

Dear Students:

Welcome to the 2020-21 academic year! We start the year under challenging circumstances that we can handle better together. Through the Fall 2020 term, course instruction in the Department will be primarily remote, as we are fortunate to have considerable support from Teaching and Learning Services and other university units to handle the pandemic conditions.

For reasons related to the changing needs of the world and the job market, we have altered the Department's programs. **These new program regulations will apply to new students admitted into McGill FROM Fall 2020 onwards.** This particular program guide can be found at https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/files/politicalscience/2020-2021_political_science_program_guide_for_students_admitted_from_fall_2020_onward_june_2020.pdf.

The old program regulations will continue to apply to students continuing in these programs from previous years, i.e., students who were admitted into McGill BEFORE Fall 2020. This program guide can be found at https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/files/politicalscience/2020-2021_political_science_programs_guide_for_students_admitted_before_fall_2020_june_2020_0.pdf

Steps to Take to Ensure that You are Meeting Requirements: It is not necessary to consult a Political Science advisor to simply track your progress. This can be easily self-evaluated using the audit sheets located at <http://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad/ugformsanddocs>. If, however, you would like to consult a Political Science advisor or the Undergraduate Coordinator to discuss other particular issues concerning your Political Science program, please ensure that you complete an audit sheet (including the courses you have taken, the grades you have attained, and the courses you are currently registered for) for that meeting. The Political Science program audit forms (for **BOTH** the new and old programs) are located at <https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad/ugformsanddocs>. The Political Science Fall 2020 advising schedule is located at https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/files/politicalscience/fall_2020_advising_schedule-aug_24_to_dec_6.pdf.

You can also communicate with Faculty of Arts advisors to ensure you are meeting overall BA requirements. Please see <https://www.mcgill.ca/oasis/advising/advising-services> for further details.

A WORD TO NEWLY ADMITTED STUDENTS:

Political science is a broadly-defined discipline which includes diverse analytical methods. It draws from and contributes to other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities and some professions. The department reflects the discipline's diversity. Faculty study and offer courses about different themes and experiences and use various analytical approaches. Undergraduate political science programs introduce you to exciting ideas and lead to professions such as research and teaching in universities and colleges; research and administrative jobs in government, international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector; journalism; law; public opinion polling; market research; political activism; and advocacy work.

If your first course or two makes you want to explore political science further, you can choose from among four programs: the minor concentration, major concentration, joint honours program, and honours program.

The department's courses are classified into five groups: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics (regarding the domestic politics of different countries), International Relations (about relations between national governments), Political Theory, and Methods, which partly overlap. The first four groups are called fields and they consist of more courses than the Methods group.

Welcome again to this academic year during which we will together engage the special circumstances facing the world!

Prof. Narendra Subramanian
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