POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Department of Politics and International Relations aims to foster a deeper appreciation for domestic and international politics through the study of political behavior, governmental institutions, and the international system. In fulfillment of this aim, the department offers courses that:

1. expose students to the major areas of the discipline, including American politics, international politics, comparative politics, public policy, law, and political philosophy;
2. emphasize concepts, theories, and tools that are essential in political analysis;
3. address key issues involved in the building of just and peaceful political communities; and
4. examine the relationship of Christianity and politics.

The department offers majors in Political Science and International Relations that are firmly rooted in the traditional liberal arts curriculum of Wheaton College. Due to the large overlap between the two majors, department policy does not allow a double major in Political Science and International Relations.

Faculty
Chair, Associate Professor Bryan McGraw
Professor Amy Black
Associate Professor David Iglesias
Assistant Professors Kathryn Alexander, Kristin Garrett, Michael McKoy, Timothy Taylor

Programs
- Political Science Major (https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/politics-international-relations/political-science-major)
- Political Science Minor (https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/politics-international-relations/political-science-minor)
- International Relations Major (https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/politics-international-relations/international-relations-major)
- International Relations Minor (https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/politics-international-relations/international-relations-minor)

Courses
Political Science Courses
PSCI 135. American Politics and Government. (4 Credits)
American Politics and Government. An introduction to the foundations and institutions of the United States’ political system. Explores the political behavior of individuals and groups and engages contemporary political debate.
Tags: SI

PSCI 145. Political Philosophy. (4 Credits)
An exploration of some of the major themes in the tradition of western political thought, to include the nature of politics, freedom, equality, justice, and virtue. The course will center around some of the tradition’s most significant texts, including works by Plato, Augustine, Hobbes, Mill and more contemporary authors.
Tags: PI, SI

PSCI 201. U.S. Education Policy: Problems and Possibilities. (4 Credits)
See EDUC 201
Tags: SI

PSCI 231. Chicago. (2 Credits)
An Introduction. See URBN 231.

PSCI 235. Iowa Caucus. (2 Credits)
A hands-on exploration of the presidential nomination process including campaign work and observation of Iowa precinct caucuses. Presidential election years.

PSCI 236. Intercollegiate Trial Advocacy. (0 or 1 Credits)
A hands-on exploration of the theory and practice of trial advocacy through competition in intercollegiate mock trial tournaments. Graded pass/fail. One credit hour per year based on full participation in the fall and spring semesters. Register for credit in the spring semester. Prerequisite: Instructor permission.

PSCI 237. Women and Politics. (2 Credits)

PSCI 244. Film and Political Theory. (2 Credits)
This course explores how films develop, offer, and apply arguments about human nature, human flourishing, and other topics central to normative theorizing about politics.

PSCI 245. Politics & Pop Culture. (2 Credits)
An exploration and evaluation of portrayals of political themes and concepts in various forms of popular culture including film, television, and plays.

PSCI 271. Introduction to Law. (2 Credits)
A study of the nature and function of law in society. Various disciplinary perspectives employed.

PSCI 301. Topics in Political Science. (2 Credits)
Selected topics, designed to give added breadth and depth to the understanding of American politics and/or political behavior.

PSCI 302. Topics in Political Science. (4 Credits)
Selected topics, designed to explore an important topic in American politics, political behavior, or political theory.

PSCI 311. Constitutional Law. (4 Credits)
An examination of the American constitutional system, with special emphasis given to the role of judicial institutions and the impact of Supreme Court decisions.

PSCI 332. Media and Politics. (4 Credits)
This course explores the interrelationship between the mass media (including print, broadcast, and new media), public opinion, and American politics. Prerequisite: PSCI 135 or equivalent.

PSCI 343. Political Ethics. (4 Credits)
This course brings philosophical ethics and normative political theory into dialogue with the distinctive practical problems associated with contemporary American politics and policy. Topics to be considered include abortion, euthanasia, affirmative action, war, distributive justice, deception and manipulation, and the ethics of roles.

PSCI 344. Women, Politics, and American Society. (4 Credits)
An exploration of the role of women in American politics from revolutionary times to the present, tracing the transformation of the role of American women from outsiders to more full participants in politics and government.

PSCI 349. Christian Political Thought. (4 Credits)
An engagement with the varieties of Christian thinking about politics, including both its historical development and the contemporary alternatives. Thinkers explored will include Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Locke, Niebuhr, Hauerwas, and a number of others.

PSCI 358. Campaigns in Context. (2 Credits)
An examination of federal, state, and local campaigns with an emphasis on the politics and context of the November election. Wheaton-in-Washington Program. PSCI 135 recommended.

PSCI 359. Washington Workshop. (2 Credits)

PSCI 361. Political Research. (4 Credits)
This course introduces research design to students using the context of political science. While there are many approaches to research design, we will focus upon quantitative analysis. At the introduction students will be exposed to the basic framework of theories, variables, and causation. Students will then construct a research design to test an original political science project. This course is designed to be an introduction to research methods so there are no pre-requisites. Students are encouraged to approach projects with creativity and ask questions.

Tags: AAQR

PSCI 365. Classical and Medieval Political Thought. (4 Credits)
The western political tradition rests on the interplay between the claims emerging out of classical Greece and Rome on the one hand and out of Christianity on the other. This course explores that interplay by engaging both classical (Homer, Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle) and Christian political thinkers (Augustine, Aquinas).

PSCI 366. Modern Political Thought. (4 Credits)
This course chronicles the replacement of the Christian order and the development of its theoretical alternative, modernity. Thinkers considered include: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Mill, Nietzsche, and Freud.

PSCI 368. American Political Thought. (4 Credits)
An analysis of central ideas in the history of American political thought, from the founding to the present.

PSCI 371. Public Opinion and American Democracy. (4 Credits)
This course helps students understand the factors that shape political attitudes and the actions they trigger in the United States. Particular attention is given to major methods and findings of survey research, as well as to implications of this research for how we think about the role of citizens in democracy.

PSCI 374. Political Psychology: Understanding the Political Mind and Behavior. (4 Credits)
This course equips students to apply the concepts, theories, and methods of psychology to better understand political attitudes and behavior. It emphasizes how new research at the intersection of fields like psychology, biology, and neuroscience can inform our thinking about politics.

Tags: SIP

PSCI 383. Religion & American Politics. (4 Credits)
An assessment of the role of religion in American politics, focusing especially on the contemporary era. Particular attention is given to the role of evangelicals. Periodic.

PSCI 384. The Presidency. (4 Credits)
Examines the role of the presidency in the U.S. political system, focusing on such themes as leadership, decision-making, and Congressional-Executive relations. Alternate years.

PSCI 385. Urban Politics. (2 Credits)
An analysis of the politics of urban areas, including relationships with state and national governments, decision-making, and urban public policy. Legacy diversity designation.

PSCI 386. Congress & Policy Process. (4 Credits)
Congress and the Policy Process. An examination of the role of Congress in the American political process, including historical development, structure and functions, and decision-making. Recommended for those seeking Washington internships. Alternate years.

PSCI 387. Law and Religion. (4 Credits)
This course is designed to introduce students to the moral, legal, and constitutional questions surrounding religion and its place in democratic public life. Students will have an opportunity to gain a familiarity with the development of American constitutional law as it relates to religion, explore the alternatives to those developments, understand the contending side of contemporary controversies, and articulate their own considered views on each via both presentations and writing exercises.

PSCI 389. Campaigns and Elections. (4 Credits)
Explores the structures and institutions of American electoral politics, including the nomination process and general elections. Gives special attention to the elements of the modern campaign, including campaign finance, research, polling, advertising, and media use. Alternate years.

PSCI 494. Senior Seminar. (2 Credits)
An analysis of the interrelationship of politics and the Christian faith, focusing on vocational, conceptual, legal, and domestic public policy issues. Senior majors only.

PSCI 495. Independent Study. (2 to 4 Credits)
A guided individual reading and research problem. Junior and senior majors, or discretion of professor.

PSCI 496. Internship. (4 Credits)
A series of programs designed for practical experience in professions frequently chosen by Political Science majors, such as law, government, and public service. Prerequisite: Political Science major with junior or senior standing and a minimum of 16 credits in the department.

PSCI 499. Honors Thesis. (4 Credits)
An independent research project requiring original research, developed into a scholarly paper and culminating in an oral examination. By application only. The honors thesis may not be counted toward the total hours to complete the major.
International Relations Courses

IR 155. Comparative Politics. (4 Credits)
An introduction to the comparative analysis of the political systems of countries around the world. The course will examine the role of political institutions, political participation, and economics in shaping societies. Disciplinary terminology will be combined with case studies of diverse countries from regions such as Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe. Legacy diversity designation.

Tags: GP, SI

IR 175. International Politics. (4 Credits)
An introduction to the politics among states. Themes emphasized include: international security, diplomacy, conflict resolution and war, human rights, international law and organization, and global political economy.

Tags: SI

IR 301. Topics in International Politics. (2 Credits)
Selected topics, designed to give added breadth and depth to the understanding of international politics.

IR 302. Topics in International Politics. (4 Credits)
Selected topics, designed to give added breadth and depth to the understanding of international politics.

IR 312. Islam & Politics. (4 Credits)
This seminar course focuses on central Islamic concepts relating to politics and the role of Islam in political movements and individual political action. Legacy diversity designation.

IR 315. Politics of Global Development. (4 Credits)
This course examines the nature and processes of economic development and political change in less developed countries. Emphasis is given to comparing the political economy of good governance.

IR 318. Environmental Politics. (4 Credits)
Contemporary environmental challenges suggest fundamental problems of nature-society relations through socio-physical phenomena such as acid rain, urban air pollution, deforestation, rabid desertification, high rates of extinction, and the prospect of global warming, as well as mounting inequality in threats to human wellbeing generated by these issues. This course engages various perspectives on the politics of these issues, equipping students to 1) understand the ways in which scholars and activists think about environmental challenges, 2) critically engage such perspectives, and 3) apply such perspectives to the changing landscape of environmental issues.

IR 325. Justice Among the Nations. (4 Credits)
This course explores the moral questions occasioned by relationships among and between nations: what are the justifications for (and limits of) national sovereignty? Are there better (morally and practically) alternatives? Should the material wealth of the modern global economy be produced and distributed differently than it is now? When and how may states (or other sorts of political authorities) use military force? How can nations reconcile and act justly after mass atrocities?

IR 327. Ethics & Foreign Policy. (2 Credits)
An examination of the role of moral values in foreign policy, with special emphasis on war, human rights, and foreign intervention. Prerequisite: IR 175.

IR 328. International Law. (2 Credits)
Analyzes the nature and role of law in the international community through leading case studies.

IR 329. Forgiveness & Reconciliation. (2 Credits)
This class explores the potential role of forgiveness in confronting and overcoming systemic regime crimes. The course emphasizes theory and case studies and focuses on processes that foster political reconciliation.

IR 347. East Asian Politics. (4 Credits)
Why do democratic and authoritarian countries coexist as neighbors in one of the world’s densest trade networks? What explains the great inequalities both within and between East Asian countries? We will explore these questions in this course. We will examine the historical development of East Asian states and their contemporary domestic and international politics. In this course, we will investigate the three sub-regions of East Asia: Northeast Asia, China, and Southeast Asia. Finally, contemporary problems of international relations will be discussed ranging from nuclear weapons to island disputes to power transitions away from American hegemony.

Tags: HP

IR 348. Middle East Politics. (4 Credits)
In this course, students will learn about and analyze the political cultures and political conflicts of the Middle East.

Tags: GP, HP

IR 356. European Politics. (4 Credits)
A comparative assessment of the politics and government of selected European nations.

IR 361. Post-communist Politics. (4 Credits)
A comparison of the post-communist political development of a select number of Central and East European states. Examination is given to both the common “Leninist legacies” of communism and the great diversity of political practice now found across the region. Special emphasis is given to political institutions, European Union integration, and select contemporary political issues.

IR 362. Urban Politics in a Global Age. (4 Credits)
This course examines the effects of globalization on major urban centers in the world system, comparing and contrasting cities in North American, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Students will study the economic, political, and social impact, as well as responses of government and civil society.

IR 375. Globalization. (4 Credits)
What are the causes and consequences of globalization? Why do citizens divide on their support and opposition to globalization? How is globalization affect and affected by national politics, history, and cultures? This course will examine the causes of globalization and its effects upon states and citizens. Specifically, we will discuss international trade, migration, growth, development and politics. Taught in conjunction with the Iron Sharpens Iron summer travel program.

Tags: GP, SI

IR 378. U.S. Foreign Policy. (4 Credits)
An analysis of the processes and institutions involved in making U.S. foreign policy. Emphasis given to understanding the development of contemporary issues.

IR 379. International Political Economy. (4 Credits)
An analysis of the interaction of economics and politics at the international level. Topics covered will include the origins and nature of the World Bank, IMF and WTO, regionalization, trade policy, and the world monetary system.

IR 494. Senior Seminar. (2 Credits)
An analysis of the interrelationship of politics and the Christian faith, focusing on vocational, conceptual, legal, and international public policy issues. Senior majors only.
IR 495. Independent Study. (2 to 4 Credits)
A guided individual reading and research problem. Junior and senior majors, or discretion of professor.

IR 496. Internship. (4 Credits)
A series of programs designed for practical experience in professions frequently chosen by International Relations majors, such as law, government, and public service. Prerequisite: International Relations major with junior or senior standing and a minimum of 16 credits in the department.

IR 499. Honors Thesis. (4 Credits)
An independent research project requiring original research, developed in a scholarly paper and culminating in an oral examination. By application only. The honors thesis may not be counted toward the total hours to complete the major.

Peace and Conflict Studies Courses

PACS 101. Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies. (4 Credits)
This course will explore the fact of violence and the biblical imperative for peace. This survey course will identify causes and conditions that contribute to violence; mechanisms for dealing with violence; and strategies for building peace. Multiple disciplinary lenses and methodological approaches will be examined in these endeavors.

PACS 494. Senior Seminar in Peace and Conflict Studies: Peace, Reconciliation, and Justice. (2 Credits)
This two-hour course will explore the prospects for peace and reconciliation given the fact of violence. The course will consider various ideals of justice, various methods of peacebuilding, and limitations associated with methods and movements for peace, reconciliation, and justice. The extent and efficacy of religion and religionists in peace, reconciliation and justice efforts will be considered, as well secular humanist approaches to peace, reconciliation and justice. Since students from the Community Transformation concentration and from the Global Justice concentration will coalesce in this course, students will debate the strengths and weaknesses of various units of analysis and of various disciplinary and methodological approaches to conflict resolution and peace building.

PACS 496. Internship. (4 Credits)
Allow students with opportunities to apply theoretical and theological knowledge by engaging in strategic peacebuilding, conflict resolution and conflict management in a variety of contexts to organizations. In addition, internships provide valuable insight into careers related to peace building and conflict management. Exploration of faith and vocation is a crucial component.