POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Political Science major seeks to awaken in students an appreciation and an understanding of politics and government in the broadest and deepest sense. It considers democratic governance the key to civilization and ethics as central to democratic life.

Courses are offered in four major areas: American politics, comparative politics, international relations and political philosophy and theory. Classroom learning is enriched in a number of ways, including field trips to the state Capitol, Washington, D.C.; internships with legislators in the Connecticut General Assembly; Washington and district office internships with national legislators; election campaign and party organization internships; and internships with public administrators.

Students who major or minor in Political Science prepare themselves for careers in law, teaching, elective office, government service, many areas of business and not-for-profit management, international business, journalism, campaign management and other endeavors.

Faculty

LESLEY A. DENARDIS, PH.D.
Associate Professor

ALKA JAUHARI, PH.D.
Assistant Professor

STEVEN J. MICHELDS, PH.D.
Associate Professor

GARY L. ROSE, PH.D.
Professor, Chair

Major in Political Science

For students entering Sacred Heart University in the Academic Year 2003–2004, the major in Political Science requires the completion of 36 credits. A minimum of 27 credits must be earned through formal classroom instruction. The balance of credits can be earned through formal coursework or Political Science internships.

REQUIRED COURSES

PO 121 Introduction to American Government
PO 122 Introduction to International Relations
PO 200 Approaches to Political Science
PO 300 Foundations of Political Thought
PO 395 Senior Seminar in Political Science

Students are also required to take at least one course in Comparative Politics.

The remaining 18 credits in Political Science can be taken as electives

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

PO 314 Middle East Politics
PO 315 Latin American Politics
PO 316 South Asian Politics
PO 317 African Politics
PO 318 Contemporary European Politics

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND THEORY

PO 298 Democracy
PO 300 Foundations of Political Thought
PO 303 Radical Political Thought
PO 304 American Political Thought
PO 305 Ethics and Politics
PO 306 Liberalism
REQUIRED SUPPORTING COURSES FOR MAJOR (BEGINNING FALL 2013)

6 Credits of a Foreign Language

Minor in Political Science

The minor in Political Science requires the completion of the following 18 credits:

REQUIRED COURSES

PO 121 Introduction to American Government
PO 122 Introduction to International Relations
Electives One Political Theory elective
One Comparative Politics elective
Two Political Science electives

Associate in Arts: General Studies Emphasis

REQUIREMENTS (15 CREDITS)

PO 121 Introduction to American Government
PO 122 Introduction to International Relations
Electives Three Political Science electives

Course Descriptions

† Elective Core Course

POCC 103 The Human Community: The Individual and Society
3 CR

This is the third of four courses in The Human Journey, the Common Core Curriculum at Sacred Heart University. The course explores questions regarding human meaning and value by specifically focusing on the social and political dimensions of the Core Questions. This course will include an analysis of the major political philosophers and their perspectives on the following: What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose? What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good? What does it mean to appreciate and understand the natural world? The course will also incorporate key thinkers from the Catholic Intellectual tradition as they approach the core questions.

† PO 121 Introduction to American Government
3 CR

Examines the theoretical foundation of American government, the U.S. Constitution, political behavior, interest groups, political parties, Congress, the presidency and the Supreme Court.

† PO 122 Introduction to International Relations
3 CR

Focuses on fundamental factors in understanding international relations. Sovereignty, nation-states, national interests, power, diplomacy, United Nations, war, terrorism, ethnicity and low-intensity warfare, the environment and global politics are studied.

† PO 200 Approaches to Political Science
3 CR

What is politics? And how best can we study it? This course examines how the study of politics has changed since Aristotle coined the term "political science" more than 2,000 years ago. Particular emphasis is on the development of political science as a discipline in the 20th century.
*PO 212 American State and Local Government
3 CR
Examines the subnational level of American politics. Topics include the constitutional position of state governments, federal-state interaction, financing of state governments, political parties, group activity and public policies.
Prerequisite: PO 121

*PO 213 Lobbying and the Legislative Process
3 CR
Focuses on the central role of lobbyists and interest groups within the context of the lawmaking process. Lobbying strategies and linkages between lobbyists and lawmakers are explored. Guest speakers and trip to the state Capitol supplement class lectures.

*PO 215 Political Parties
3 CR
Focuses on the role of political parties in American democracy. Examines the structure and function of party organization, behavior of the American electorate and effectiveness of parties in the governing process. Platforms and categories of minor parties are also discussed.
Prerequisite: PO 121

*PO 216 Congress and the Legislative Process
3 CR
Examines the constitutional powers of Congress, historical development, legislative process and relationship with executive branch of government.
Prerequisite: PO 121

*PO 217 The American Presidency
3 CR
Traces the role of the chief executive in the American political system. Attention is given to the evolution, functions and limits of executive leadership, relationship with Congress, public opinion and impact of individual presidents are explored.
Prerequisite: PO 121

*PO 218 The Politics of Presidential Elections
3 CR
Explores the various dimensions of presidential elections and controversial issues associated with the selection process. Topics include political coalitions, campaign strategy, the role of media and money, conventions and presidential debates.
Prerequisite: PO 121

*PO 240 War and Conflict
3 CR
Topics include the causes of war, case studies of major wars, theories of instinctual aggression, psychological behavior, ethnicity, national interests, imperialism, economics, international systems and other topics.

*PO 242 International Organizations
3 CR
Focuses on the role of international organizations in coordinating relations between countries with specific reference to the United Nations. Impact of other international organizations on international relations, including WTO, IMF, and EU is also examined. Course includes a trip to the United Nations.

*PO 243 Terrorism
3 CR
Course explores both the history of armed political dissent and current forms of terrorism. Case studies range from the Irish Republican Army, Hamas, African National Congress among others. Examines definitions of terrorism and methods employed by governments to suppress dissent. Balance between liberty and security during “war on terror” is also examined.
†PO 244 American Foreign Policy
3 CR
Examines themes of American foreign policy. Topics include containment, deterrence, détente, changing bases of national power, foreign policy development, terrorism, narco-criminality and environmental issues.

†PO 285 Future Politics
3 CR
Explores the transformation of America and the planet. Consequences of shift from industrial to informational to networked economy on environment, society, careers, domestic and international politics are studied.

†PO 298 Democracy
3 CR
Examines the theories and practices surrounding popular government from its origins to the present day. Topics include representation, presidentialism and democratization.

†PO 299 Special Topics in Political Science
3 CR
Designates new or occasional courses that may or may not become part of the department’s permanent offerings. Courses capitalize on a timely topic, a faculty member’s particular interest, an experimental alternative to existing courses, etc. Prerequisites established by the department as appropriate for the specific course. Course title is shown on the student’s transcript. Consult the current course schedule for available topics and current prerequisites.

†PO 303 Radical Political Thought
3 CR
Have the benefits promised by liberal democracy been realized fully and by all individuals equally? This course focuses on those who claim to be neglected, alienated or oppressed by conventional politics and its institutions.

PO 304 American Political Thought
3 CR
The Constitution of 1787 was based on speculation and a series of untested principles: it is possible for a territory as large as the United States to be self-governing; self-interest can be made to serve the common good; and minority rights can be protected in a system based on majority rule. This course examines documents related to the founding and other readings that shape, question and are inspired by political life in our country.

†PO 305 Ethics and Politics
3 CR
Explores the relationship between ethics, public service, and public policy making. Virtue, integrity, honor, and trust are central themes.

†PO 306 Liberalism
3 CR
Liberalism emerged in the 17th century to advance individual liberty and a free and open society against religious conformity and ascribed status. This course examines this radical change, how liberalism itself has since changed and the role that liberalism plays in politics today.

†PO 307 Conservatism
3 CR
What conservatives have in common is an unwavering reverence for history and tradition. Consequently, what it means to be a conservative is determined by time and place. This course examines many variants of
conservatism, including 18th-century Europe and the contemporary United States.

†PO 308 Theories of Political Economy
3 CR
Examines the foundation of and challenges to market capitalism. The role of political actors, shortcomings of the market and the trend toward globalization are emphasized. Seminal works of Adam Smith, Karl Marx and other economic theorists are explored.

†PO 309 British Politics
3 CR
Examines the politics and governing structures of Great Britain as well as the contemporary challenges of the 21st century.

†PO 310 Irish Politics
3 CR
Examines the politics and governing structures of Ireland as well as the contemporary challenges of the 21st century.

†PO 313 The Politics of European Integration
3 CR
Explores the political complexities associated with the integration of European nations. The structure and function of European governing institutions are examined and analyzed.

†PO 314 Middle East Politics
3 CR
Problems and prospects of the Middle East. Area history, culture, Islam, intrusion of the West, oil, impact of personalities, Arab-Israeli problem, modernization and Islamic fundamentalism are studied.

†PO 315 Latin American Politics
3 CR
An introduction to the political culture and structures of Latin America. Explores key themes and challenges for the region, including democratization, economic development, violence and revolution, militarism and the relationship with the United States.

†PO 316 South Asian Politics
3 CR
Explores South Asia as a region with special emphasis on India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Domestic and international politics of these countries are examined along with bilateral relations. Role of South Asia in a globalized world is studied in light of growing political, cultural, and economic interdependence.

†PO 317 African Politics
3 CR
Examines Africa as it has evolved over the years under outside influence - colonial rule, post-colonial or cold war period, and under globalization during the 1990’s. Explores reasons for political conflict in Africa and barriers to conflict resolution. Africa’s economic resurgence in the 21st century is also examined.

†PO 318 Contemporary European Politics
3 CR
A comparative analysis of several European political systems. Similarities and differences are explored with respect to governing structures, political culture and patterns of political behavior.

†PO 319/PS 224 Political Psychology
3 CR
Themes and concepts related to the expanding field of political psychology. Topics include the impact of media, nationalism, extremism and security. The psychology of leadership is examined through case studies.

†PO 320 Modern Political Economy
3 CR
Examines free market and centralized approaches to economic development.
Impact of approaches toward income distribution, welfare policy, health care and social security are explored through case studies.

†PO 321 Public Administration
3 CR
Survey of organizational theories and professional skills useful to those contemplating public sector service. Addresses public service context, planning, budgeting, communication, leadership and other skills.

†PO 322 American Public Policy
3 CR
Models of policy making. Examines government policies toward civil, gender and minority rights, crime, health, welfare, education, environment and other areas.

†PO 323 American Education Policy
3 CR
Overview of the major issues and themes affecting education policy in the U.S. Historical, political and social setting of American education are explored, with special focus on the major actors involved in the policy making process.

†PO 325 Politics, Law and Judicial Behavior
3 CR
Examines the judiciary’s role in the American political process. Topics include the nature of law, political influence in judicial decision making, court organization, judicial recruitment and the powers and limitations of the judiciary.
Prerequisite: PO 121

†PO 331 Model UN
3 CR
Prepares students to participate in the four day mock Model UN conference organized in the spring. Preparation includes position papers on issues specific to UN General Assembly Committees. Sacred Heart students represent an assigned country and participate in making policies and adopting resolutions in favor of their country.

†PO 341 International Law
3 CR
Traces the development of international law and reviews principles and cases in major topical areas.

†PO 351 Constitutional Law
3 CR
An inquiry into American constitutional law through the study of outstanding cases. Attention is given to the development of constitutional doctrines and the processes of legal reasoning.
Prerequisite: PO 121

†PO 352 The First Amendment
3 CR
Examines U.S. Supreme Court cases involving the freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition. Special attention is given to the balance between personal liberty and societal order.
Prerequisite: PO 121

PO 391 Internship Program
3–6 CR
Congressional district staff, state Capitol or Washington, D.C., internships; election campaign and party organization internships; not-for-profit organization internships and others.
Prerequisite: Permission of department chair

PO 395 Senior Seminar in Political Science
3 CR
Advanced study of a particular theme or topic in a seminar setting. Required capstone course for Political Science majors.
Prerequisite: Senior standing or permission.
PO 399 Independent Study
1–3 CR
Guided study of a topic that goes beyond normal course offerings under the direction of a member of the Political Science faculty. Approval of the chair of the Political Science program required. By special arrangement.