

Bachelor of Arts

BA with a Political Studies Major

Why major in Political Studies at CMU?

Political Studies is much more than simply the study of governments, states or elections. In Political Studies we explore the power relations that weave throughout societies, communities, families, organizations, and other institutions. Political Studies prepares students for lives of active citizenship and careers in leadership, advocacy, and management.

Political Studies at CMU addresses power and inequalities among people, communities, and states. You will explore how the state, technologies, bodies of knowledge, and practices of culture and citizenship facilitate or compromise goals of justice, peace, and human dignity. A close study of the classic texts, concepts, methodologies, and assumptions of Political Studies provides a foundation where critical insights and approaches, from within and beyond the discipline, can be fruitfully assessed.

Program Strengths

CMU's Political Studies program is unique in offering a truly global approach to politics, including the study of human rights, peace, conflict, ecological politics, and a focus on faith and social justice not available elsewhere. This interdisciplinary approach provides a wide range of perspectives to this field, and allows students to focus their studies where they are interested.

Practicum opportunities provide students with a chance to connect their classroom learning to hands-on work experience. These experiences help students gain skills for professional success, but also to explore their interests, and build connections with relevant organizations.

Career Paths

- Lawyer
- Criminologist
- Businessperson
- Journalist
- Social worker
- Teacher
- Administrator
- Communications advisor
- Consultant
- Foreign service officer
- Human rights officer
- Human resources consultant
- Project manager
- Public policy analyst
- Community activist
- Political scientist
- Public relations officer
- Lobbyist
- Market researcher
- Elections official
- Urban planning assistant
- Speech writer
- Research analyst

Skills Developed

- Understanding of forms of government
- Analytical Reasoning
- Deductive reasoning
- Ability to understand various components of complex problems
- Organization and interpretation of social, economic, and political data
- Logistical thinking
- Appreciation of others' perspectives
- Strong oral and written communication
- Research ability
- Organization – ability to work independently
- Time management – ability to meet deadlines

Political Studies Programs

CMU offers programs in Political Studies including:

- Political Studies major within the four-year Bachelor of Arts
- Political Studies major within the three-year Bachelor of Arts
- Political Studies minor within the Bachelor of Arts

CMU Courses in the Political Studies Program

- Democracy and Dissent
- Global Politics
- Business and Labour Law
- History of the United States from 1607
- The Fifties and Sixties – North American, Cold, Cool, and Radical
- Peace and Conflict in World Politics
- Human Rights and Dignity
- Canadian Political Issues
- Comparative Politics of Development – Africa
- Economics of Social Change
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Politics, Society and Mass Media
- Plato's *Republic* and Paul's *Romans* in Dialogue
- Gender and Politics
- Business in the European Union
- Senior Seminar in Social Change

Course descriptions can be found on the CMU website. Contact the admissions department with further questions

In addition to specific Political Studies courses, students will take classes in the humanities, sciences, social sciences and courses in Biblical and Theological Studies as part of the degree.

A work-integrated learning course is required in every degree at CMU. This practicum can be done as an intensive 12-week placement or a once-a-week placement over 20 weeks during the school year. The work placement can help students explore the field they are majoring in for career possibilities or it can provide a way to expand their experiences in a field they haven't thought about before.