

# 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

- Goals and Objectives*
  - To provide an enriched educational experience for subsequent graduate study, professional activities, or public life.
  - To allow concentrated and individualized study in selected areas of interest in the field of political science.
  - To stimulate, encourage, and challenge students to gain a better understanding of political research and analysis in addition to usual instruction.
  - To develop capabilities for independent thought and analysis.
- Entrance Requirements for Honors in Political Science*
  - Eligibility:** Upper-class majors with resident and total GPAs of 3.50 and a GPA of 3.50 in political science courses.
  - Applications for Political Science Departmental Honors should be made in writing to the department chair during the junior year.
- Satisfactory Completion of Requirements for Graduation with Honors in Political Science.*
  - Minimum of 36 semester credit hours in the political science department.
  - Resident and total GPAs of 3.50 and resident and total GPAs of 3.50 in the major program at time of graduation.
  - 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

- Goals*
  - To provide an enriched educational experience for subsequent graduate study, professional activity, public life, or citizenship.
  - To encourage concentrated study in selected areas in the field of criminal justice.
  - To stimulate and challenge exceptional students to gain a better understanding of the issues, substantive content, research and theory in criminal justice.
  - To develop capabilities for independent thought and constructive criticism.
- Entrance Requirements*
  - Eligibility:** Upper-class majors with resident and total GPAs of 3.50 and resident and total GPAs of 3.50 in criminal justice major courses.
  - Applications for the Honors Program should be made in writing to the Criminal Justice Program Coordinating Committee early in the junior year.

3. *Graduation from the University with Honors in Criminal Justice* requires maintaining resident and total GPAs of 3.50 in criminal justice major courses, and satisfactory completion of all of the following:
  - a. Criminal justice major requirements.
  - b. Six credits of independent study, approved by the student's honors committee.
  - c. An honors examination.
  - d. An honors research paper.

## Faculty

Geoff Peterson, Chair

Ali Abootalebi  
 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/>)
- 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/>)