POLITICAL SCIENCE

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.

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.

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.

Faculty

Rodd Freitag, Interim Chair
Ali Abootalebi
Ming-Li Hsieh
Eric Kasper
Mia Kelly
Damir Kovacevic
Adam Kunz
Justin Patchin
Geoffrey Peterson
Daniel Simmons
Jason Spraitz
Amber Wilson

Majors

• Comprehensive Major: Political Science, Liberal Arts - B.A./B.S. (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-comprehensive-major-liberal-arts-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: 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/)