

Department of Political Science (PSCI)

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Political Science is the systematic study of government and politics, of institutions and behavior concerned with the struggle for power to make and influence authoritative decisions, and with the process of authoritative control in society.

The study of Political Science has value for civic education; for responsible preparation for jobs and careers as “representatives” of the political system, including law, law enforcement, public administration, civil service and education, as well as elective and appointive public office; and for a foundation for graduate training in the discipline.

Requirements for a major in Political Science: PSCI 2023, 2043, 2123, 3063, additional courses in the Department to total at least twenty-seven hours. Students planning graduate study are strongly encouraged to obtain additional training in foreign languages, research methods and statistics.

Requirements for a teaching field in Social Studies: See page 111.

Requirements for a minor in Political Science: PSCI 2023, 2043 or 2123, 3063, additional courses in the Department to total at least eighteen hours.

1013. Introduction to Politics.

An introduction to the study of politics and the discipline of Political Science, focusing on individual, collective and institutional political behavior. **Fall, Spring.**

2003. State and Local Government and Politics.

An introduction to formal and informal political institutions at both the state and local level, including a student simulation of political choices and behavior. **On Demand.**

2013. American National Government.

A survey of the guiding principles, dynamic processes and enduring institutions of American national government and politics. **Fall, Spring.**

2023. Philosophy and Methods of Political Science.

A consideration of the philosophy and research methods of Political Science for students who have had no previous training in statistics and only a normal high school mathematical background. **Fall.**

2033. Arkansas Government and Politics.

An institutional and behavioral analysis of Arkansas government and politics. **Spring of odd-numbered years.**

2043. World Politics.

An introduction to the study of how countries as well as other international actors interact with each other. **Fall.**

¹ Herbert and LaDelle Moody Professor of Pre-Law Studies

- 2123. Comparative Politics.**
A survey of concepts, approaches and methodologies for theory-building in comparing political systems. **Spring.**
- 3033. Constitutional Law.**
A case method analysis of landmark Supreme Court decisions addressing institutional conflict, basic criminal rights and procedures, first amendment freedoms, the fourteenth amendment and federalism. **Spring of odd-numbered years.**
- 3043. The Judicial Process.**
A consideration of various theories explaining judicial decision-making, the political impact of these decisions, court structures and procedures, and the politics of judicial selection. **Spring of even-numbered years.**
- 3063. Western Political Thought.**
An intensive analysis of the principal political theorists in the classical and modern traditions. Primary emphasis on their texts is complemented by consideration of the historical context within which they wrote. Also listed as PHIL 3063. [WAC] **Fall.**
- 3072. Washington Seminar.**
An on-site, in-depth topical study of American national political institutions and processes. A Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory graded course. **On Demand.**
- 3080. Model U. N. Seminar.**
Students study the issues and procedures of the United Nations. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor is required. Also listed as HIST 3080 and INTL 3080. **Fall.**
- 3083. Model U. N. with Practicum.**
Students prepare for a regional simulation of the United Nations by learning about their country's history, government, and foreign policy. Students enroll for this only if this is their first time attending a Model U. N. simulation as a Ouachita student. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor and HIST/INTL/PSCI 3060. Also listed as HIST 3083 and INTL 3083. **Spring.**
- 3091. Model U. N. Practicum.**
Students prepare for a regional simulation of the United Nations by learning about their country's history, government, and foreign policy. This course cannot be in the same department that HIST/INTL/PSCI 3083 was taken. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor and HIST/INTL/PSCI 3083. Also listed as HIST 3091 and INTL 3091. **Spring.**
- 4003. Parties, Campaigns and Elections.**
An examination of the place of political parties in the study of politics, with a heavy emphasis on American parties, their role in electoral politics, the conduct of election campaigns and the meaning of elections. **Spring of even-numbered years.**
- 4013. American Political Thought.**
A critical consideration of the origins, development and content of American political thought, emphasizing the expressions of major political actors and the interpretations given to fundamental political concepts. **Spring of odd-numbered years.**
- 4033. Public Policy.**
An analysis of the formulation, making and content of American domestic public policies, acquainting students with salient issues on the policy agenda. **Spring of odd-numbered years.**
- 4043. Public Administration.**
An in-depth seminar in the theory and behavior of large social organizations, specifically bureaucracies, focusing on the national government's administration of public policy. **Spring of even-numbered years.**
- 4053. American Diplomacy.**
A study of foreign policy in the United States in fact and theory, analyzing America's involvement in World Affairs from 1776 to the

present. Current diplomatic policy of the United States is examined in relation to the past. Also listed as HIST 4053. **Fall of odd-numbered years.**

4063. Eastern European Politics.

A study of the political institutions, policies, and major changes occurring in the region. **Fall of even-numbered years.**

4073. The American Congress.

A consideration of the evolution, organizational structures, functions and processes of the contemporary American Congress and its place in the American political system. **Fall of odd-numbered years.**

4083. The American Presidency.

An inquiry into the evolution, organizational structure and operation of the contemporary American presidency, focusing on the relationship between the president and the political environment. **Fall of even-numbered years.**

4123. International Relations Theory.

A study of the major theoretical ideas regarding the interactions of countries and other international political actors. **Spring of even-numbered years.**

4133. Third World Politics.

A substantive and theoretical study of the political processes and major issues confronting Latin America, Africa, and Central and Southern Asia. **Spring of odd-numbered years.**

4801-4893. Special Studies in Political Science.

Directed research in Political Science. Admission by consent of the instructor. **On Demand.**