

# Political Science

## Program Overview

[The Department of History, Latin, and Political Science](#) brings together three disciplines dedicated to understanding the diverse character and dynamics of our world, past and present. In written assignments and discussions students will be introduced to and build confidence in the use of key critical skills and concepts that will make them more attentive to the ways in which context shapes events and attitudes and determines 'who gets what, how, and when.'

[Political Science](#) is a multi-faceted discipline covering many areas of specialization. While students can choose from a wide variety of first and second year Political Science courses at Langara College, they will develop a common set of skills designed to enable them to gain an enriched appreciation of the complexity of political life, while developing an enhanced ability to think critically about the world in which we live. Political Science courses at Langara are also intended to provide a preparation for subsequent courses at the senior undergraduate level which build and reinforce levels of experience gained at this stage.

## Self-Study

Political Science launched its program review in academic year 2022/23 with a Self-Study. The primary Self-Study writer was Stephen Phillips, Coordinator of History, Latin and Political Science. Additional support was provided by:

- Elizabeth Barbeau (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Community Programs)
- Sandra Enns (Division Chair, Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences & Community Programs)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Roshni Riar (Department Assistant, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey

The Self-Study was completed in August 2023.

## External Review

Political Science's external review took place on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Katrina Erdos, Department Chair, Department of Geography and Geology, Langara college (External Review Chair)
- Anil Hira, Professor of Political Science, Simon Fraser University
- Darin Nesbitt, Instructor, Department of History and Political Science, Douglas College

### Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, History, Latin and Political Science created a combined Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Ensure that supply of courses, at both the first and second-year level, meets student demand and needs regarding credential completion and transfer to optimise student pathways and retention.
- Goal 2: Expand the department's History offerings to meet student demand and needs, and thus ensure greater student retention and smoother pathways to transfer.
- Goal 3: Ensure that courses are offered in delivery modes that suit student and departmental needs and the College's mandate.
- Goal 4: Recruit more students into the department's programs, including through raising the profile of the department through public outreach activities.
- Goal 5: Explore the possibility of hiring in Indigenous History.
- Goal 6: Review Political Science program's goals and learning outcomes, in order to update them in alignment with the college's Strategic Plan and have them approved by EdCo.
- Goal 7: Ensure that faculty have the resources that they need to support teaching and learning.

### Examples of Post-Review Successes

Forthcoming.