

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

*Dr. Folkertsma, Chair; Dr. Coulter, Dr. Jewell, Dr. Kengor, Dr. Stanton. Part-Time: Dr. Bonner.*

The Political Science Department is committed to the principles of constitutional government and a free society. Vigorous discussion of political issues is encouraged, but doctrines based on moral relativism, whether derived from pre-modern concepts of politics or from transient intellectual fashions, are rejected. The Political Science program stresses the pursuit of universal truths applicable to all human beings in their spiritual, social, and political relationships, guided by a Christian worldview.

Effective communication and research skills are indispensable for career advancement in the variety of fields available to Political Science majors, including law, government at all levels, and business. Thus, the Political Science Department has incorporated Information Literacy (IL) instruction in Political Science 101 and 277, which are required for all majors. Further, all majors must satisfy Speaking Intensive (SI) and Writing Intensive (WI) requirements by taking either Political Science 309 or 350.

## **Course Requirements for Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science (37 hours)**

### **Core Requirements (22 hours):**

Political Science 101, 104, 201, 204, and 277.

One course from Political Science 255 or 256.

One course from Political Science 309 or 350.

### **Political Science Clusters (12 hours):**

Choose at least two courses from at least two of the following clusters for a total of 12 hours:

- **American Politics:**  
Political Science 304, 306, 308, 309, 319; History 317 or 318.
- **Comparative/International Relations:**  
Political Science 301, 302, 303, 323, 333, 341, 342, or 344.
- **Political Theory:** Political Science 206, 255, 256, or 354.  
(If both 255 and 256 are taken, only one can count toward this cluster, and the other one will count toward the core requirements.)
- **Washington Internship Program** (Political Science 481):  
Summer session for six hours counts as one cluster.  
Fall or Spring semester for twelve hours counts for two clusters.

### **Political Science Electives (3 hours):**

Choose 3 additional hours of Political Science electives.

## **Recommended electives:**

Students planning to do graduate work in Political Science are encouraged to acquire backgrounds in mathematics and statistics. Courses in computer literacy are also recommended. All Ph.D. programs require competency in at least two foreign languages

as well. Students seeking law school are advised to take Accounting, Business Law, Constitutional History, and Symbolic Logic. A broad background in the social sciences, history, and the humanities is recommended.

Students are expected to contact their advisor for a detailed schedule of courses to fulfill requirements for a major.

**Course Requirements for a minor in Political Science (18 hours)**

**Political Science Core (15 hours):**

Political Science 101, 104, 201, and 204.

One course from Political Science 106, 256, or 350.

**Political Science electives (3 hours):**

Choose three hours from courses with POLS prefix.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLS)**

**101. FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.** A review of the principal methods of studying politics, the enduring issues of politics, and main institutions of selected governments in the world today. This course fulfills the Information Literacy (IL) requirement for the Political Science major. *Fall semester only, three hours.*

**104. INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.** An analysis of the growth of national states and the factors that determine their behavior in international affairs. Particular attention is given to problems of collective security, balance of power, foreign policy, and political economy. *Semester course, three hours.*

**201. COMPARATIVE POLITICS.** A selective study of major governments of the industrialized and non-industrialized world. Emphasis placed on the tools of comparative analysis and their application to various nations in the developed and developing world. *Spring semester only, three hours.*

**204. AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.** A survey of national political institutions including Congress, the Supreme Court, the presidency, public bureaucracy, and a review of selected topics in public policy. *Semester course, three hours.*

**206. POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES.** A survey of modern ideologies including treatments of liberalism, conservatism, fascism, communism, democratic socialism, and Third World ideologies. Feminism, environmentalism, and related modern ideologies are also covered. *Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**255. CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT.** A study of the principle theorists and schools of thought about politics from the Pre-Socratics through the Middle Ages. *Fall semester only, three hours.*

**256. MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT.** A survey of the main political thinkers from Machiavelli to the present. The contributions of political theorists to the development of civilization are stressed. *Spring semester only, three hours.*

**277. RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.** An introduction to approaches and methods of political science research, with an emphasis on research design, data collection, interpretation, and the use of computers in the discipline. This course is taught with a lab. This course fulfills the Information Literacy (IL) requirement for the Political Science major. *Fall semester only, four hours.*

**301. ISSUES IN GLOBAL POLITICS.** A study of human rights, diplomacy, and international economic issues. *Spring semester only, three hours.*

**302. NATIONAL SECURITY.** A review of American national security policy including coverage of defense policy, military deployments, and threat assessments. *Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**303. GREAT POWER POLITICS.** An examination of Great Power Politics with an emphasis on twentieth century developments. The course covers the sources of national strength, relations of great powers to one another and minor powers, the rise and decline of nations, and the end of the Cold War. International relations theory and the future of power politics since the end of the Cold War are stressed. *Spring semester only, three hours.*

**304. CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY.** An examination of Congress and the Presidency, with special emphasis on their historical development, institutional processes, and the relationships between the two branches of government. *Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**306. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS.** An overview of the functions of American political parties with special attention to the role of interest groups in the policy process. *Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**308. PUBLIC POLICY.** A study of the main issues surrounding current topics in public policy, dealing with welfare and poverty, energy, environment, labor, business, agriculture, consumer policies, and selected issues in foreign policy. Variable credit in election years. *Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**309. STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS.** An examination of state and local governments and public policies. Topics include federalism, state constitutions, governors, legislatures, judiciary, politics of local governments, and policy debates surrounding local concerns as well as unfunded mandates and meeting federal guidelines. This course fulfills the Writing Intensive (WI) and Speaking Intensive (SI) requirement for the Political Science major. *Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**319. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.** A study of the development, operation, and politics of administrative agencies and the public bureaucracy.

*Spring semester only, three hours.*

**323. LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS.** A survey of the major countries of Latin America with special emphasis on cultural and historical factors that explain political developments. Special attention given to Mexican politics and U.S. - Latin American relations.

*Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**333. MAJOR EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.** A comparative study of European politics with special emphasis on the major governments of Western Europe and the emerging republics of the former Soviet Union. Problems of European integration and the development of democracy in Eastern Europe are stressed.

*Alternate Fall semesters, three hours.*

**341. AFRICAN POLITICS.** A comparative overview of the politics of major African states, with emphases upon the influences of the colonial past, problems of political development, relations with the major powers and the geostrategic importance of selected countries.

*Fall semester only, three hours.*

**342. MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS.** A survey of major powers of the Middle East with emphases on problems of the colonial past, political development, tribal and religious influences, regional conflicts, and global strategic significance.

*Alternate Fall semesters, three hours.*

**344. ASIAN POLITICS.** A study of the major powers of Asia, with special reference to China, Japan and Korea, stressing problems of political and economic development, along with regional conflicts.

*Spring semester only, three hours.*

**350. AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT.** A survey of the foundations of American civilization from the origins of the republic to the present time. Special attention is given to current debates surrounding culture wars and their impact on public policy. This course fulfills the Writing Intensive (WI) and Speaking Intensive (SI) requirement for the Political Science major.

*Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**354. MARXISM.** A study of Marxism from its beginnings to its development into twentieth century totalitarianism by Lenin and his successors.

*Offered periodically, semester course, three hours.*

**390. STUDIES IN POLITICS.** A focused study of selected topics in politics and political science, the content of which varies each semester.

*Semester course, three hours.*

**460. INDEPENDENT STUDY.** Directed research on an individual basis. Open to majors and non-majors with department approval.

*Semester course, one, two or three hours.*

**480. INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.** This course offers practical experience in the field of politics and political science. *Semester course, one to six hours.*

**481. WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP.** This program allows students to spend a semester in Washington working in a government office or for a private organization that deals regularly with public policy matters. For more information, see the "Internships" section under General Education and Degree Programs or consult Dr. Marvin Folkertsma, Director, Washington Internship Program. *Semester course, six to twelve hours.*

**488. SEMINAR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Special topics in political science, the content of which varies each semester. Open to majors and nonmajors with department approval. *Semester course, three hours.*

**499. HONORS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.** Open only to qualified majors with department approval. *Semester course, one, two or three hours.*