

Welcome Message from H.O.D., Department of Political Science (DPS)



I want to extend a very **warm WELCOME** to all our new and incoming students to our Department on behalf of my colleagues and I.

We like to say at the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) and this is extended to DPS that “*we shape minds and shape lives.*”

A New Journey Begins at DPS

We want you to know as a DPS student that you are about to embark on a life changing journey and you will not be the same. Reflect on this for a moment-you will be experience transformations that will change you in positive ways by the end of your three years.

We want you to be open to new experiences. I challenge you to see this semester and your first year as an adventure---in learning, growing, self-discovery and of challenging yourself and others in your teams and class room activities.

I would like to give you a sneak preview of some of the exciting experiences and adventures you will have in your first year at DPS. However, one of the things that will be critical to your enjoyment during your first year is being open to change and new experiences and beginnings.

For instance, when I started my first year, the Dean at the time of my Faculty recommended to me during advising to drop 2 History courses and replace with introductory courses in Sociology and Politics. I changed my plan out of respect for her position. As I look back I am so thankful I listened to her advice as it literally opened a new world of learning for me and changed the course of my educational plans.

Classroom Experiences with Peers

This academic year is going to be very unique for you as first years. You will experience different teaching and learning modalities within a virtual remote platform.

As a DPS student you will experience leading presentations, analyzing questions in small break out groups, team work and team assignments, leading your peers, harmonizing ideas, debating, doing online quizzes, developing effective communication skills and more.

In your first year, you will experience what it means to be an active learner-that is, being empowered to speak up in classes, to influence others by articulating ideas, participating in classroom activities, conducting research projects and having fun while you are learning.

Challenging Assignments & Team Work

As a DPS student you will learn how to develop good research skills, how to analyze and critique, how to think about new ways of doing things on many levels, how to develop an academic writing style, and how to use technology to enhance learning in the classroom.

About our Faculty Members at DPS and Students' Interactions

Our faculty members at DPS have interesting life stories, diverse backgrounds, share different starting points, possess a range of varying skills, competencies, knowledge and abilities.

We have for example in the areas of political science/government, parliamentary & constitutional studies **Dr. Hamid Ghany** and **Dr. Maukesh Basdeo**. If they are unknown to you, they are frequent contributors in the media.

Similarly, we have others colleagues such as **Dr. Bishnu Ragoonath** (former H.O.D.) and **Dr. Indira Rampersad** who are also featured regularly in the media.

My area is public management and I engage with stakeholders in public agencies and provide expert advice on policy matters in public human resource management as well as training and development of their workforce.

Professor Ann Marie Bissessar is also an expert in this field of public management and has contributed significantly in research about the public service locally, regionally and internationally.

Finally, we have **Dr. Theodor Tuduroiu**, originally from Montreal, Canada and he is renowned as an international scholar in the field of international relations.

We have a lot of diversity among our academic staff at DPS. Yet, we all have in common a legacy of building and impacting our societies-locally, regionally and internationally. Most of all, we care about our students whom we mentor and are committed to their holistic development and socialization. We are rooted in a regional institution and making global impacts.

The UWI DPS Experience at the Faculty of Social Sciences will prepare you to be Tomorrow's Game Changer, as a Distinguished Graduate

Here are some profiles we have envisioned for you---

- ❖ a critical and creative thinker
- ❖ a problem solver
- ❖ an effective communicator
- ❖ knowledgeable and informed
- ❖ competent
- ❖ a leader
- ❖ a team player
- ❖ IT skilled and information literate
- ❖ socially and culturally responsive
- ❖ ethical
- ❖ innovative and entrepreneurial
- ❖ a lifelong, self-motivated learners

21st Century Future Professional Skills

We also expect you to **develop 21st Century future professional skills** such as being confident, a concerned citizen, a self-directed learner and active professionals who are game changers.

Closing Remarks

Finally, as I close, I want to leave you with a statement to reflect on as you begin your journey this semester at DPS. Make the most of this amazing journey as it will transform your entire life. Remember---

"Life is a journey and not a destination. It is another phase of an experience and it will be what you make it to be."