

College of Arts and Sciences – Departments

Political Science (POL)

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The program of courses offered by the Political Science Department is designed to enable students to acquire an understanding of political processes, governmental institutions, and theories of politics.

As one of the liberal arts, political science enables students to develop skills in communication and analytic problem solving that are useful in a wide variety of careers, including business. More specifically, the major in political science prepares students for the study of law, graduate programs in political science or public administration or for careers in government, politics, the non-profit sector, or teaching.

Students graduating with a major in political science will have a broad overview of the discipline, as well as substantive familiarity with at least two of the four political science sub-fields: American politics, comparative and international politics, law and judicial politics, and political thought. At various points in their study of political science, majors will develop a wide variety of skills, including skills related to the carrying out of research projects, the interpretation of empirical data, and the presentation of their work to a wider audience.

Students majoring in Political Science must take a minimum of sixteen credits in political science at St. Thomas.

The department also offers courses for non-majors to fulfill the Social Analysis component of the core curriculum.

Political Science Honor Society

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, established the *Chi Theta* chapter at St. Thomas in 1999. The purpose of *Pi Sigma Alpha* is to acknowledge superior performance in the study of political science, to forge closer links between faculty and political science majors and minors, and to stimulate political interest in the St. Thomas community.

Pi Sigma Alpha is open to juniors and seniors who meet the following qualifications for membership. Students must have completed at least three political science courses and be currently enrolled in or have taken a fourth. Two of the four courses must be UST political science courses, and one of the four must be at least a 300-level course. Additionally, students must have a grade point average of at least 3.00 in political science courses and be within the top third of their graduating class.

Major in Political Science

105	Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective
205	Introduction to the American Public Policy Process
225	Introduction to World Politics
275	Introduction to Political Thought

Plus:

Sixteen credits in 300-level courses
(completed in at least two of the four sub-fields)

Plus:

One 400-level seminar
Four elective credits

Note: While students are encouraged to take an experiential learning course (475, 476, 477, 478), these internships do not normally fulfill a major field requirement.

Teacher Licensure

Elementary Education with a Specialty in Social Studies (5-8)
Co-major in Social Studies (5-12) and a Co-major in Secondary Education
See School of Education Department of Teacher Education.

Minor in Political Science

105	Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective
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Plus two of:

205	Introduction to the American Public Policy Process
225	Introduction to World Politics
275	Introduction to Political Thought

Plus:

Twelve credits in 300-level courses
(completed in at least two of the four sub-fields)
One 400-level seminar may be completed in place of a 300-level course.

Recommended Sequencing

1. Students enrolling in POL courses, especially those desiring a major or minor field concentration in political science, are strongly advised to begin with 105 before enrolling in any of the 200-level core courses.
2. Students should normally complete successfully the appropriate 200-level core course before enrolling in any of the 300-level courses in that sub-field.

3. While these expectations do not constitute formal prerequisites, students who deviate from these recommendations may not be as well prepared for more advanced courses as those who observe them.

Prerequisites

1. Students who intend to complete a major or minor in political science may not enroll in a 400-level seminar unless they have completed successfully a 200-level or 300-level course in the sub-field of the 400-level seminar.
2. Students who are not pursuing a major or minor in political science must obtain permission of the instructor of a 400-level seminar and the department chair to enroll in that seminar if a 200-level or 300-level course has not been completed in the sub-field of the seminar.

101 American Government and Politics

An introduction to the political system of the United States, including the Constitution, federalism, the three branches of government, elections, political parties, interest groups, and public policies. The role of public opinion and citizen participation will also be examined. *Note:* This course does not fulfill the introductory course requirement of the major or minor in political science. It does not fulfill the core curriculum requirement in Social Analysis.

105 Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective

An introduction to concepts basic to an understanding of politics and government, such as power, authority and legitimacy. A comparative examination of political processes, decision-making institutions and policy issues in the contemporary world. Countries surveyed will include the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia or China and selected third-world political systems. This course fulfills the Social Analysis and Human Diversity requirements in the core curriculum.

205 Introduction to the American Public Policy Process

A survey of the way public policy is made in the American political system including agenda-setting, formulation of alternative policy choices, representation of interests and selection and implementation of policy options. Public policy case studies will be used as illustrations. Students also will be introduced to data analysis as a tool for policy evaluation. This course fulfills the second-level Computer Competency requirement in the core curriculum.

225 Introduction to World Politics

An overview of the contemporary international political system that examines the nature of power in global politics, particularly the transition from a bipolar to a post-cold war world. Emphasis is given to the changing relationships among the great powers, such as the United States and Russia, and to the interaction between the industrialized democracies of the North and the less-developed states of the South. Issues that cut across international politics – arms proliferation, the debt crisis, terrorism, resurgent nationalism – are examined. The course also analyzes the role and impact of non-state actors, such as the United Nations and multi-national corporations, on the international system.

275 Introduction to Political Thought

By examining the ideas of some major political thinkers and contemporary political ideologies, this course introduces students to the central philosophical issues which confront every political system: What is political community? What is justice? How are individuals related to the state? What is power and how should it be allocated? What are the best ways for a society to deal with conflict and change? Are equality and/or individual freedom desirable ideals? Teaches students how to look critically at their political assumptions and to read political philosophy texts.

295, 296 Topics

2 credits

297, 298 Topics

The subject matter of these courses, announced in the annual *Class Schedule*, will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. See the description of these courses at the beginning of the “Curricula” section of this catalog.

301 American Political Behavior

An examination of the political attitudes and behavior of the public, as well as the linkages between the public and their government. Topics include: public opinion; political psychology; political participation; voting; elections; political parties; interest groups; and the mass media. The emphasis is on the American system, but comparisons will be made with other democratic systems. Attention also will be paid to survey research as a principal method by which these topics are studied.

302 Women and Politics

An examination of the political involvement of women. Topics include: the representation of women, feminism as a social movement, the campaign strategies and styles of women candidates, the election of women to local, state, and national office, and the differences that women make in public office. Emphasis is on women in the United States, but comparisons will be made with women in other countries.

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303 Urban and Metropolitan Politics and Government

An examination of the nature and role of urban and metropolitan places in American civic life. The evolution of cities from villages to metropolitan areas is examined. Topics examined include: the structure of American urban government, the role of community-based organizations in urban governance, the city as a vehicle for social segregation, the city as an economic entity and the relationship between cities and an increasingly global society.

305 Congress and the Presidency

An examination of the development and contemporary operation of the legislative and executive branches of government, focusing particularly on the interaction between them in the policy-making process. Topics include: the evolution of selection processes; the growth of careerism in the legislature; increasing complexity and bureaucratization of both branches; the nature of representation; the role of political parties; and the expansion and contraction of each branch's powers relative to the other. Primary attention will be on Congress and the presidency, but parallels also will be drawn with state legislatures and governors.

307 Public Policy Analysis and Administration

An examination of the processes underlying the formation, implementation and administration of public policy. The nature of administrative organizations is studied, as is recent literature on contemporary organizational theory. A variety of techniques commonly used in public sector organizations, including experimental designs, benefit-cost analysis and risk assessment are explored. Emphasis will be placed upon the historical character of American public administration and its changing role in American society.

312 Judicial Process

An examination of the relationship of law and judicial policy-making to American political culture. The selection, powers and operation of American courts – trial and appellate, federal and state; the evolution of the judiciary in American constitutional history with emphasis on the decision-making process; relations with law enforcement agencies, the legal profession, interest groups, executive and legislative institutions.

313 Constitutional Law and Politics

The Supreme Court as a legal and political institution; leading cases and related materials on the presidency, Congress, the judiciary, federalism and national emergency.

314 Constitutional Rights and Liberties

The Supreme Court as a legal and political institution; leading cases and related materials on the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment, including the freedom of speech and press, the freedom of religion, the rights of the criminally-accused and equal protection of the laws.

320 American Foreign Policy

Examination of the traditional American approach to foreign policy; America's post-World War II role in the world; the roles of the president and Congress in the making of foreign policy; the foreign-policy bureaucracy; nuclear-weapons policy; contemporary American foreign policies.

321 Comparative Foreign Policy

Analysis of the domestic and external determinants of foreign-policy behavior. The general processes discovered by analysis will be examined on a comparative basis in the foreign policies of the major powers.

326 International Law and Organizations

The nature and role of international organizations with special emphasis on the United Nations and its affiliated specialized agencies. The function of law in the international setting: the concept of sovereignty; recognition; the law of the seas; aggression; the International Court of Justice.

350 Comparative Politics of the New Europe

A comparative analysis of governmental structures, political culture, political economy, and political behavior across a broad range of political systems in post-cold war Europe, ranging from the United Kingdom, France and Germany, to the emerging democracies and market economies of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Russia. The impact of resurgent nationalism is also examined. Regional developments and organizations, such as the European Union, and NATO, are included in the attempt to explain the political dynamics of the "new Europe."

352 Third World Politics and Government

A survey of the governments, politics and economics of "third world" countries. Also includes an overview of colonialism and its legacy, strategies for economic and political development, and such common problems as the effects of rapid social change, controversy over forms of government, and the linkages and tensions between the North and the South. Films and novels from and about representative countries will be used as one means by which these issues are examined. This course fulfills the Human Diversity requirement in the core curriculum.

372 Political Thought from Plato to Marx

Using both original sources and secondary texts, this course introduces students to the political writings of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel and Marx. These thinkers are examined both for their historical importance and for the insights they can provide into contemporary political problems. Other theorists of the periods will be given consideration when appropriate.

373 Political Thought from Marx to the Present

Using original sources and secondary texts, this course examines some major trends in political theory from Karl Marx to the present. Although the emphasis may shift, topics to be covered include: developments in Liberalism from J.S. Mill to Rawls; developments in western Marxism; post-modernist political thought; participatory democracy; and feminist political theory.

375 American Political Thought

A survey of important American political thinkers, such as Jefferson, Thoreau, Dewey, Lincoln, Debs, Mencken, and Walzer from the 17th century to the present; includes analysis of the relevance of American political experience to abiding questions in normative political philosophy.

404 Seminar in American Politics

414 Seminar in Law and Judicial Politics

424 Seminar in International Politics

454 Seminar in Comparative Politics

474 Seminar in Political Thought

Seminars in political science provide an opportunity for students to synthesize and further develop knowledge gained in earlier courses and enhance their critical and analytical skills. Students in the seminars will engage in reading and discussion and undertake a major research project pertinent to the seminar's topic. Specific topics or themes of each seminar will vary. Seminars are offered in each of the sub-fields of the discipline.

475, 476 Experiential Learning **2 credits**

477, 478 Experiential Learning

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog. Specific possibilities in political science include:

Administrative internship

Fifteen hours per week of supervised practical government experience in an administrative agency plus a term paper and regular conferences with the supervising instructor.
Prerequisites: 205 plus previous or concurrent enrollment in 307

Legislative internship

Fifteen hours per week of supervised work assisting a legislator or legislative committee plus a term paper and regular conferences with the supervising instructor.
Prerequisites: 205 plus previous or concurrent enrollment in 305

Field work in practical politics

Fifteen hours per week of supervised work in a political campaign or with a political party or interest group plus a term paper and regular conferences with the supervising instructor.
Prerequisites: 205 plus previous or concurrent enrollment in 301

Legal Internship

Fifteen hours per week of supervised work experience in an agency or office engaged in the legal process plus assigned readings, a term paper and regular conferences with the supervising instructor.
Prerequisites: 205 plus previous or concurrent enrollment in 312.

480 Research Seminar

Empirical research in political science, building upon and furthering skills developed in 105 and 205. Students will undertake an independent research project. Recommended for students planning to enter a graduate program in political science.
Prerequisites: 105, 205, and permission of instructor

483, 484 Seminar **2 credits**

485, 486 Seminar

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

487, 488 Topics **2 credits**

489, 490 Topics

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491, 492 Research **2 credits**

493, 494 Research

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

495, 496 Individual Study **2 credits**

497, 498 Individual Study

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.