

## ***Political Science***

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*Interim Chair: Dr. Mark C. Gentry*

*Coordinator: Dr. Mark C. Gentry*

American politics. International affairs. Health care. Jobs. The environment. Civil rights. If you are interested in such matters, political science is a major you should consider.

Political science has been defined as the study of “who gets what, when, and how.” It involves the study of government and public policy, as well as the study of the behavior of individuals and groups in the pursuit of their interests.

Political science majors can develop skills in writing, communications, analysis, and research. Such skills are useful in various employment settings. Such flexibility is attractive at a time when students can expect to change jobs, and even careers, on a number of occasions.

Political science helps to prepare students for careers in law; local, state, and national government service; interest groups and organizations; business; political campaigns; journalism, and teaching. Valuable training is also provided for graduate school and for those who eventually seek elected or appointed positions in public life or in the non-profit sector.

In addition, the political science program is designed to inform students’ interest in politics, to develop a deeper and fuller understanding of the political processes, in short, to provide a solid conceptual foundation that can be built upon in their later lives as citizens.

In the belief that learning extends beyond the walls of the classroom, experiential educational opportunities in the form of internships and simulations (e.g., mock conventions, moot courts, model United Nations, etc.) are also available.

Students can pursue a general B.A. in political science or can pursue more specialized concentrations. A minor in political science is also available.

See also the listings for the B.S. degree program in Public Administration/Government Service.

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

#### **MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

Political Science 102, 103, 211 or 212 or 221 or 223, 301 or 302 or 303 or 305, 313, 433, 499. *Major Electives:* Any 15 credits in Political Science not taken as required courses.

**Minor Requirements** — Fifteen credits in Political Science, to include at least six credits in Political Science courses 300-level or above.

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION**

Political Science 102, 103, 211, 212, 221, 223, 313, 433, 499, six credits in Political Science electives; Religious Studies 306; Economics 101, 402; History 101, 102, six credits from History 332, 333, 336, 337, 338, 339, 375, 403, 440; Philosophy 308; three credits from English 203, 204, French 211 or Spanish 211. Six credits in foreign language above the 202 level is recommended.

### **POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS CONCENTRATION**

Political Science 102, 103, 211 or 212 or 221 or 223, 301 or 302 or 303 or 305, 313, 398/399 (three-credit interdisciplinary internship), 433, 499, and nine additional credits in Political Science; Communications 101, 201, 205, 210, 301, and one three-credit Communications elective.

### **PRE-LAW CONCENTRATION**

Please refer to the Pre-Law Studies section of this catalog.

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN US HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

#### **MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

Political Science 102, 103, and 313 and nine credits from the following advanced Political Science courses: 112, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 314, 398/399, 495, or 496 and History 101, 102, 103, 104, and nine credits from the following advanced History courses: 340, 350, 385, 398/399, 400.1, 421, 422, 440 or 495 and choose either History 201 and 499 or Political Science 499.

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN WORLD HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

#### **MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

Political Science 102, 103, 313, and twelve credits from the following advanced Political Science courses: 211, 212, 221, 223, 495, 496, or 398/399 and History 101, 102, 103, 104, and nine credits from the following advanced History courses: 211, 212, 262, 331, 332, 333, 336, 337, 338, 339, 375, 401, 403, 404, 424, or 495; and choose either History 201 and 499 or Political Science 499.

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

#### **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

#### **CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION CERTIFICATION**

Political Science 102, 103, 211 or 212 or 221 or 223, 301 or 305, 302 or 303 or 304, 313, 433, 499, and six additional credits in Political Science; six credits in Economics; Geography 201; Six credits in History from the 100-level courses, plus nine additional credits in History; plus education courses prescribed under the secondary education program.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE — COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **102. American National Government (3 credits)**

Operations and implications of the American political system. Emphasis on the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, Supreme Court decisions, and other primary source materials and documents. Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, courts, interest groups, and individual citizens stressed. Current national issues critically analyzed. Formal structures and rules of the “game” are not neutral and such knowledge is necessary for effective participation by citizens. *Fall, Spring, Summer.*

### **103. World Politics (3 credits)**

Introduction to the governments of the world and the means by which states adjust their relations with one another. Focus on the governmental process within nations and the actions of nations in the international arena. Special attention paid to contemporary issues facing the world, such as environmental protection, the imbalance of wealth in the world, the resolution of regional conflicts. *Fall, Spring, Summer.*

### **111. Contemporary Issues in Politics (3 credits)**

Major contemporary issues at home and abroad. Issues selected for intrinsic interest and for relevance to contemporary political realities. *As needed.*

### **112. The Road to the White House (3 credits)**

Course focuses on the current presidential campaign but also deals with rules, structures, procedures, and strategies to help students understand future elections as well. The course covers four main areas: 1) the election arena (history, campaign finance, voting patterns, etc.); 2) the nomination stage (delegate selection, party conventions, etc.); 3) the presidential campaign (tactics, image building, advertising, etc.); and 4) the general election (the Electoral University, reforms, “mandates,” etc.). Seminar format. Debates and simulations used. Active participation in on-campus Mock National Convention required. *Prerequisite: Political Science 102 or consent of instructor. Spring 2008.*

### **201. Political Roundtable (1 credit)**

Systematic discussion of current topic(s). Participation in Model United Nations, Model Congress, or other simulations. *Prerequisite: Political Science 102 or 103. As needed.*

### **202. Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science (1 credit)**

Course provides an introduction to research methods in political science using a series of self-paced, software-based tutorials. *As needed.*

### **211. Comparative Government (3 credits)**

The governments of European nations, including both Eastern and Western sections. Emphasis on political processes, and government institutions in these nations. Includes analysis of the emerging European Community. *Prerequisite: Political Science 103. Spring, even-numbered years.*

### **212. Politics of the Third World (3 credits)**

The government of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Emphasis on political culture, political processes and government institutions in selected nations. Special attention paid to the unique problems of these areas, such as environmental protection, poverty, and specific issues such as apartheid in South Africa. *Prerequisite: Political Science 103. As needed.*

### **221. International Relations (3 credits)**

Analysis of the international political system. Focus on the interaction of nation-states in this arena. The role of the United Nations in this process. Examination of different theories of power. Special attention paid to contemporary issues, including war and peace, environment, and world poverty. *Prerequisite: Political Science 103. Fall, even-numbered years.*

### **223. Conduct of U.S. Foreign Policy (3 credits)**

The formulation and implementation of American foreign policy. Analysis of historical patterns in U.S. policy-making and changes in response to the emerging New World Order. Examination of moral questions in foreign policy, including the Realism-Idealism debate. Special focus on contemporary issues in American foreign policy. *Prerequisite: Political Science 102 or 103. Fall, odd-numbered years.*

**301. Constitutional Law  
(3 credits)**

The United States court system in general and the U.S. Supreme Court in particular. Specific court decisions showing changing interpretations of constitutional provisions dealing with powers of the government. Constitutional controversies involving separation of powers, federalism, checks and balances, judicial review, and the like. Court decisions, the Constitution, and other primary source materials used. Moot court simulation activities. *Spring, even-numbered years.*

**302. Legislative Process  
(3 credits)**

Legislative processes with an emphasis on the United States Congress. The legislator's public policy functions, the representative's functions, and conflicts between the two. The role of party, leaders, constituents, rules, reforms, and relations with the president. Contemporary controversies discussed in context. *Prerequisite: Political Science 102. As needed.*

**303. The American Presidency  
(3 credits)**

The evolution and exercise of presidential power. Presidential elections. Presidential leadership. How are the two related? Emphasis on constitutional origins, structures, relations with Congress and the courts, presidential character, the role of television, and other timely issues. *Prerequisite: Political Science 102. Fall, even-numbered years.*

**304. State and Local Government  
(3 credits)**

The structures, powers, and functions of state and local governments and their relations with the national government. Topics include power, state constitutions, legislatures, governors, courts, counties, cities, towns, policy making, and administration. *As needed.*

**305. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties  
(3 credits)**

United States Supreme Court decisions on constitutional matters involving civil rights and liberties. Freedom of speech, press, religion, the rights of the accused (e.g., due process, protection against unreasonable search and seizure, right to counsel, etc.), equal protection, and so on. Court decisions and other primary source materials. Moot court simulations. *Spring, odd-numbered years.*

**312. Public Policy Analysis  
(3 credits)**

Analysis of how policy choices are made in the American political system. The influence of elections, interest groups, and government institutions on policy decisions. Assessment of policies in various areas and discussion of alternative choices. Policy areas examined include civil rights, economic policy, health care, environment, energy policy. *As needed.*

**313. Ethics and Public Policy  
(3 credits)**

What is right and what is wrong? Who decides? What if the individual disagrees with the community? Rules and public policies defining and proscribing "wrongs" are developed and enforced. But are such rules always "right?" An examination of ethical dilemmas from classical and contemporary perspectives. Defending a killer, following orders, privacy and the press, censorship, conscience, and related matters discussed. *Prerequisite: Political Science 102 or 103 or consent of instructor. Spring, odd-numbered years.*

**314. Public Administration  
(3 credits)**

Theories and practices of administration and public policy; the administrative state, and various types of bureaucracy; structures and functions; relationships to the political processes; administrative accountability. Some primary source materials. Role-playing exercises. *Fall, odd-numbered years.*

**398-399. Political Science Internship  
(1-15 credits)**

An internship affords students the opportunity to gain practical experience in government and politics. Students are assigned to a cooperating government agency, political party, interest group, attorney's office, or other appropriate placement for a semester or a summer, full-time or part-time, with or without pay, in order to gain experientially-based insight into the political system. Reading, research, and other academic assignments accompany the field work. No more than six credits applicable to minimum requirement for major, no more than three to minimum requirement for minor; additional credits counted as free electives. *Prerequisites: Political Science 102 or 103 and consent of the instructor and the Provost. Fall, Spring, Summer.*

**432. Issues in Political Theory  
(3 credits)**

Examination of selected issues in contemporary political theory. These issues include: Feminism, Environmentalism, Existentialism, Post-Modernism, and others. A single issue will serve as the focus for the course, or issues will be combined in some manner. *Prerequisite: Political Science 433 or consent of the instructor. As needed.*

**433. Foundations of Political Theory  
(3 credits)**

Formation and development of political thought, from Ancient Greece to modern times. Focus on the views of the philosophers regarding the purpose of government, who should rule in government, and what political rights are retained by the people. Application of political theory to contemporary issues. *Prerequisite: Political Science 102 or 103 and at least a 200-level philosophy course. Spring, odd-numbered years.*

**495. Selected Topics in Political Science  
(1-3 credits)**

Exploration in depth of selected subjects in political science through readings and student papers, topics and assignments. *Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Fall, Spring, Summer.*

**496. Selected Topics in Public Administration  
(1-3 credits)**

Exploration in depth of selected topics in public administration. The course consists of readings and student papers on current topics in the field. *Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Fall, Spring, Summer.*

**499. Seminar in Research Techniques  
(3 credits)**

The "scope" of political science (definitions, approaches, issues, relationship to natural, physical, and other social sciences, etc.). Research methods (hypotheses, research designs, measurement, sampling, literature reviews, surveys, interviewing, etc.). Statistical analysis (descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, significance testing, software packages, etc.). The course culminates in the preparation and presentation of a senior capstone research paper. *Prerequisite: Except for students majoring in political science or public administration, consent of the instructor. Fall.*

**501. Independent Study in Political Science  
(1-8 credits)**



*Students, staff and community members participate in the 2008 Mock Convention at the JFK Student Center.*