

YORK UNIVERSITY

Final Assessment Report – Executive Summary

Cyclical Program Review – 2014 to 2022

**Department of Politics, Undergraduate and Graduate
Programs, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional
Studies**

**Political Science Undergraduate Program, Glendon
College**

This Final Assessment Report (FAR) provides a synthesis of the cyclical review of the program listed below.

LA&PS:

- Political Science BA, MA, PhD
- Global Political Studies, BA
- European Studies, GDip (Type 2)
- Democratic Administration, GDip (Type 2)
- International Security Studies, GDip (Type 2)

Glendon:

- Political Science, BA, iBA

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

External Reviewers:

- Audra Mitchell, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Political Ecology, Political Science and Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Heather Whiteside, Associate Professor and Associate Chair Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo

Internal Reviewer:

- Ganaele Langlois, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Communication and Media Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

Cyclical Program Review Key Milestones:

Cyclical Program Review launch: September 2022

Self-studies submitted to Vice-Provost Academic: November 3, 2023 (LA&PS) and November 28, 2023 (Glendon)

Date of the Site Visit: April 30 – May 1, 2025*

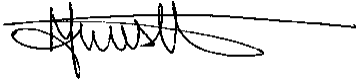
Review Report received: July 2, 2025*

Program Response received: October 14, 2025*

Dean's Response received: February 25, 2026*

*The site visit was conducted approximately one year later than originally scheduled. The in-person visit was initially planned for Spring 2024; however, the Vice-Provost Academic determined that it should be deferred until the conclusion of the CUPE 3903 labour disruption. The visit was subsequently rescheduled for Fall 2024, but two reviewers withdrew shortly before the scheduled dates, requiring new reviewers to be secured and the visit to be transitioned to a virtual format for Winter 2025. Approximately one week prior to the rescheduled visit, an external reviewer advised that they were no longer able to participate. A replacement reviewer was identified, and the virtual site visit was ultimately conducted in Spring 2025.

Implementation Plan and FAR confirmed by Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance, May 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcia Annisette', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Submitted by Marcia Annisette, Vice-Provost Academic, York University

This review was conducted under the York University Quality Assurance Protocol, January 2023.

SITE VISIT: April 30 – May 1, 2025

The agenda for the virtual site visit provided an opportunity to meet with members of the senior administration, faculty, program administrators, staff and students.

Day 1:

- Vice-Provost Academic, Marcia Annisette
- Dean of Graduate Studies, Alice MacLachlan
- Dean, LA&PS, John Justin McMurtry
- Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, Ravi De Costa
- Associate Dean, Research & Open Scholarship, Teresa Lee
- Content Discovery Librarian, Adam Taves
- Chair & Program Directors: Dennis Pilon (Chair); Glenn Goshulak (Undergraduate Program Director); Heather MacRae (Graduate Program Director)
- Part-time Faculty Members (LA&PS)
- Faculty Members, Undergraduate Program (LA&PS)
- Faculty Members, Graduate Program (LA&PS)
- Administrative Staff (LA&PS)

Day 2:

- Associate Dean, Programs, Maggie Quirt
- Associate Dean, Teaching & Learning, Neil Buckley,
- Principal, Glendon, Marco Fiola
- Associate Principal, Academic (Acting), Swann Paradis
- Chair, Department of Global and Social Studies, Colin Coates
- Former Chair, Political Science department, Willem Maas
- Full-time Faculty, Glendon
- Graduate Students (MA/PhD)
- Undergraduate Students (LA&PS)
- Part-time Faculty Members (Glendon)
- Undergraduate Students (Glendon)
- Administrative Coordinator (Glendon)

OUTCOME:

The Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance received the Program and Decanal responses to the recommendations and has approved an implementation plan.

A report on the progress of the initiatives undertaken in response to recommendations in general and as specified in the implementation plan will be provided in the Follow-up Report which will be due 18 months after the review of this report by the York University Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance. The Follow-Up Report will be due in November 2027.

The next Cyclical Program Review will begin in the Fall of 2030 with a site visit expected in the Fall of 2031 or Winter 2032.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND STRENGTHS:

The original Department of Political Science was founded in 1964 as part of the Faculty of Arts. The department name was changed from Political Science to Politics in 2017. The Department is internationally recognized as one of the world's leading sites of critical political scholarship. The teaching and research of the department is informed by a drive to reveal and contest the operation of power in our personal, local, national, personal, and global polities. The department has two programs, one in Political Science and another in Global Political Studies, with a number of degree programs offered at the undergraduate level.

The Graduate Program in Political Science was created in 1967 with the objective of providing students with: a comprehensive and critical understanding of the leading scholarship in the discipline; analytical and leadership skills equipping them to assume careers in which they will make substantial contributions to knowledge as researchers in the academy, community, and policy circles; soft and communication skills; a capacity to engage in the dissemination of knowledge to others through teaching, writing, and public presentations; and encouragement to assume leadership in issues of democratic governance as thinkers and members of diverse communities and political society. The Graduate Program offers a PhD, an MA, and several type 2 graduate diplomas, which may be taken alongside a graduate degree.

Glendon Political Science provides a classic political science education based on the four traditional subfields of political science as the discipline is commonly taught across Canada and more broadly around the world: Canadian politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. Glendon Political Science offers a BA and iBA Specialized Honours degree, a BA and iBA Honours degree, and a BA in political science. Students may also pursue a BA and iBA Double-Major, a BA Honours Major-Minor and iBA Honours Major-Minor, or a BA Honours Minor in political science. These can be taken as bilingual (the Glendon standard since the 1990s) or trilingual (since 2009) degrees.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The chart below lays out the implementation plan approved by the Joint Sub-Committee at its meeting in May 2026.

Recommendation	Internal Response	Action	Timeline	Person(s) Responsible
Recommendations for the Department of Politics (LA&PS)				
1. Comprehensive Curriculum Review That the Department undertake a comprehensive curriculum review with a view to ensuring that courses across all levels align with contemporary discourses in Political Science (POLS) and Global Politics (GLBL) scholarship at undergraduate and graduate levels, including fields and subjects, theory, and methods. Note: Guidance provided by the external reviewers related to the scope and activities of such a review should be used to ensure the review is comprehensive.	Agree ☒ Agree if resources permit ☐ Agree in principle ☐ Do not agree ☐	The department will meet to discuss the curriculum review at a retreat in October 2025 and establish a committee to guide the comprehensive curriculum review by Winter 2026. In undertaking the curriculum review, the Department will avail itself of 1) existing resources posted to the LA&PS Curriculum Toolkit (for curriculum review and mapping); 2) the expertise of the LA&PS Communications team (to produce a student-facing handbook/web-based resource); and 3) the Teaching & Learning team (for support with a review of online learning best practices and EE opportunities). New faculty members will be made aware of and may take advantage of the LA&PS Curriculum Committee's commitment to expedite proposals from newer faculty members.	Spring – Fall 2026	POLS Chair POLS UPD AD Programs AD Teaching & Learning Associate Director Faculty Curriculum Director Strategic Communications & Marketing
2. Standing Curriculum Committee That the Department create and/or reinstate a standing curriculum committee and be empowered to support the curriculum review mandated in Recommendation 1.	Agree ☒ Agree if resources permit ☐ Agree in principle ☐ Do not agree ☐	The curriculum review committee established in response to Recommendation 1, above, will explore how best to set up and structure such a committee as a permanent body and make recommendations to the department. Consideration will be given to encoding	Spring 2026 and ongoing	POLS Chair POLS UPD

		this body in the unit bylaws, similar to other Schools and Departments within LA&PS.		
3. PhD Program a) That the Department undertake actions to ensure equitable distribution of supervision. b) That the Department undertake actions to support PhD students, including support for timely completion of the degree, support for newly admitted students and deadlines for supervisor assignment. Note: Guidance for the enhancements to the PhD program provided by the external reviewers should be used to inform these actions.	Agree ☒ Agree if resources permit ☐ Agree in principle ☐ Do not agree ☐	The Graduate Program will continue the curriculum review begun in anticipation of the recommendations of the CPR. A report containing recommendations for streamlining the curriculum and encouraging more equitable supervision will be presented by Fall 2026. The report will include a collegially-driven pathway for resolving the challenges the Program faces, including how admissions and curriculum in the PhD program can be reconciled across five fields that are not equally aligned with student interests and opportunities for enhanced research experiences.	Fall 2026 and ongoing	POLS Chair POLS GPD AD Research & Graduate Studies FGS (Consultation)
4. Departmental Culture That the Department create a concrete strategy for ensuring sustained, proactive and transformative approaches to persistent issues related to race, gender, career stage, and other equity issues in the department.	Agree ☒ Agree if resources permit ☐ Agree in principle ☐ Do not agree ☐	The department will discuss ongoing strategies for ensuring sustained, proactive, and transformative approaches to issues related to department culture, particularly as these issues relate to the student experience in the programs.	Winter 2026 and ongoing	POLS Chair POLS UPD POLS GPD
Recommendations for Political Science at Glendon College				
5. Administrative Staff	Agree ☐ Agree if resources permit ☒ Agree in principle ☐	Additional administrative support will be provided when there is a sustained and significant increase in the demands of the Department in the form of enrolment.	Ongoing	Ongoing

That, as a matter of urgency, administrative staffing be augmented to sustain the program and to ensure the wellbeing of staff.	Do not agree ☐			
6. Addressing Enrolments Through Marketing and Recruitment That faculty at the Glendon campus have substantial and meaningful input into how their programs are defined and marketed, including on the program's website, in communications with prospective students, through open house days and other aspects of marketing, in order that the faculty's vision be supported.	Agree ☐ Agree if resources permit ☐ Agree in principle ☒ Do not agree ☐	The recruitment team will continue to consult more members of the Political Science program. Members of the Political Science program agree to continue to attend Open House days to represent their program and to contribute feedback on marketing the program more effectively.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Recommendations for both the Department of Politics (LA&PS) and Political Science (Glendon)				
7. Assessment of Service Work That an assessment be carried out of how service work (leadership and governance roles) is allocated within each department. Note: Guidance related to assessment and activities related to service work provided by the external reviewers should be used to ensure the assessment is comprehensive.	Agree ☐ Agree if resources permit ☐ Agree in principle ☐ Do not agree ☒	N/A: Service and leadership roles are governed by the YUFA collective agreement.	N/A	N/A