# About Political Studies at Trent University

**4 minutes, 13 seconds in length**

## How would you describe Political Studies at Trent?

Dr. Nadine Changfoot – Professor, Political Studies responds:

Political studies is a dynamic area of study and in political studies at Trent, we have three streams that students can work in. They are Canadian politics, political theory and world politics.

## How would you describe Political Studies at Trent?

Dr. Jonathan Greene – Professor, Political Studies – responds:

Teaching students and talking with students about what politics is, and what it means to be engaged in politics, and I think that we try to bring those two things together a little bit.

## Why did you choose to take Political Studies at Trent?

Chelsea Desrochers responds:

I feel like politics chose me in my first year because of how the Trent system works. You can take multiple first-year courses without actually choosing your major, and then I was so interested in the first year Politics program, the first year class.

Description: Photo of Justin Trudeau standing in front of the Trent University Politics Society – a group of 15 to 20 young adults and instructors.

I really loved all the concepts that were introduced to us, I really liked the teachers.

## What do you enjoy most about the program?

Dr. Hasmet Uluorta – Professor, Political Studies responds:

The thing I enjoy is of course when students get it, and sometimes it takes a little while but there are these moments that you get in a class with -- particularly seminars -- we have very small seminars here -- where you know that the students have not only read the material but they're actually putting things together and you can see that process and that's quite rewarding.

## **“What do you enjoy most about** the program?

Adrienne Sultana responds:

The different perspectives that you do get from faculty because when you're into your upper year, you're one of ten, you're one of twelve you're not one of hundreds, so it's easier to get to know different perspectives, and then that just offers more nuanced research opportunities.

## **Describe the first year experience?**

Dr. Jonathan Greene – Professor, Political Studies – responds:

I think coming into the first year politics class is again you're taking people who may or may not already be knowledgeable, active, engaged, aware of what politics is, what it entails and introducing them to new things about what it actually means to be learning about politics and being involved and engaged in politics...

Description: Photo of a young smiling female student in front of her kiosk that demonstrates her project entitled, “Investigating the Labour Market”.

## Describe the first year experience.

Dr. Jonathan Greene – Professor, Political Studies – responds:

They can expect to read, they can expect to attend lectures and seminars. I think that they can expect to engage in material that they probably may not think that they would engage in.

## Describe the first year experience.

Chelsea Desrochers responds:

I was one of ten in my seminar which is fairly unheard of. My friends at other schools were one of hundreds in their first year and I was one of 10. You're really established well off right from the beginning in your first year in this department and you get to know the faculty, and you get to know your TA's and everybody else in your department, so it's a really easy way to get started.

Description: Photo of Chelsea with 10 to 12 of her classmates around a rectangular boardroom table.

## Why should someone choose to take Political Studies at Trent?

Well, students will gain the skills they need to pursue careers in the private sector, the civil service, the non-profit sector, and a wide range of areas.

Description: Photo of four students talking and laughing with their instructor.

## Why should someone choose to take Political Studies at Trent?

Dr. Hasmet Uluorta – Professor, Political Studies responds:

This is a small faculty and it means that the classes are also small. It means that the students get a lot of one-on-one, the students get a lot of interaction and I think at the undergraduate level - it depends on what type of student you are - but if you're the type of student that enjoys the small setting, that is not anonymous, that likes to engage with not only their peers, but with faculty, then this is a great place.

## Do you have a favourite first year memory?

Chelsea Desrochers responds:

Every time I walk away from a class or seminar, there's some memorable instance that I had in that class, whether it's my own observations of, "wow, I never thought of something like that", or even if it's just the debate I had with someone else in creating a connection with that other person.

Description: Photo of Chelsea in front of a kiosk with her project entitled “Women in Politics”.

It's just, it's been such a great experience all the way through.

## Would you recommend Political Studies to new students and why?

Dr. Jonathan Greene responds:

I would recommend politics to new students, "Why?", because it's crucial to our lives. I think that if you don't understand some basic ideas about politics and what it is, I think you're missing a lot about going forward in your life, about what you're going to be doing around you. I think that it's about creating awareness, and I think that politics - and learning about politics - gives you that awareness, give you those insights, gives you those abilities to ask questions that you might otherwise not be asking, and so I think that it's just to really create a fulfilling life, a successful career, you need some of those skills.