

## The Trent Learning Experience



## Politics of all Stripes and Colours

Trent University is an outstanding undergraduate university known for its commitment to a liberal arts and sciences education. Celebrated for excellence in both teaching and research, Trent consistently ranks among the top institutions nationwide for quality of education, teaching, and research. In particular, the University is renowned for its focus on the individual student through smaller class sizes, ratio of students to faculty members with Ph.D.s. and access to scholarships and bursaries.

Faculty members are accomplished teachers and researchers who provide an array of opportunities for their students. It is one of Trent's goals to provide educational programs that encourage students to think critically, creatively, constructively and to communicate their ideas effectively, as well as to instill a curiosity that engenders lifelong learning. The Trent experience is not limited to attending lectures and labs; it is a composite of in-class and after-class learning. The University experience is about sharing new information, insight and understanding, and furthering yourself as you enrich the world around you.

Spanning the picturesque Otonabee River in the beautiful Kawartha Lakes district of Peterborough, Ontario, Trent's main campus features award-winning architecture designed to complement its natural setting.

**For further information, contact:**

Trent University  
Department of Political Studies  
1600 West Bank Drive  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9J 7B8

**Telephone:** (705) 748-1011 x 1430  
**Fax:** (705) 748-1047  
**Email:** politics@trentu.ca  
**Web site:** www.trentu.ca/politics



# Political Studies

*At the core of our project is a critical understanding of power, at home as well as globally.*

Politics embraces virtually everything we do – how we influence one another, exert power and make collective decisions. It articulates our understanding of public contro-

versies, social change, world affairs, professional careers, the way organizations function, and even our personal relationships. In the Department of Political Studies, we aspire to address such issues through the careful analysis of differing governmental structures, constitutions, justice and the law, public policy, international relations, trade, social movements, theory, philosophy and ideology. At the core of our project is a critical understanding of power, at home as well as globally.

**Areas of Investigation**

Three strategic areas of investigation frame the courses offered by the Department of Political Studies:

**Global Politics** emphasizes a critical understanding of the many dimensions of



*"Red Sash" by Jack Bush  
Trent University Collection*

'globalization': international political economy, peace and security issues, nationalism, foreign policy, democratization, North American economic integration, and the centrality of the European

Union, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region in redefining world order.

**Canadian Politics** examines intensively the basic institutions of government at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, stressing the emergence of environmental, Aboriginal, urban, race, class, gender and sexual orientation issues in the context of law and justice, political economy, constitutional mechanisms, regionalism, Canadian-American relations, the distribution of power, social and health services, public administration and the crafting and implementation of policy.

**Political Theory** explores the ideas people use to understand and shape political life. Theoretical premises developed over centuries invest our

# Politics embraces virtually everything we do

assumptions, our choices and our rhetoric with meaning. Whether in a global or a Canadian mirror, we see ourselves as liberals, conservatives, neoliberals, socialists, Marxists, anarchists – perhaps post-modern or postcolonial – but always as members of a community. Political theory helps us grasp wider significance from the diversity of political ideas and events shaping our present and our future. Political theory also helps us invest those ideas with new and inspired meaning in the contemporary context.

## Study Abroad

In keeping with the emphasis on globalization, many students in the Department of Political Studies participate in the Trent Year Abroad Program, pursuing their third year of study at a university in another country. This program is facilitated by the Trent International Program (TIP) which also hosts students at Trent from around the world. In its own right, Trent is a truly global community.

## After Graduation

Following graduation, Political Studies majors have traditionally pursued careers in law, government service, public administration, trade negotiation, international development, diplomacy, business, media, teaching, journalism,



Nelson Mandela

Pierre Trudeau

Margaret Thatcher

Louis Riel

or social work. Many have become public policy analysts, private consultants and researchers, still others have gone into banking and corporate management.

The dramatic growth of cities, which now contain 80 per cent of Canada's population, has created new roles for Political Studies graduates – especially as governments rush to accommodate the need for improvements in planning and infrastructure. Public transportation, air quality, urban sprawl, waste disposal, sewage, clean water, homelessness, electrical supply, accessibility, the social and cultural needs of youth – these are merely examples of the increasingly complex issues facing municipal leaders and politicians.

Multicultural Canadian cities have become representations of globalization, demanding a deep understanding of federalism, public policy, international relations, comparative politics and theory.

## Graduate Studies

Those wishing to continue their studies may pursue their specialized interests abroad or at other North American universities. Alternatively Political Studies graduates may continue on at Trent where we offer interdisciplinary M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in programs centered on Canadian Studies, Native Studies, and Theory, Culture and Politics. Each of these graduate programs provides opportunities for Politics students to develop not only their

chosen areas of research but also their aptitude for teaching in small group environments. Graduate students at Trent are eligible for a broad range of scholarship and research funding as well as teaching assistantships.

## Our Approach

Our approach to the study of Politics aspires to make sense of the world in a way that is directly relevant to human concerns. While fully committed to intellectual discipline, critical thinking and the development of sophisticated research, writing, speaking and listening skills, we also encourage the kind

invites students to consider partnering with a local agency in co-operation with the Trent Centre for Community-Based Education (TCCBE). Internship opportunities are also optional at the fourth-year level. In either case interested students will work under the supervision of an individual faculty member while fulfilling research needs defined by community groups or Non-Governmental Organizations.

## Your Role

The Department of Political Studies encourages students to become actively involved



Learning at Trent takes place in small classes.

of insight and understanding that goes beyond a tendency to turn political studies into a narrowly constricted science. As a department, we mirror the evolving interdisciplinary pedagogical and research orientation of Trent University.

In upper year study, the Department of Political Studies

in the formal work of the department. Student representatives from all four years are elected by their peers to serve on the Department Committee. They participate in the decision-making processes governing the development of the curriculum, personnel matters, and conference and special events planning.

## Academic Excellence

Excellence in academic achievement and in participation in departmental life is recognized through a number of awards:

The **George S. Henry Prize** is awarded to the leading undergraduate in the first year of Political Studies.

The **Andrew Priestman Prize** is awarded to a graduating student in Political Studies who has maintained a solid academic achievement and made an above-average contribution to student life and the activities of the Department.

The **Denis Smith Prize** is awarded to a fourth-year student submitting an outstanding essay in Political Studies.

The **Sidney Smith Prize** is awarded to the leading undergraduate majoring in Political Studies and History in the second year.

The **Justice Samuel Murphy Scholarship** is awarded to an upper-year student with a minimum average of 80% in a previous sequence of five full courses who has also demonstrated strength in the study of Canadian Politics and Theory and with a strong interest in pursuing a career in the Law.

## A sample of undergraduate course offerings:

Governance and Globalization: Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Canadian Politics

Global Politics

The Political Imagination

Reading the Social: Space, Difference and Power in Canada

Aboriginal Governance

Society and Politics in Quebec

Law and Constitutional Issues

Public Policy and the Canadian Environment

Ordering World Politics: U.S. Foreign Policy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Beyond

European Integration

Political Economy of Eastern Asia

Women, Law and Politics

United States Politics

Multilevel Governance in Canada

Canada, Globalization and International Development

Government and Politics in the Middle East

Theories of Power and Resistance

Studies in Canadian Social Policy

