

# Department of Politics

**Chairperson: Neal Bushoven**

**Major in Politics (B.A.)**

**Minor in Politics**

## **Mission**

The mission of the Politics Department is to support the mission of the college by providing majors with a depth of knowledge and proficiency in the tools and techniques of the discipline of Political Science, supplemented by an awareness of the questions of value implicit in all vocations. The members of the Politics faculty also support the mission of the college by encouraging all students in its courses to become informed, articulate, political individuals with a comprehension of the complex nature of living in an interdependent global community. The Politics Department is inclusive and student-centered, utilizing experiential learning where appropriate and enhancing student self-development through habits of lifelong learning.

## **Learning Outcomes**

Students in Politics courses will:

1. become politically better informed persons
2. identify, clarify, articulate, and evaluate personal political values
3. become knowledgeable global citizens
4. prepare for careers in such areas as law, public service, private agencies, international organizations, journalism, and education.
5. develop strong oral and written communications skills.

## **Honors in Politics**

A major may, upon recommendation by the faculty of the Department of Politics, and upon certification by the Dean of the College, receive the designation “honors in politics” after successful completion of the following:

- Achievement of a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or better in all course work, and a 3.3 or better in all course work in Politics.
- Satisfactory completion of 6 credits, four of which are completed in the fall semester as Politics 497 Departmental Honors and two of which are completed in the spring semester as Politics 419 Senior Seminar in Politics.
- Completion of a yearlong Honors Thesis on a topic approved by the Politics faculty.
- Achievement of periodic approval for continued work on the Honors Thesis.
- A successful defense of the Honors Thesis before an examining committee which includes the faculty in Politics, one faculty member outside the Politics Department, and/or an outside examiner.

## **Internships**

Internships are an integral part of most Politics majors. The Department of Politics has arranged for the placement of student interns with numerous national, state, and local government offices and agencies, private agencies, law offices and businesses. Prospective interns must meet College internship requirements. Internships allow students to explore career opportunities, clarify goals and personal values, and utilize knowledge and skills in practical work environments.

Student interns receive variable credits while enrolled in Politics 295, 395, and/or

495. Course levels and credits reflect interests, skills and the nature of the on-site experience.

### **Major in Politics (36 credits)**

A major in Politics must total a minimum of 36 Politics course credits. Students may take a maximum of 14 credits of 200-level courses that must include POL 201 and POL 211 or equivalent. They also must take a minimum of 22 credits of 300-400 level courses that must include POL 319 Junior Seminar and POL 419 Senior Seminar. At least 12 upper-level credits must be taken in the Junior and Senior years.

### **Contract Major in Politics (36 - 41 credits)**

Contract majors in Politics may be arranged between students and the department chair. Areas of emphasis in the past have included pre-law and politics, journalism and politics, international studies and politics, professional Political Science, and area studies and politics.

#### **Sample Contracts for Specialized Programs of Study in Politics:**

##### **Pre-Law and Politics**

##### *Four Introductory Level Courses (12 credits)*

POL 201 Introduction to American Politics	3
POL 211 Introduction to International Politics	3
POL 231 Introduction to Law	3
PHI 203 Introduction to Logic	3

##### *Upper Level Courses (Minimum of 29 credits)*

POL 495 Internship in Law	3
POL 319 Junior Seminar	2
POL 419 Senior Seminar	2

##### *At Least Four Credits From:*

POL 325 Constitutional Law: Historical Cases	2
POL 335 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights	2
POL 345 Constitutional Law: Current Cases	2

##### *Six Credits From:*

POL 323 Conflict Resolution	3
POL 340 Politics of Race	3
PHI 333 Philosophy of Law	3
BUS 301 Business Law	3

A Minimum of Twelve Additional Credits in Politics (Of Which Six Must Be in Comparative or International Politics)

##### **Law and Public Service**

##### *Five Introductory Level Courses (14 credits)*

POL 201 Introduction to American Politics	3
POL 211 Introduction to International Politics	3
POL 231 Introduction to Law	3
POL 276 Politics of Behavior	3
POL 242 Leadership	1

##### *Nine Upper Level Courses (22 credits)*

POL 323 Conflict Resolution	3
POL 340 Contemporary Issues	3

POL 325 Constitutional Law: Historical Cases	2
POL 335 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights	2
POL 345 Constitutional Law: Current Cases	2
POL 366 Politics of Sex	3
POL 395 Internship	3
POL 319 Junior Seminar	2
POL 419 Senior Seminar	2

**International Studies and Politics**

*Five Introductory Level Courses (13 credits)*

POL 201 Introduction to American Politics	3
POL 211 Introduction to International Politics	3
POL 240 Model UN	1
POL 276 Politics of Behavior	3
POL 224 Democracies	3

*Nine Upper Level Courses(25 credits)*

POL 309 Area Studies (two courses)	6
POL 323 Conflict Resolution	3
POL 340 Contemporary Issues (two courses)	6
POL 395/398/or 399 Internship, Teaching Practicum or Guided Independent Study	3
POL 319 Junior Seminar	2
POL 355 Issues in American Foreign Policy	3
POL 419 Senior Seminar	2

**Professional Political Science**

Contract to be designed around area of Political Science in which student is seeking further education.

**Minor in Politics, 18 credits**

All students intending to minor in Politics take a maximum of three 200-level courses (9 credits), which must include POL 201 and POL 211, and a minimum of three 300-400 level courses (9 credits).