

## FIELDS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** is the study of relationships between countries, including the roles of states, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international multinational corporations (MNCs). It seeks to both analyze as well as formulate the foreign policy of particular states. IR involves a diverse range of issues including but not limited to globalization, state sovereignty, international security, ecological sustainability, nuclear proliferation, nationalism, economic development, global finance, terrorism, organized crime, human security, foreign interventionism and human rights.

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS** involves the study and comparison of the world's political systems. It seeks to explain differences between as well as similarities among countries. It is particularly interested in exploring patterns, and it tries to develop general hypotheses that describe and explain these trends.

Some of the questions that lie at the heart of the field of Comparative Politics are:

- Why are some countries poor and others wealthier?
- What enables some countries to thrive in the modern world while others remain locked in poverty?
- Why are poorer countries more inclined to be governed autocratically while the richer countries are democratic?
- What accounts for the regional, cultural, and geographic differences that exist?
- What are the politics of the transition from under development to development and what helps stimulate and sustain that process?
- What are the internal social and political conditions as well as the international situations of these various countries that explain the similarities as well as the differences?

**POLITICAL THEORY** provides insight into the various aspects of the origin of state, its institutions and laws.

Political Theory focuses on such topics as liberty, justice, property, rights, law and the enforcement of a legal code by authority: what they are, why (or if) they are needed, what (if anything) makes a government legitimate, what rights and freedoms it should protect and why, what form it should take and why, what the law is, what duties citizens owe to a legitimate government (if any), and when may it be legitimately overthrown (if ever).

**CANADIAN POLITICS** is the study of the political institutions and political processes of Canada at the national level. Put simply, it focuses on how the government of Canada works — the structure and decision-making process of Canada's national political institutions.

The basic focus is on the principles and practices that structure the exercise of political power in Canada. Attention is paid to changes in the nature and distribution of power and how such changes affect the relationships among and between political institutions and actors, including citizens, and between political power and democratic control.

Topics usually include: the Constitution; the institutions of federalism; Parliament; Prime Minister and Cabinet; Public Service and Judiciary, the role and structure of political parties, the electoral system, elections and voting, and the influence of organized interests.

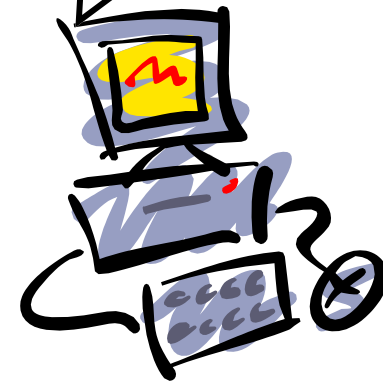
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**WHAT IS  
POLITICAL  
SCIENCE?**



**What are the various Fields in  
Political Science?**



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## WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?

Political science is the study of governments, public policies and political processes, systems, and political behaviour. Political science subfields include political theory, political philosophy, political ideology, political economy, policy studies and analysis, comparative politics, international relations, and a host of related fields. Political scientists use both humanistic and scientific perspectives and tools, in addition to a variety of methodological approaches to examine the process, systems, and political dynamics of all countries and regions of the world. Political science is an excellent major for students interested in learning how groups of people govern themselves, how policies are made, and how we can improve our government policies at the local, state, national, and international levels. A political science major prepares students for jobs in many fields, from business to law to research.



## Knowledge I can gain by studying Political Science?

Political science majors acquire skills in writing, communications, and analysis that are critical to a liberal arts education. Such an education prepares students to think independently, with tolerance for others and concern for current affairs. Today, students can reasonably expect to change jobs and even to have more than one career. An undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences is excellent preparation for flexibility in employment.

Political science majors qualify for many different careers in private and public sector organizations, including careers in business, law, local and federal government, journalism, international organizations and finance, political campaigns, interest groups and associations, and teaching. Political science training also provides valuable preparation for participating in community organizations, electoral politics, movements on behalf of specific policies, or even seeking elected or appointed positions in government.

Political science helps students to develop reasoning and analytic skills and build competence in oral and written expression, skills that are valued in a wide spectrum of potential career areas.



## Why Study Political Science?

- Are you interested in politics?
- International affairs?
- Critical issues such as health, the environment, civil rights?
- Theories concerning the ideal government and how power and resources are allocated in society?
- Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career based on your interest?
- If so, you should consider studying political science.

