

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Hibbard Humanities Hall 401
715-836-5744

Department Website (<https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/departments-programs/political-science/>)

Political Science examines various systems of government within and among nation-states and the principles on which they are based. It familiarizes the student with political concepts and issues, their historical backgrounds, and their relevance to the cultural systems in which they arise. The study of political science provides methods for analyzing political issues and the policies designed to address them.

The multidisciplinary criminal justice curriculum is designed to familiarize the student with the complex nature of the American criminal justice system. The study of criminal justice focuses upon the structure and functions of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. Included is the analysis of the political, social, cultural, philosophical, and psychological forces that shape the policies, programs, and practices in the system. The liberal arts orientation of the program prepares the student for graduate-level work in criminal justice, law, and for careers at the local, state, and federal levels in law enforcement, corrections, and court related agencies.

Honor Societies and Student Organizations:

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society, promotes student interest in political science and sponsors forums on current political topics and workshops on applying to and attending graduate school and law school. The honor society accepts qualified students each fall and spring semester for membership, based on political science coursework and academic standing. Contact the faculty adviser in the department for further details.

Model United Nations Club (MUNC) is a student organization whose primary purpose is to educate its members and the student body about the United Nations and its activities. The organization is open to all students interested in global affairs and the UN. MUNC members attend two United Nations mock conferences each year and participate in a number of other group activities.

Pre-Law Club is a student organization whose primary purpose is to inform its members of the various aspects of the legal profession. The organization is open to all students from various academic majors who are considering attending law school and share an interest in the legal profession. The organization sponsors speakers from various law-related occupations, organizes trips to law schools and law school fairs, and provides practice tests for the Law School Admission Test.

The Society of Politics is open to all students with an interest in politics and political science. The Society functions as both a social and professional organization for students to help them make connections and broaden the scope of their political knowledge. The Society hosts several events during the year, including a fall picnic, roundtables, and forums for the students and political science faculty to meet and discuss important issues.

Mock Trial Team is an academic competition in which teams prepare both sides of a hypothetical legal case to present to a panel of judges. This academic competition builds one's logical reasoning, analytical reasoning, and persuasive oratory skills. Mock Trial is an excellent educational experience for students who plan to attend law school, work in law enforcement, or be an expert

witness in court, as well as those who want to learn more about how the judicial system operates.

The Criminal Justice Association at UWEC is a student-run organization designed for any student with an interest in criminal justice. Through this organization you'll be able to interact with other students who have similar interests to you. You'll also have the opportunity to further your knowledge in criminal justice through various outlets, such as volunteer work, student research and networking with professional speakers from a multitude of backgrounds like Law Enforcement, Corrections, and the Courts System.

Departmental Honors Program in Political Science

1. *Goals and Objectives*
 - a. To provide an enriched educational experience for subsequent graduate study, professional activities, or public life.
 - b. To allow concentrated and individualized study in selected areas of interest in the field of political science.
 - c. To stimulate, encourage, and challenge students to gain a better understanding of political research and analysis in addition to usual instruction.
 - d. To develop capabilities for independent thought and analysis.
2. *Entrance Requirements for Honors in Political Science*
 - a. Eligibility: Upper-class majors with resident and total GPAs of 3.50 and a GPA of 3.50 in political science courses.
 - b. Applications for Political Science Departmental Honors should be made in writing to the department chair during the junior year.
3. *Satisfactory Completion of Requirements for Graduation with Honors in Political Science.*
 - a. Minimum of 36 semester credit hours in the political science department.
 - b. Resident and total GPAs of 3.50 and resident and total GPAs of 3.50 in the major program at time of graduation.
 - c. During the senior year, complete a semester research project under the direction of a faculty mentor (3 credits of POLS 496) culminating in both a final written paper for the faculty mentor and a final product for public presentation (e.g., paper, poster, pamphlet, project, or workshop). The paper and presentation must be original for POLS 496 and cannot replicate work done for a different course or project.

Departmental Honors Program in Criminal Justice

1. *Goals and Objectives*
 - a. To provide an enriched educational experience for subsequent graduate study, professional activities, and/or public life.
 - b. To allow concentrated and individualized study in selected areas of interest in the field of criminal justice and/or criminology.
 - c. To stimulate, encourage, and challenge students to gain a better understanding of criminological and/or criminal justice research and analysis in addition to usual instruction.
 - d. To develop capabilities for independent thought and analysis.
2. *Entrance Requirements for Honors in Criminal Justice*
 - a. Eligibility: Senior-class criminal justice majors with resident and total GPAs of 3.50 and resident and total GPAs of 3.50 in the criminal justice major.
 - b. Applications for Criminal Justice Departmental Honors should be made in writing via email to the Criminal Justice Program Coordinator during the junior year.
3. *Satisfactory Completion of Requirements for Graduation with Honors in Criminal Justice.*

- a. Completion of the criminal justice comprehensive major.
- b. Resident and total GPAs of 3.50 and resident and total GPAs of 3.50 in the major program at time of graduation.
- c. During the first term (full semester or summer session) of senior year, the student will complete a semester-long independent study (CRMJ 499) under the direction of a two-person CRMJ faculty honors committee. The honors committee will provide the student with a reading list focused on the student's area of inquiry. The term-long independent study will culminate in the creation of original written work including an annotated bibliography, literature review, identification of a research question(s) based on the literature, and general idea of the most efficient/effective methodological design to answer the research question; IRB considerations also will be addressed by the student and honors committee at this time, if necessary.
- d. During the second term of senior year, the student will build upon their CRMJ 499 output by completing a semester-long research project under the direction of their faculty honors committee (3 credits of CRMJ 496) that will include (1) the implementation of their research design, data analysis, and a written paper of their findings, or (2) a written discussion and justification of their methodological approach, the development of all IRB materials, and completion (though, not necessarily submission) of IRB requirements for the proposed study in circumstances where project completion is not feasible, per the discretion of the faculty honors committee. The student also will give an oral presentation to their honors committee and other departmental faculty (in spring semester, this may include the Provost's Honors Symposium). The paper and presentation must be work original to CRMJ 496 and cannot replicate work done for a different course or project, though it will build on their independent study.

Faculty

Geoff Peterson, Chair

Rodd Freitag
 Jordan Hamzawi
 Ming-Li Hsieh
 Eric Kasper
 Mia Kelly
 Damir Kovacevic
 Adam Kunz
 Justin Patchin
 Daniel Simmons
 Jason Spraitz
 Amber Wilson

Majors

- Comprehensive Major: Criminal Justice, Liberal Arts- B.A./B.S. (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/criminal-justice-comprehensive-major-ba-bs/>)
- Comprehensive Major: Political Science, Legal Studies Emphasis, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-comprehensive-major-legal-studies-ba-bs/>)
- Comprehensive Major: Political Science, World Politics Emphasis, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-comprehensive-major-world-politics-ba-bs/>)

- Major: Political Science, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-major-ba-bs/>)

Minors

- Minor: Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusivity (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/criminal-justice-equity-inclusivity-minor/>), Liberal Arts (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/criminal-justice-equity-inclusivity-minor/>)
- Minor: Political Science, Liberal Arts (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-minor/>)

Certificates

- Certificate: Campaign Consulting (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/campaign-consulting-certificate/>)
- Certificate: International Affairs (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/international-affairs-certificate/>)
- Certificate: Legal Studies (<http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/legal-studies-certificate/>)