

# Department of Political Studies



I would like to offer my gratitude and appreciation to all members of the Political Studies community for your tremendous effort, patience and perseverance this year. Our instructors worked extremely hard under trying conditions to deliver our programming in new and unprecedented ways while maintaining our commitment to teaching excellence and mentorship. Our office coordinator, Amanda Terry, has done tremendous work this year in keeping the department functioning and together despite us being apart. Above all, however, I want to acknowledge our undergraduate and graduate students. Your commitment to your education and learning while dealing with myriad challenges and hardships was inspiring, a testament to your character and bodes very well for future undertakings and achievements. Despite all of our efforts to make things work this year, there's nothing like being and learning together, a fact this year has made all too clear. I look forward to our offices, hallway and classrooms being once again full of your energy, passionate debate and, above all, friendship. Best wishes for a successful final exam period and for a safe and restorative summer.

~NEIL HIBBERT, DEPARTMENT HEAD



In July, 2020, we welcomed Dr. Maggie FitzGerald to the department. In January, 2021, we celebrated with Dr. Kirsten Fisher on being awarded the New Scholar/Artist Research Award. In April, 2021, we were pleased to announce that Dr. Matthew Mitchell was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

*Thank you to my amazing colleagues, administrative support personnel, and, of course, all of our wonderful Political Studies students, for being so welcoming to me throughout my first year at the University of Saskatchewan. It was a difficult year to move to a new city and start a new job, but the Political Studies community has truly made me feel 'at home.' I wish you all a wonderful and restful summer!*

~Maggie FitzGerald

On November 12, 2020, the Department of Political Studies announced with great sadness that Dr. Joe Garcea had passed away after a long battle with cancer. We miss him tremendously, and our thoughts continue to be with the Garcea family. To read or leave tributes to Joe, please visit his memorial page at [www.mykeeper.com/profile/JosephGarcea/](http://www.mykeeper.com/profile/JosephGarcea/)



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



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[@usaskpolitics](https://twitter.com/usaskpolitics)

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# 2020-21 events at a glance

The department maintained connection with students, colleagues and the public this year through virtual panels, guest speakers, The Global Café, and Speaker Series events. You can watch all Global Cafe events via the Global Studies Certificate [Facebook](#) site if you missed them the first time.

## The Global Café



## Speaker Series Events



## Panels & Workshops

- Dr. Kirsten Fisher “Child Soldiers, Justice after Atrocity, and the International Criminal Court” at Concordia University



- Saskatchewan Provincial Election Panel
- U.S. Election Panel
- RCMP workshop - Disinformation and Misinformation: How to stop an infodemic online
- “Explore your Options” U of S panel
- Indigenous Student Experience Days workshop
- U of S open house

# Student Achievement

## Awards

Students in the Political Studies and International Studies departments were tremendously successful this year and received many awards from the university. Our congratulations to all.

**Caid Brossart** - The Gordon and Naomi Barnhart Scholarship in the Study of Canadian Governance

**Quinn Rozwadowski** - George McNevin Award in Public Service

**Heather Poirier** - Dorothy Jackson Nenniger Scholarship

**Jennifer Falconer** - Indigenous Achievement Resiliency Award

**Heather Poirier** - MITACS Undergraduate Aboriginal Research Award

**Heather Poirier** - Internship in MentorSTEP program for Indigenous Women in STEM and mining

## Student Initiatives



Political Studies student Cleo Nguyen and International Studies student Nikaela Lange are 2 of 5 co-founders of the Riversdale Community Fridge! The Riversdale Community Fridge (RCF) is an initiative seeking to address issues of food insecurity and poverty in Saskatoon by collaborating with community partners to provide access to healthy food options while combatting food waste. The fridge will be located on Avenue D and 20th (exact location TBA) and will provide free, 24/7 access to food. For more information, find us on Facebook

and Instagram, email us at [riversdalecommunityfridge@gmail.com](mailto:riversdalecommunityfridge@gmail.com), or check out our GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/9045463d>.



## A year-end message from the PSSA

While the year may not have turned out as we had originally planned, we tried to make the best of it by transitioning to an online format this year. We would like to say thank you to all of the students and faculty who joined us at our virtual events- we always had a great time at the various Zoom calls from the Global Café with Dr. Gaal to our Meet the Prof Nights and everything else in between. Stay tuned for announcements about next year and we hope to be back in person as soon as we safely can!

A special thank you also goes out to this year's executive and we wish the best of luck to the incoming executive which will be elected soon!



# A Message from Angie Gerrard, Library Services



## ***Publish Your Work in USURJ***

Hey undergrads! Have you written a great research paper this past semester? If so, consider submitting your work to the [University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal \(USURJ\)](#). Submissions can include articles, reviews, artwork, and research snapshots.

[USURJ](#) is an open access, peer-reviewed scholarly journal featuring original artwork and scholarly articles by University of Saskatchewan undergraduate students. All submissions are reviewed by established experts in a relevant field. The journal is supported by the Office of the VP, Research and the University Library, including the Writing Centre. It is indexed in the DOAJ.

What does it publish?

- Original student work
  - All disciplines and professional colleges
  - Single or multi-authored
  - Co-authored (professors)
- Artwork and photographs
- Multimedia
- Research papers
- Review papers
- Research Snapshots: provide a concise overview of students' ongoing work, its significance, and any preliminary results, but they can also take the form of a mini-analysis.

Consider submitting your work today! Contact [USURJ@usask.ca](mailto:USURJ@usask.ca) if you have any questions.

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## ***Tips for Quickly Verifying Online Information***

When searching for information online or when you are simply scrolling through your social media feeds, it can be difficult to distinguish between credible information and false or misleading claims. Use these simple strategies to help you quickly sort fact from fiction (and everything in between).

### **Check Your Sources**

When reading information online, determine the source, i.e. who created the information. Do not always take the website's About Us information at face value. It is important to check what others have to say about this person or organization. A quick Google search will often uncover clues to help you determine what biases might be present. Start using a technique called lateral reading, in your everyday practice when you come across sources unfamiliar to you. Before investing time in reading and evaluating the information (vertical reading), open a new tab and investigate the source (horizontal or lateral reading). Check out this video to learn more.

### **Trace the Claims**

Much of what we encounter online has been stripped of context. Is what you are reading the original source of the information, or is this a republication or an interpretation of previously published work? If you are not examining the original source in context, open a new tab and go upstream to trace the claim, quote, or media back to the source. If the claim is about a research study, find the original article so you can see if the claims are presented accurately.

### **Facts Matter**

Use a fact checker website to verify the accuracy of information you encounter online. Popular sites like Snopes, FactsCan (CDN), FactCheck.org (US), AFP Fact Check, and Politifact (US) are in the business of verifying claims and can help you quickly determine the veracity of the information.

### **Check Your Emotions**

False news content is created to catch our attention and appeal to our emotions (anger, fear, outrage, etc.). Don't share posts that are misleading based on your emotional reaction. Check your facts and check your emotions before sharing this kind of content. Remember, what you share online says a lot about you. Make a positive impression and think before you share or reshare information online. Is the information credible? Your posts tell others who you are and what you value. Also, before you share, think about who can see what you've posted (e.g. employer, friend, grandma), both now and in the future.

(based on Mike Caulfield's super fantastic [SIFT moves](#))

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# Contact Us



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Politics & Law Certificate, please contact: Dr. Kirsten Fisher [kirsten.fisher@usask.ca](mailto:kirsten.fisher@usask.ca)

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For all other inquiries, please contact: Amanda Terry, Office Coordinator [political.studies@usask.ca](mailto:political.studies@usask.ca)



We acknowledge that we live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

# Spring/Summer 2021 Classes

## Spring 2021:

### **International Studies:**

IS 201 | Global Citizenship Cultures & Coexistence

### **Political Studies:**

POLS 111 | Democratic Citizenship in Canada  
POLS 112 | Justice & Injustice in Politics and Law (STM)  
POLS 204 | Canadian Political Institutions  
POLS 222 | Indigenous Governance & Politics  
POLS 326 | Comparative Public Policy

## Summer 2021:

### **International Studies:**

IS 110 | Global Issues

### **Political Studies:**

POLS 205 | Canadian Politics and Society  
POLS 236 | History of Political Theory  
POLS 256 | Understanding Political Science Research  
POLS 322 | First Nations Management & Administrative Systems