



June 19, 2020.

Dear Political Science Students,

I know this letter is rather long, but please do take the time to read the whole thing—it contains important information.

I hope your summer break is off to a good start, and that you have been able to find community within this current environment. With the schedule getting released and registration about to begin, I wanted to reach out to you and give a few guidelines about class selection.

First, a note on how courses will be delivered. Our department offerings are made within the limits of University directives, which are in turn guided by discussions with public health officials and the government of Ontario. Those discussions have led to the University's decision to offer all courses online in the Fall. Winter courses are also scheduled online, but there is a possibility that some will move to in-class offerings.

Some online courses are being offered with set meeting times (listed as Zoom), while others do not have set meeting times (listed as WEB). While we understand that there will be certain practical considerations that guide your course selection, as always, we urge you to choose those courses that provide you with the deepest and most intellectually challenging learning opportunities, and that allow you to interact with Faculty who are committed to your education.

Second, an exhortation. Although there will be considerable physical distance between you and the department's faculty, please stay as engaged with us as possible—The department is your home. We in turn are planning to offer a number of learning opportunities outside of the formal classes, through events like invited online speakers, and department wide faculty/student discussion of current and important political issues. Please help us make these truly enriching experiences.

Third, a few important notes and suggestions as you select classes:

1. 1st year students should take first year courses—we recommend both Political Science 1301 and Political Science 1100
2. 2nd year students should primarily take 2nd year courses, but are free to consider a few other year level courses

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3. 3rd year students should primarily take 3rd year courses, but are free to consider a few other year level courses
4. 4th and 3rd year Graduating students--be sure your selected courses complete your degree requirements. The best way to check this is to sign up for courses and then check the Degree Audit under My Info. If you are still not sure, send a copy of the degree audit (screenshot works) to me, and I will double check and/or answer any questions. Every year a few students are UNABLE to graduate because they did not fulfill their degree requirements. So please check your degree audit!

All Students:

5. If you feel you need advising on course selection, sign up for your courses using your best guess BEFORE checking with me. Then check with me--attaching a screenshot of your Degree Audit from My Info. If I am on holidays, you should contact the Acting Chair (my out of office reply will guide you).
6. If a course is full, get on the Waitlist immediately. If there is no waitlist, let me know and we will create one. If you need the course to graduate, we will make sure you get it, but we will not open up spots for this reason until the first day of classes.
7. POLI 4150 is a special topics course, so can be taken more than once for separate credits.
8. POLI 4911 Tyranny and Democracy WILL count as a Political Theory type course but (because it is a special topic) will not show up as that in your Degree Audit. We will, however, count it as such when it comes time to graduate.
9. Don't stress. Almost all registration related problems can be solved.

Any other questions, please contact me.

Best wishes, and looking forward to seeing many of you in the Fall,



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