

courses is the premise that power—be it state power, business power, collective power, or individual power—is primarily shaped by, and operates through, political and economic systems.

Potential employers and graduate programs increasingly seek liberal arts majors who have strong analytical skills and knowledge of contemporary events; a political economy minor offers evidence of such preparation. Reflecting the sponsoring faculty's broad array of training and interests, the minor highlights a wide range of topics and applications. Examples include the connections between economic systems and political power in structuring production relations at the shop-floor, national, and international level; the relationship between governments and markets in determining national development; the relationship among gender, race, and class and an individual's position in society; the ways in which environmental issues are shaped by economic institutions; the influence of state power on the global economy; and the role of social movements in promoting economic change.

Students may enhance almost any major through the addition of a minor in political economy. Students interested in the minor are encouraged to take one of the core courses in their sophomore year. Application for admission to the minor is made in consultation with one of the program's sponsoring faculty after the student has successfully completed one of the core courses.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 20 semester credits (five courses), distributed as follows:

- Two program core courses: International Affairs 340 and Economics 250.
- Three courses chosen from the following list, with no more than two courses taken in any one concentration:

Global concentration: Economics 232, 260, and 430; International Affairs 257, 318, and 341; Sociology/Anthropology 225, 350, and 352.

National-regional concentration: Economics 280 and 295; History 142, 330, and 347; Sociology/Anthropology 281 and 285.

Social and cultural concentration: Gender Studies 440; Political Science 311; Sociology/Anthropology 214, 221, 228, 249, 254, 300, and 340.

SPONSORING FACULTY

Andrew Cortell, associate professor of international affairs.

Robert Goldman, professor of sociology.

Martin Hart-Landsberg, professor of economics.

Oren Kosansky, assistant professor of anthropology.

Bruce M. Podobnik, associate professor of sociology.

Zaher Wahab, professor of education.

Elliott Young, associate professor of history.

Political Science

CHAIR: CURTIS N. JOHNSON

Political scientists examine the theory and practice of government, law, and politics within the history of political ideas and philosophy, as well as within the context of contemporary political practices. They use the tools and methods of the social sciences to seek knowledge of political institutions and processes, and to learn how to think critically about public policies and their consequences. Political scientists attempt to evaluate how behavior (individual, group, and mass) affects political institutions, and how institutions shape and constrain political choices.

Because of their understanding and interest in political systems, students who earn degrees in political science often enter such career fields as government service, law, journalism, politics, public policy analysis, and education.

Knowledge about politics often extends into other spheres, as graduates also pursue careers in medicine, business, and finance.

THE MAJOR PROGRAM

The political science curriculum is organized around five fields: American government, comparative politics, political theory, public law, and methodology. Courses are offered in American government and comparative politics at the introductory and advanced levels. Courses in public law, political theory, and methodology are normally taken only after students have completed introductory courses. The major culminates with a capstone course (which may take the form of a senior thesis by invitation). Capstone courses are advanced 400-level courses, usually specialized in their focus, that require intensive class discussion and a significant research paper. Note that a senior thesis is required for students seeking departmental honors.

Political science majors can pursue independent study under individual faculty supervision, including practical applications and experiences such as internships with elected officials, interest groups, and government agencies. The department's semester of study in Washington, D.C., one of the more distinguished programs of its kind in the country, includes class meetings with some of America's most influential politicians and decision makers, combined with a rigorous curriculum of in-class instruction.

The political science department uses local and regional resources, including visits to the Oregon state legislature in Salem and to county and city political offices in the Portland metropolitan area. Other resources include numerous governmental agencies in the Portland area, interest groups, and political movements.

The political science curriculum is organized into the following concentrations:

American Government and Institutions

- 103 U.S. Government: National Politics
- 275 Gender and Politics
- 302 Political Parties and Interest Groups
- 307 Government and the Economy
- 350 Congressional Politics
- 351 Presidential Politics
- 353 The National Policy Process
- 359 Religion and Politics
- 410 Law, Politics, and Society

Comparative Politics

- 102 Introduction to Comparative Politics
- 265 European Politics
- 322 Ethnicity and Nationalism
- 354 Comparative Electoral Politics
- 430 Migration and Integration

Political Theory

- 309 American Political Thought
- 310 Pillars of Western Political Thought: Plato to Machiavelli
- 311 Pillars of Western Political Thought: Hobbes to Foucault
- 313 International Political Theory
- 316 Ethics and Public Policy
- 402 Problems in Political Theory

Public Law

- 301 American Constitutional Law: Equal Protection and Due Process
- 305 American Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
- 425 Legal Regulation of American Democracy

Methodology and Thesis

201 Research Methods in Political Science

252 Public Opinion and Survey Research

400 Senior Thesis

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 44 semester credits (11 courses), distributed as follows:

- Five core departmental courses: 102, 103, 201, 301 or 305, and 310 or 311. International Affairs 200 may be substituted for 201.
- One 200-, 300-, or 400-level course in comparative politics or one of the following international affairs courses: 232, 290, or 320.
- One additional 300- or 400-level theory course.
- One 300- or 400-level American government and institutions course.
- One 400-level course: 400, 402, 410, 425, or 430. This course may be used simultaneously to fulfill one of the categories above, in which case students must take another elective at the 300 level or higher in the department to reach 11 courses.
- International Affairs 100.
- Economics 100.

For all majors, courses in European and U.S. history, macroeconomics, and international political economy, as well as a semester in Washington, D.C., are recommended. Majors planning to attend law school should add courses in English literature, philosophy (including logic), mathematics, and history. Majors planning to attend graduate school in political science should take courses in mathematics, statistics, and other social sciences. Majors planning a career in politics, public policy, or urban planning should add courses in statistics, communication, economics, and psychology.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 20 semester credits (five courses), distributed as follows:

- Core departmental courses: 102, 103, and 310 or 311.
- One course in American government and institutions.
- One course in public law.

HONORS AND SENIOR THESIS

In the spring semester, juniors who have achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the major and overall are invited to apply to the department for placement in Political Science 400, Senior Thesis. Students who fall below a 3.0 GPA may be granted an exception to apply on a case-by-case basis. Majors who have achieved a GPA of 3.500 or higher in the major and overall may be considered for honors. After the student completes and formally presents the thesis, the political science faculty determine whether to grant honors on graduation.

RESOURCES FOR NONMAJORS

Since political science is intrinsic to a liberal arts education, the department makes its courses open to all students. Political science courses guide students in using the discipline's resources and in developing descriptive, analytical, evaluative, and communicative skills needed by participants in a liberal democracy. Two courses are entrees to the field: Comparative Political Systems and U.S. Government: National Politics.

FACULTY

John Holzwarth, assistant professor. Political theory, history of political thought.

Curtis N. Johnson, Dr. Robert B. Pamplin Jr. Professor of Government. Political theory, American government, classical studies, history of political thought.

Todd Lochner, associate professor. American constitutional law, American political systems.

Christopher Wendt, assistant professor. Comparative politics, ethnic politics, European politics, migration, parties and elections.

POLS 102 INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Wendt

Content: Introduction to the central questions in comparative politics. Fundamental differences in the organization of states, democratic political institutions (presidentialism versus parliamentarianism, for example), and domestic social forces (for example, social capital, ethnic versus nonethnic identities). The impact of political organization on economic performance and social peace.
Prerequisite and/or restriction: None.

Taught: Each semester, 4 semester credits.

POLS 103 U.S. GOVERNMENT: NATIONAL POLITICS

Lochner

Content: The politics of the founding period; interactions within and among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; the federal division of institutionalized powers; public opinion, interest groups, and political parties; the policy process in areas such as defense, welfare, civil rights and liberties, international affairs.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: None.

Taught: Each semester, 4 semester credits.

POLS 201 RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Wendt

Content: Introduction to the methodological principles and issues in political science research, using readings within and beyond political science. Identifying variables and mechanisms, developing and testing theories, collecting and measuring data, and assessing a study's ability to achieve causal inference. Introduction to different approaches to research, including experiments, case studies, and regression analysis.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 102 or 103. Recommended for sophomores or juniors.

Taught: Annually, 4 semester credits.

POLS 244 PRACTICUM

Staff

Content: Opportunities for well-prepared students to put academic concepts and techniques to work in the marketplace. Specific activities vary; usually involve work with a public agency or private group.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Considerable preparation before enrollment.

Consult instructor and obtain the department's instructions about the program well in advance.

Taught: Annually, 2-4 semester credits.

POLS 252 PUBLIC OPINION AND SURVEY RESEARCH

Staff

Content: The role of public opinion in the American political process; the problem of identifying the public and the extent to which this public exercises political authority; techniques of researching public opinion. Political socialization, formation of attitudes, group differences, mass opinion, elite opinion, direct action. Research design, data collection, scaling, analysis, and interpretation of data in the context of research on polling.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: None.

Taught: Every three years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 265 EUROPEAN POLITICS

Wendt

Content: The domestic political development of modern Europe, with a focus on the 19th-21st centuries. Covers the emergence of nation-states, parliamentary democracies, and welfare states; the varied responses to domestic challenges over the past 150 years (from mass unrest and the great depression to globalization and immigration); and the integration of Europe into a “union.” Approaches Europe through the lens of individual countries and as “western” and “eastern” subregions.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 102.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 275 GENDER AND POLITICS

Staff

Content: Use of comparative and historical perspective to understand women as political actors. Notions of power, change, participation, politics. The suffrage struggle and the political situation in eastern and western Europe.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: None.

Taught: Every third year, 4 semester credits.

POLS 299 INDEPENDENT STUDY

Staff

Content: Opportunities for well-prepared students to design and pursue a substantive course of independent learning. Details determined by the student and the supervising instructor.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Consent of instructor.

Taught: Each semester, 2-4 semester credits.

POLS 301 AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: EQUAL PROTECTION AND DUE PROCESS

Lochner

Content: The U.S. Supreme Court and judicial review from 1787 to the present. The court's landmark constitutional decisions, as well as the theory and techniques of constitutional interpretation. The court's authority within the wider political and social context of American government, with emphasis on the court's jurisprudence in the areas of equal protection (including segregation and desegregation, affirmative action, gender discrimination, and sexual orientation discrimination) and due process (including privacy and abortion rights). Discussions of actual Supreme Court rulings, majority opinions and dissenting arguments, as well as the political and historical context of those decisions in an effort to understand how and why the Supreme Court has played such an influential role in American politics and political thought.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Sophomore standing. Political Science 103.

Taught: Annually, 4 semester credits.

POLS 302 POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Staff

Content: The structure and functioning of political parties from the local to the national level; organization, staffing, and policy development of parties. Pluralist analysis, group theory, impact of interest group activity on the American political system.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 103.

Taught: Every third year, 4 semester credits.

POLS 305 AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CIVIL LIBERTIES

Lochner

Content: Focus on the First Amendment, particularly free speech (including areas of national security, incitement to lawless action, individual and group defamation, indecency, and obscenity) as well as criminal defendants' rights (including Fourth Amendment search and seizure law, Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination, and Eighth Amendment prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishment in the context of the death penalty). Discussions of actual Supreme Court rulings, majority opinions, and dissenting arguments, as well as the political and historical context of those decisions in an effort to understand how and why the Supreme Court has played such an influential role in American politics and political thought.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Sophomore standing. Political Science 103.

Taught: Annually, 4 semester credits.

POLS 307 GOVERNMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Staff

Content: A framework for analysis of the policy-making process. History, dynamics, and trends of major U.S. economic policies. The scope of American domestic policy; subsidies and aids to business, labor, agriculture, consumers; antitrust policy and the Federal Trade Commission; public utility regulation; natural resources policies; full employment; antipoverty and defense spending.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.

Taught: On Washington, D.C., program, 4 semester credits.

POLS 309 AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Johnson

Content: The evolution of political ideas from the prerevolutionary era through the founding period, Civil War, early 20th century, and New Deal, up to present divisions between "liberals," "conservatives," and other contemporary political orientations. Readings include Locke, Montesquieu, Madison, Jefferson, de Tocqueville, Lincoln, Keynes, Hayek, Harrington, and others.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 103 or consent of instructor.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 310 PILLARS OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT: PLATO TO MACHIAVELLI

Holzwarth, Johnson

Content: Great works of political philosophy from ancient Greece and Rome, early Christianity, and the Renaissance. Themes include the foundations of morality and justice, the role of hierarchy in politics, and the role of politics in cultivating human excellence. Works may include Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*; Plato's *Apology*, *Crito*, and *Republic*; Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics and Politics*; Augustine's *City of God*; and Machiavelli's *The Prince*, among others.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Sophomore standing.

Taught: Annually, 4 semester credits.

POLS 311 PILLARS OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT: HOBBS TO FOUCAULT

Holzwarth, Johnson

Content: Great works of political philosophy from early modernity to the present. Themes include social contract theory and justifications for obedience to government, revolutionary theory, the effects of democratic government on individuality and society, and the dangers of politics in the present day. Works may include Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* and *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, Rousseau's *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* and *On the Social Contract*, Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, Marx and Engels' *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*, and Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Sophomore standing.

Taught: Annually, 4 semester credits.

POLS 313 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL THEORY

Holzwarth

Content: Normative issues in international politics, including such topics as national sovereignty, just war theory, international intervention, human rights, cultural rights, secession and self-determination, the competing ethics of patriotism, nationalism, and cosmopolitanism. Historical approaches through such thinkers as Thucydides, Hobbes, Kant, Mill, followed by contemporary readings, including such authors as Rawls, Walzer, Kymlicka, Rorty, Nussbaum.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Junior standing or consent of instructor.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 316 ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

Holzwarth

Content: Rigorous consideration of controversial issues in contemporary normative political theory. Introduction to major frameworks for ethics. Topics may include abortion, euthanasia, punishment and the death penalty, multiculturalism, affirmative action, women's rights, gay rights, animal rights, just war theory, social welfare.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Junior standing or consent of instructor.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 322 ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM

Wendt

Content: Core concepts and issues of ethnic politics using a comparative perspective. Definitions of ethnicity, how it can be measured, and what separates ethnic and nonethnic identities. Nationalism as a specific form of ethnic identification. Ethnicity as independent and dependent variable. The formation of ethnic and national identification, and the consequences of those identities for political and social stability.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 102.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 350 CONGRESSIONAL POLITICS

Staff

Content: Constitutional foundations and the unfolding of various concepts of legislative power throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, and into the 21st century. The dynamics of Congress, its staffing, and how it and individual members manage different visions of legislative power. Other branches of government examined to illuminate the functioning and malfunctioning of the legislative branch.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.
Political Science 103 recommended.

Taught: Every third year, 4 semester credits.

POLS 351 PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

Staff

Content: Constitutional foundations and the unfolding of various concepts of executive power throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The dynamics of the presidency and the extent to which one person can be held responsible for expanded responsibilities. The organizational models and practices of 20th-century presidents. Other branches of government examined to illuminate the functioning and malfunctioning of the executive branch.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.
Political Science 103 recommended.

Taught: Every third year, 4 semester credits.

POLS 353 THE NATIONAL POLICY PROCESS

Staff

Content: Theoretical foundations of national government and analysis of its congressional, presidential, administrative, and judicial structures. Specific public policies examined to understand the interaction of interest groups, political parties, research institutes, media, and public opinion with these structures.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 103 or consent of instructor.

Taught: On Washington, D.C., program, 4 semester credits.

POLS 354 COMPARATIVE ELECTORAL POLITICS

Wendt

Content: Political behavior and party competition through a country-based comparative perspective. Variation in the organization of political parties and electoral systems. The development of and changes to a country's political and social cleavages. The consequences of electoral institutions and social organization on representation and competition.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 102.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 359 RELIGION AND POLITICS

Staff

Content: Measuring religiosity and how or if religious participation affects political participation. The role of the church as a political institution. Religious leaders as political leaders. Emphasis on religion in American politics.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 103, Religious Studies 101, or consent of instructor.

Taught: Every third year, 4 semester credits.

POLS 400 SENIOR THESIS

Holzwarth, Johnson, Lochner, Wendt

Content: Choosing a definitive topic and narrowing it; developing a research design, doing the research, submitting drafts, revising drafts, polishing final copy. Presenting thesis to political science faculty and seniors for critique, rewrite of thesis. Final form due at end of semester.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 102, 103, and 201. Normally taken during fall and spring semesters of senior year.

Taught: Annually, 2 semester credits each semester for a total of 4 credits.

POLS 402 PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL THEORY

Holzwarth, Johnson

Content: Advanced analysis of a specific problem, theme, or concept intriguing to political theorists. Specific content varies. Themes have included revolution, utopia, the American founding, Nietzsche, identity and self-creation, and the philosophy of history.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Junior standing; open to sophomores with consent of instructor only.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 410 LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

Lochner

Content: The role of law and legal institutions in the American political system. Examination of institutional actors, such as lawyers, judges, and juries, as well as an examination of discrete case studies, such as “mass torts,” environmental litigation, and criminal justice policy. What features define the American legal system; how does this system compare to the legal systems of other countries; what are its respective advantages and disadvantages?

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 103. Junior or senior standing.

Taught: Alternate years, 4 semester credits.

POLS 425 LEGAL REGULATION OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Lochner

Content: The legal regulation of the American political system. The equal protection concept of voting rights, particularly the “One Person, One Vote” rule and the Voting Rights Act, and federal campaign finance regulation. Additional topics include the constitutional rights of political parties and the law relating to ballot propositions. Discussion of descriptive and normative issues. This course is taught at the law school.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Junior standing or consent of instructor. Political Science 301.

Taught: Annually, 4 semester credits.

POLS 430 MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Wendt

Content: A comparative framework for understanding the motivations for and responses to migration and integration from the perspective of natives and migrants. The political, social, and economic consequences of migration for sending and receiving countries. Comparison of motivations and impacts across regions (developed versus developing states), across countries within a particular region, and between groups within a country.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Political Science 102. Junior or senior standing.

Taught: Every third year, 4 semester credits.

POLS 444 PRACTICUM

Staff

Content: Same as Political Science 244 but requiring more advanced work.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Consent of instructor.

Taught: Annually, 2-4 semester credits.

POLS 499 INDEPENDENT STUDY

Staff

Content: Same as Political Science 299 but requiring more advanced work.

Prerequisite and/or restriction: Consent of instructor.

Taught: Annually, 2-4 semester credits.