**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Hibbard Humanities Hall 401  
715-836-5744

Department Website ([https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-arts-sciences/ departments-programs/political-science/](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**

*Eligibility:* Majors with resident and total GPAs of 3.50 or higher overall and in Political Science, and the consent of the department. Senior standing is required. By the end of the second semester of the junior year, students must notify the department of their intent to seek departmental honors.

*Requirements:* Comprehensive written examination taken at the end of the first semester of the senior year; senior thesis written during the second semester of the senior year. Students must register for POLS 496, during the semester that they write the thesis.

**Faculty**

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

**Majors**

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

**Certificates**