mailto:pols.manager@queensu.ca))

*Departmental Office:* Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room C321

*Departmental Telephone:* 613-533-6230

*Chair of Undergraduate Studies:* Kyle Hanniman

([kyle.hanniman@queensu.ca](mailto:kyle.hanniman@queensu.ca))

*Undergraduate Assistant:* Cynthia MacIntosh

([ugpols@queensu.ca](mailto:ugpols@queensu.ca))

*Undergraduate Office E-Mail Address:* [ugpols@queensu.ca](mailto:ugpols@queensu.ca)

*Chair of Graduate Studies:* Oded Haklai ([haklai@queensu.ca](mailto:haklai@queensu.ca))

*Graduate Assistant:* Kristina Fennell ([gradpols@queensu.ca](mailto:gradpols@queensu.ca))

*Graduate Office E-Mail Address:* [gradpols@queensu.ca](mailto:gradpols@queensu.ca)

## Overview

The Department of Political Studies at Queen's offers a full curriculum in all areas of political sciences, designed to take you on different and exciting intellectual journeys. You might explore the foundations of early democratic thought, examine integration in the European Union, study how states make the transition to democracy, analyze sources of conflict and cooperation in the international system, investigate trends in voting behaviour, or explore the impact of welfare reforms on single mothers. You will develop critical thinking and writing skills, which are not only useful for a variety of pursuits after graduation, but crucial for citizenship in a democracy.

## Departmental Policies

### Prerequisites

Upper-level courses in Political Studies have prerequisites, including minimum GPA requirements. Please consult the course descriptions in the Faculty of Arts and Science *Calendar* for more details.

### Studying in French

With prior permission of the instructor, assignments and examinations may be submitted in French.

## Advice to Students

### Lecture and Seminar Courses

300-level courses are lecture courses. Most 400-level courses are seminars, but some are lecture courses. For further details, please consult the Department of Political Studies homepage (<https://www.queensu.ca/politics/home/>).

### Special Study Opportunities

#### Third Year Abroad

Political Studies students are encouraged to consider taking part in an exchange program in their third year. Students should note that 400-level POLS courses have a minimum GPA in previous POLS courses as a prerequisite. Since courses taken on an exchange program do not contribute towards GPA calculations, students should ensure that their grades are sufficient to satisfy the 400-level prerequisite before embarking on an exchange program. Those students in Joint Honours (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/political-studies/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/political-studies/political-studies-medial-arts-ba-honours/>) or Major (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/political-studies/political-studies-major-arts-ba-honours/>) Plans must take POLS 384 in their second or fourth year at Queen's.

#### Third Year Abroad at the Bader International Study Centre (BISC)

Political Studies students who wish to spend one or two terms at the Bader College in Herstmonceux, United Kingdom, (<https://www.queensu.ca/bisc/>) should consult with the Department. Students may receive credit for courses in other subjects and may defer POLS 384 to their final year.

### Documents Library

An extensive collection of government documents, which is strongest in Canadian federal, provincial and local government. The international collection of publications of the United Nations and several international agencies is also strong. The Library also has an archive of data, including census data, survey material, etc. The Library is housed in the Stauffer Library (Basement Level).