

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Objectives

The Department of Political Science's curricula provide students with knowledge and understanding of the nature and functionality of political institutions and processes from the local level through national and international political units.

Programs of study provide foundations for scholarly studies of government and politics as well as for careers in public service, business, teaching, the legal profession, journalism, and other related fields. For more information about the Political Science, International Relations, and Public Policy majors, please see <http://www.lewisu.edu/academics/polscience/index.htm> (<http://www.lewisu.edu/academics/polscience/>).

Programs Bachelor

- Political Science / Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/undergraduate/education-social-sciences/political-science/political-science-bachelor-arts/>)

Minor

- Political Science / Minor (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/undergraduate/education-social-sciences/political-science/political-science-minor/>)
- Political Science for College of Business Majors / Minor (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/undergraduate/education-social-sciences/political-science/political-science-college-business-majors-minor/>)
- Political Science for Pre-Law Students Minor (<https://catalog.lewisu.edu/undergraduate/education-social-sciences/political-science/political-science-pre-law-students-minor/>)

Courses

POLS 10000 - Politics and Civic Engagement (3)

This course is an introduction to the various aspects of politics and political life. Students will learn about ideologies, political systems, types of political participation, current policy issues, and managing conflict. In addition, students will experience various ways to become more civically engaged within their communities.

Attributes: Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Social Science Gen Ed

POLS 10600 - Topics in Political Science (3)

This course provides students the opportunity to study topics in political science and related areas such as public administration. Subject matter will vary.

POLS 20000 - American National Government (3)

A comprehensive survey of the basic premises, permanent institutions and policy making processes of the American national government is presented.

Attributes: Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Social Science Gen Ed
Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): S5900.

POLS 21000 - State and Local Government (3)

A review of the institutions, functions and operations of state and local government, this class takes a comparative approach, examining the similarities and differences of political institutions in the 50 states.

Attributes: Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Social Science Gen Ed
Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): S5902.

POLS 22100 - Comparative Government (3)

This course analyzes the politics of the U.K., Germany, France, Japan, China, Mexico, Russia, Nigeria, India, and Iran, among others. In the course, students compare democracies, dictatorships, the role of religion in politics, and economic development across countries.

Attributes: Arabic Culture, Chinese Culture, Globalization Gen Ed, Polish Culture, Russian Culture, Social Science Gen Ed
Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): S5905.

POLS 23100 - International Relations (3)

Students will examine the evolution of world political systems and the various methods of analysis used in international relations. In addition to examining the forces and actors that influence world politics, students will look at the prominent issues in international politics, such as national and international security, weapons proliferation, political economy, human rights, and the global environment.

Attributes: Arabic Culture, Globalization Gen Ed, Peace Studies, Polish Culture, Russian Culture, Social Science Gen Ed
Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): S5904.

POLS 30000 - Research Methods (3)

This course will introduce students to the research methods used in political science, including research design, quantitative methods, and qualitative methods. Students will also learn to conduct research.

POLS 30400 - Nonviolent Political Action (3)

This course examines the history of nonviolent political action, its theoretical foundations, and various contemporary case studies. Students will read original works of political activists, examine the tactics of nonviolent political action, and analyze the effectiveness and outcomes of these tactics through the examination of various case studies.

POLS 30800 - Political Scandals (3)

The course explores the causes, political responses, and consequences of political scandals, with a focus on those that have occurred in the American political system. Students will learn to explain scandal from various theoretical perspectives and analyze several different types of scandals using these theoretical tools in an attempt to understand their effects on the political system.

POLS 30900 - The Welfare State and Social Welfare Policy (3)

This course presents the social policy questions: "Who gets what? And why?" It provides students with an analytic framework for comprehension of welfare state policies through the process of policy formation and implementation. This course situates the welfare state historically, and discusses the development of key social welfare programs and policies. Students learn the skills to analyze social welfare policies and to advocate for changes at the local, state, and federal levels.

POLS 32200 - Mock Trial - Forensics (3)

Participation in competitive forensics allows students to apply the legal concepts learned in other courses in actual trial competition. Students explore the theory underlying the preparation and presentation of a jury trial; oral and written advocacy skills; jury selection; opening statements; witness examination; closing arguments and the use of physical and demonstrative evidence for litigation. This course may be repeated for credit.

POLS 32700 - Mediation 1 (3)

Participation in mediation helps undergraduate students understand the value of resolving disputes through mediation (peacemaking) so that they can apply these principles and methods to their personal and professional lives. This course will teach students about mediation and advocacy, and how to use the various tools and skills through class simulations, practices, assignments, and exams. Professional, ethical, and collegial behavior is expected at all times. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor

Attributes: Peace Studies

POLS 32800 - Model United Nations (3)

This course provides students with a hands-on exploration of the organization and activities of the United Nations and an in-depth understanding of modern diplomacy. Students will learn about the UN's creation and development, the basics of international law, current events and major international issues related to the UN. Students will acquire practical skills in the procedures of diplomacy while developing their public speaking, writing, and research skills in preparation for participation in the National Model United Nations Conference. The course will be offered fall semesters to coincide with the American Model United Nations International Conference (www.amun.org), which takes place at the end of November every year in Chicago, IL.

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed

POLS 32900 - Mediation 2 (3)

As a continuation of POLS 32700 Mediation 1, this class reinforces a variety of techniques, theories, and frameworks for analyzing and resolving conflict. Students will understand the procedure from conflict analysis to exploring techniques, process models, and third-party roles to constructively intervene in conflict. Because this class emphasizes building conflict resolution skills and abilities, a significant portion of the class will be experientially based. Much of the pedagogical experience will involve engaging in simulated conflict scenarios and subsequent reflection. Students will demonstrate proficiency in mediation through community engagement, specifically training and mentoring youth, and passing a certification examination. Professional, ethical, and collegial behavior is always expected.

POLS 33000 - U.S.-Mexico Relations (3)

As the two most populous countries of North America with a shared border that is almost 2000 miles long, the United States and Mexico have a relationship that is among the most important for both countries. This course will explore the key historical events that have shaped the U.S.-Mexico relations, the politics of trade, migration and narco-trafficking between the two countries, and other facets of U.S.-Mexico relations.

POLS 33300 - International Human Rights (3)

This course will discuss the history and theoretical foundations of human rights, addressing the various types of political, economic, social, and group rights. Students examine the challenges of enforcing international human rights and how intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations respond to human rights violations.

Attributes: Peace Studies

POLS 33400 - Political Violence (3)

This course examines the origins of political violence. Through numerous case studies, students will be introduced to theories that seek to explain revolutions, revolutionary movements, civil war, ethnic conflict and terrorism.

Attributes: Globalization Gen Ed, Peace Studies, Social Science Gen Ed

POLS 33500 - Latin American Politics (3)

This course provides an introduction to contemporary Latin American political institutions, processes and problems. It will focus on economic policy and development, regional integration, democracy, and US-Latin American relations.

Attributes: Latin American Studies, Peace Studies, Spanish Culture

POLS 33600 - American Foreign Policy (3)

This course examines the forces that shape United States foreign policy, including interest groups, the Constitution, and Congress. Issues of current importance, such as terrorism, the threat of nuclear weapons, and the changing goals of foreign policy, are examined.

Attributes: Peace Studies

POLS 33700 - International Topics (3)

Students study current issues in international law, international relations, foreign affairs, governments, regions and political geography.

Attributes: Arabic Culture, Chinese Culture, Peace Studies, Polish Culture, Russian Culture

POLS 33800 - International Political Economy (3)

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of international political economy. Students analyze several key topics in the field related to poverty, development, international trade, and international institutions.

Prerequisite: ECON 20000

Attributes: Globalization Gen Ed, Peace Studies

POLS 35000 - Parties and Interest Groups in America (3)

This course is organized around the three components of political parties: parties as organizations, parties in the electorate, and parties in government. The formation and evolution of interest groups is also covered, as well as their attempts to influence the policy-making process through tactics such as lobbying and electioneering.

POLS 35200 - Public Opinion and Behavior (3)

The course analyzes how individuals are politically socialized and form their political attitudes, as well as how they participate in the political process through voting and other methods of civic engagement. The course also covers how public opinion and participation are measured through the survey process. This course fulfills the advanced writing requirement in the major.

POLS 35300 - Congress (3)

An analysis of the structure, organization, and operation of the American legislative branch. Special attention is paid to the behavior of members of Congress, policy-making, and relationships with the other branches of government.

POLS 35500 - American Presidency (3)

An examination of the powers and responsibilities of the executive branch, this course offers an analysis of the relationship of the presidency to the Congress and the Supreme Court, as well as the relationship to the forces in the private sector that influence the development of the presidency. The way the office is shaped by individual presidents is also studied.

POLS 35600 - Campaigns and Elections (3)

This course analyzes the role of campaigns and elections in the American political system at the national, state, and local levels. The course covers issues such as campaign strategy, campaign finance, advertising, canvassing, voter targeting, and surveying. In addition, it identifies and assesses the roles of parties, interest groups, and the media. Finally, significant time is spent on the behavior of citizens in the elections, such as turnout and vote choices.

POLS 35900 - Contemporary Political Issues (3)

This course examines various contemporary national or international political issues that have recently become great public concerns.

POLS 36000 - Pre-Law Seminar: Law School Preparation (1)

This course is a weekly seminar for students interested in applying to law school. Students will learn about the legal profession and its various fields, the writing style required, the process of preparing for the LSAT, and how to apply to law school.

POLS 36100 - Western Political Thought 1 (3)

This course examines the history of political thought from the ancient Greeks through Machiavelli. Students will learn various political theorists' understanding of the world and human behavior, the political crises they addressed, and their proposed solutions for these crises.

Prerequisite: ENGL 11200 (may be taken concurrently)

POLS 36200 - Western Political Thought 2 (3)

This course is a continuation of POLS 36100. Students will examine various political theorists from the modern Western period to the 21st century, such as Hobbes, Locke, Marx, Mill and John Rawls.

Prerequisite: ENGL 11200 (may be taken concurrently)

POLS 36300 - American Political Thought (3)

This course examines the ideas and people who have helped shape American political thought from colonial times to the present. Students will examine various writers who discuss the themes of democracy, liberty, equality, rights, and the role of government.

POLS 36400 - Political Ideologies (3)

This course examines various ideologies that have impacted world politics, including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, fascism, and ideologies of liberation. Students will compare and contrast these ideologies in terms of their approaches to democracy.

POLS 36500 - Women and Politics (3)

This course examines the development of feminist political theory beginning with the suffragist movement to the late twentieth century contributions of liberal, radical, socialist and post-modern feminists. In addition to studying changes in the perception of women, this course examines how women are involved in politics and how politics impacts their political, social, economic, and personal lives. This course is an elective in the Women's Studies Minor.

Attributes: Peace Studies, Women's Studies

POLS 36800 - Non-Western Political Thought (3)

This course explores non-Western approaches to politics, exploring African, Latin American, Islamic, Confucian, and Hindu political thought and texts. Students will learn about how non-Western societies approach human nature, politics, and justice.

Attributes: Arabic Culture, Chinese Culture, Peace Studies

POLS 37100 - Constitutional Law (3)

Students study the theory of constitutionalism, the federal system, judicial review, the nature of legislative power, the Commerce Clause, federal regulatory power, executive power and constitutional construction.

Prerequisite: POLS 20000 (may be taken concurrently)

POLS 37200 - Civil Liberties (3)

This course examines various civil liberties through a review of U.S. Supreme Court cases and the evolving interpretations of the freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly, and the right to privacy.

POLS 37800 - Media and Politics (3)

This course analyzes the ways the mass media influences political knowledge, public opinion, and elections in the U.S. The course covers the purpose and context of the American media, including issues like freedom of the press, regulation, and ownership. The news-making process and the impact of technological advancement are also covered.

POLS 38100 - Public Policy Formation and Analysis (3)

This course explores what constitutes public policy, how it is determined, factors influencing the determination of public policy, means of implementation, reaction and modification of public policy, and evaluation of the effectiveness of policies.

POLS 38200 - Issues in Public Policy (3)

This course analyzes various policy issues in detail in terms of the policy-making process: agenda setting, policy formation, implementation, and evaluation. In addition to examining the key actors and institutions, students explore the political factors and policy problems that affect each stage of the policy-making process. Policy topics may include social welfare programs, drug control policy and gun control policy.

Prerequisite: ENGL 11200 (may be taken concurrently)

Attributes: Advanced Writing

POLS 38400 - Environmental Politics (3)

This course begins with an analysis of environmental decision making from both the institutional and behavioral perspective. We study the role that the public, media, political parties, interest groups, executive branch, congress, and the courts play in environmental politics. We move to a more focused perspective - environmental policy - by examining various environmental policies through case studies. We touch briefly on environmental law and specific environmental acts. Lastly, we examine debates on current controversial environmental issues.

Attributes: Peace Studies

POLS 39800 - Internship in Political Science (1-3)

Work in a government agency is assigned. Students are required to relate practical experience to academic literature.

Program Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: Political Science or Public Policy.

Class Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Classes: Junior or Senior.

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed

POLS 39900 - Independent Study (1-3)

Students develop research abilities in a specialized topic in Political Science. This class is open to only Juniors and Seniors. Prerequisites: To qualify for an Independent Study, a student must have successfully completed 60 credit hours, at least 12 of which were earned at Lewis University, and have earned at Lewis University a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Class Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Classes: Junior or Senior.

POLS 40000 - Senior Capstone (3)

This course gives political science majors the opportunity to analyze and evaluate political issues, utilizing the skills and knowledge acquired during their years of study. This should be one of the final courses taken by students in the major. This course is an intensive advanced writing course that satisfies the advanced writing requirement for General Education.

Prerequisite: POLS 30000 (may be taken concurrently)

Program Restrictions: Must be enrolled in the following Program: Political Science.