Dear Students:

Welcome to the 2021-22 academic year and what the Political Science department offers!

Political science is a discipline with a broad scope which includes diverse analytical methods. It draws from and contributes to other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities as well as some professions. The department reflects the discipline’s diversity. Faculty study and offer courses about different themes and experiences and use various analytical approaches.

The different 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, the major concentration, the joint honours program, and the 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.

We fortunately start this academic year under better health circumstances than we faced the previous year. But the pandemic is far from over and its future course remains uncertain. Unlike in 2020-21, the majority of courses are scheduled to be taught in person in Fall 2021, though with some restrictions. The rooms are allocated so that they will not be at full capacity, and some distancing and masking requirements will apply. Moreover, some of the larger classes will be taught remotely. Please check whether the courses you are taking are to be taught in person or remotely. These regulations are likely to change along with the infection rate. As a result, it is very important that you pay attention to the changing rules and follow them so that all of us can be as safe as possible under the circumstances. We will fortunately 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. The program regulations introduced in 2020-21 will apply to students admitted into McGill FROM Fall 2020 onwards. This particular program guide can be found at https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad/ugformsanddocs. It is the first document on that page entitled 2021-2022 Political Science Programs Guide (for students admitted FROM FALL 2020 onward).
The old program regulations will continue to apply to students who were admitted to McGill **BEFORE Fall 2020.** This program guide can be found at [https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad/ugformsanddocs](https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad/ugformsanddocs). It is the second document on that page entitled **2021-2022 Political Science Programs Guide (for students admitted BEFORE FALL 2020).**

**STEPS TO TAKE TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE MEETING YOUR POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

It is not necessary to consult a Political Science advisor to track your progress. You can easily evaluate this yourselves using the audit sheets located at [https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad/ugformsanddocs](https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad/ugformsanddocs).

There are audit sheets for **BOTH** the new and old programs. Please ensure that you use the form that is appropriate to your circumstance. If 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 received, and the courses in which you are currently registered) **before** that meeting.

The Political Science Fall 2021 advising schedule is located at [https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad](https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/undergrad) (3rd item on the list). 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](https://www.mcgill.ca/oasis/advising/advising-services) for further details.

Welcome again to this academic year!

Prof. Narendra Subramanian  
Undergraduate Program Director  
Department of Political Science