

Political Science

Faculty: Ball, *Chair:* Fair, Koch, Lowi, Potter, Sullivan

Political science deals with the making of binding decisions for a society. The discipline examines public policy making not only in the United States, but throughout the world. Political theories, both past and present, inform the decision making of participants in this process and are therefore part of the subject matter of political science.

The study of political science involves reading and interpreting texts, gathering and weighing evidence, interpreting political events, evaluating theories about politics, and analyzing public policies. By engaging in these activities, students learn the fundamentals of scholarship, develop a concept of what it means to be a citizen of a representative democracy, become familiar with the traditions of liberal education, and begin to understand emerging patterns of globalization.

Political science graduates opt for further study in graduate or law school, or pursue careers in government, non-profit organizations, or the private sector.

Requirements for the Major

The political science major must take POL 110/American Government* or POL 230/International Relations, POL 200/Political Analysis, POL 390/Tutorial in Political Science, POL 498/Seminar in Political Science, one course in American politics, one course in comparative politics, one course in international politics, one course in political theory, and a four course political science concentration approved by the student's adviser, for a total of 12 course units in political science. Eight courses in political science must be at the 300 or 400 level. In addition, political science majors must take STA 115/Statistics I, ECO 101/Principles of Microeconomics, and ECO 102/Principles of Macroeconomics; these courses may be used to satisfy the liberal learning requirements in mathematics and social sciences.

**Students who have taken a course in American politics or government prior to TCNJ should take POLS 230 instead.*

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for political science:

- Transfer in the program from another program within the College is based upon the following performance standards in these "foundation courses": Earning the grade of C in POL 110/American Government or POL 230/International Relations.
- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these "critical content courses": Earning the grade of C in *both* POL 110/American Government or POL 230/International Relations, *and* POL 200/Political Analysis.
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0 in courses for the program.

Requirements for the Political Science Minor

Political science minor requirements are POL 110/American Government or POL 230/International Relations, one course in comparative politics, one course in

international politics, one course in political theory, and one political science option, for a total of five course units. Three course units for the minor must be at the 300 or 400 level.

Also see requirements for the Public Policy Analysis and Management Minor; the International and Area Studies Minor; and the Law, Politics, and Philosophy Minor.

Departmental Honors

A departmental honors program is available. For information or eligibility, see the departmental honors adviser. The honors program requires three course units including POL 495/Honors Thesis in political science.

Political Science Major (POLA)

Freshman Year

FSP First Seminar	1 course unit
POL 110/American Government**	1 course unit
or	
POL 230/International Relations	
POL Comparative Politics Option	1 course unit
Quantitative Reasoning including STAT 115	2 course units
WRI 102/Academic Writing (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
Foreign Language (if not exempted) * or elective	2 course units

**It is recommended that students exempted from these courses take other liberal learning courses.*

***Students who have taken a course in American politics or government prior to TCNJ should take POL 230 instead.*

Sophomore Year

POL 200/Political Analysis	1 course unit
POL Electives	2 course units
Liberal Learning courses (including economics)	2-3 course units
Electives	2-3 course units

Junior Year

POL 390/Tutorial in Political Science	1 course unit
POL Electives	3 course units
Liberal Learning courses	1-2 course units
Electives	2-4 course units

Senior Year

POL 498/Seminar in Political Science (fall)	1 course unit
POL Electives	2 course units
Electives	4-5 course units

COURSES

American Politics

POL 110/American Government (every semester)	1 course unit
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Examines the strengths and weaknesses, problems, and promise of representative democracy in the United States. Surveys the relationships of citizens to Congress, the president, and the courts through political parties, elections, interest groups, and the media. Considers the constitutional framework of government and the rights of the individual against governmental intrusion.

POL 200/Political Analysis

1 course unit

(fall)

Surveys several major methods of political inquiry. Topics include research design, data analysis, statistics, and qualitative methods. Strengths and limitations of each approach are emphasized.

POL 207/Citizen Democracy

1 course unit

(alternate years)

Practical experience in, and study of, local political processes from the viewpoint of citizen activism. A project-driven course where students work with community organizations to research important issues of public policy, study the practical workings of real political processes, and evaluate the relationship of public officials to their constituents.

POL 215/Gender and Politics

1 course unit

(annually)

The role of gender in politics is examined in a lecture/discussion format. Topics include research on gender, differences and similarities in political socialization and electoral behavior, gender-related issues in public policy, the role of gender in the decision making of public officials, and the relationship between theories of gender and the actual practice of politics.

POL328/State and Local Government in New Jersey

1 course unit

(alternate years)

This course provides an analysis of the institutions, the political processes, and the resultant policies of state and local government in New Jersey. Particular attention is given to the structure of state, county, and local government, related political organizations, the nature of politics in New Jersey, and the impact of the state's cultural, economic, political, and social characteristics on political decision-making and public policy at the state and local level.

POL 300/Politics and Public Management

1 course unit

(alternate years)

An examination of the field of public administration focusing on the external and internal factors that shape the performance of public agencies, the interaction of public agencies and their leaders with the presidency, Congress and the courts, and the administrative skills public administrators need to manage a public organization.

POL 305/American Public Policy

1 course unit

(alternate years)

An examination of the policy-making process, the important domestic policies that have resulted, and the evaluation of these policies. The primary focus of the course will be on the substantive issues of contemporary public policy in such areas as the environment, health care, welfare, the economy, crime, and education.

POL 311/The Presidency and Congress

1 course unit

(alternate years)

Problems of the modern American presidency and of the U.S. Congress, with an emphasis upon interrelationships and consequences for the national policy-making process.

POL 315/Parties, Interest Groups, and the Media**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

An examination of the role of political parties, interest groups, and the media as intermediaries between citizens and formal governmental institutions. The course will focus on the role of parties, interest groups, and the media in leadership recruitment, issue formulation, and public policy making.

POL 316/Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

A study of the origins, content, and impact of citizen attitudes on the U.S. political system. Particular attention will be given to the impact of public opinion, along with other factors, on voting and elections.

POL 318/Politics of Community Change**1 course unit**

(annually)

The political implications of the evolution of cities and suburbs. Includes the study of local politics, geography, demography, and economics applied to selected public policy issues such as redevelopment, sprawl, the environment, poverty, public safety, and education. The course includes instruction in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and use of GIS skills in an analytical mapping project serving the needs of one or more community partners.

POL 320/Constitutional Law**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

An analysis of how the U.S. Supreme Court interprets the Constitution, focusing on the issues of how much power the U.S. Congress, president, and courts should have and how the U.S. government should interrelate with the state governments.

POL 321/Civil Liberties**1 course unit**

(annually)

An analysis of how the U.S. Supreme Court interprets the Constitution, focusing on the rights of the individual, including freedom of expression, freedom of religion, the right of privacy, due process of law, and equal protection of the laws.

POL 323/Law and Society**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

An examination of what law is, the sources of law, and the impact of law on society and the individual. Examines internal aspects of the legal system, such as legal reasoning and the structure of the legal profession, as well as external factors such as the economic system and social structure, in order to illustrate the dynamic relationship between law and the society in which it exists.

POL328/State and Local Government in New Jersey**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

This course provides an analysis of the institutions, the political processes, and the resultant policies of state and local government in New Jersey. Particular attention is given to the structure of state, county, and local government, related political organizations, the nature of politics in New Jersey, and the impact of the state's cultural, economic, political, and social characteristics on political decision-making and public policy at the state and local level.

International Politics

POL 230/International Relations

1 course unit

(every semester)

An examination of contemporary patterns of international interaction and their historic roots with attention to competing theoretical perspectives. Topics studied include foreign policy, international law and organization, and international political economy.

POL 330/American Foreign Policy

1 course unit

(alternate years)

Examines the formulation and execution of American foreign policy in the context of American politics and of the United States' historic role in the world; some themes considered include the domestic sources of foreign policy and the conditions under which the United States uses force abroad.

POL 333/Vietnam and America

1 course unit

(annually)

Examines the origins and nature of the American role in the Vietnam conflict, 1946–1975, and the effects of that conflict on American politics, society, and foreign policy.

POL 335/International Organization

1 course unit

(fall)

Nature, structure, and functioning of international organizations, with a focus on the United Nations system, as a means to maintain international peace and security, and promote international and social cooperation.

POL 337/International Law

1 course unit

(spring)

International legal principles concerning international legal personality, jurisdiction over persons and places, diplomatic and consular relations, treaties, war, and relations at sea and in space.

POL 340/International Relations Theories and Methods

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Various approaches to analyzing international politics including rational choice, game theory, and regime theory in addition to realism, liberalism, and Marxism.

POL 345/INT 300/Human Rights in International Relations

1 course unit

(annually)

same as INT 300

This course examines the evolution of human rights movements since World War II and their influence on the behavior of nation states and other transnational actors. The major topics that will be discussed included: the history of the contemporary human rights movement, realism and liberalism in international relations theory, human rights in American foreign policy, and the role of non-state actors such as intergovernmental institutions, multinational corporations, and non-governmental organizations in international affairs. Significant attention may also be given to non-U.S. perspectives, selected regional issues, and current topics such as: women's rights, terrorism, self-determination, globalization, forced labor, democratization, and humanitarian intervention.

POL 380/International Political Economy
(annually)

1 course unit

A study of the politics of international economic relations. Economic theories of international trade and finance are presented in the context of their political origins and implications. Includes review of primary analytical perspectives, historical developments, and major contemporary institutions and processes bearing on the politics of international economics.

Comparative Politics

POL 150/Introduction to Comparative Politics
(spring)

1 course unit

The nature of politics and comparative analysis; examines various political systems-developed and developing, communist and non-communist-and criteria for evaluating them and their performance.

POL 250/Politics and Society in Developing Countries
(annually)

1 course unit

An introduction to politics and society in developing countries from an interdisciplinary perspective. Drawing upon history, anthropology, sociology, and political science, the first half of the course examines the historical development of developing countries and the challenges and constraints they face in becoming "modern," and in creating strong and coherent societies, economies, and policies. The second half is devoted to a more detailed examination of four central themes in social and political life in the developing world.

POL 350/Politics in Europe
(alternate years)

1 course unit

Examines government, politics, and society in the major European nations including but not necessarily limited to the United Kingdom, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

POL 352/Comparative Politics of Development
(alternate years)

1 course unit

An examination, within the framework of the comparative political economy of development literature, of a sample of developing countries and their efforts to develop economically and politically.

POL 353/Politics in East Asia
(occasionally)

1 course unit

Comparative study of political thought and institutions of East Asian countries emphasizing problems of modernization and interaction of economic, cultural, and social forces.

POL 357/Middle East Politics
(alternate years)

1 course unit

An examination of the politics of Middle Eastern and North African states from a comparative historical perspective. The principal focus is on the challenges and constraints that Middle Eastern societies have faced in their efforts to create modern nation-states. Topics include imperialist intervention in the region, post-Colonial state-building experiences, and the role of Islam in domestic politics.

POL 358/Latin-American Politics
(alternate years)

1 course unit

An examination of the contemporary political, economic, and social structures of Latin American countries within a historical and theoretical context. Particular emphasis on the causes and consequences of cycles of democratic and authoritarian rule.

POL 360/Politics in Russia

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Historical-physical foundation of the former Soviet system, Marxism-Leninism, the Communist Party, newly emerging formal institutions of government, elite and functional groups, problems of industrialization, and foreign policy.

Political Theory

POL 270/Western Political Philosophy

1 course unit

(spring)

Selected political questions that have intrigued Western society from time immemorial and theoretical solutions presented by some of the great political philosophers from classical Greece to the modern era.

POL 274/HIS 370/Origins of the U.S. Constitution

1 course unit

(annually)

An examination of the political theories, people, social and economic forces, events, and political context that influenced the framing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

POL 372/History of American Political Ideas

1 course unit

(alternate years)

Follows the evolution of ideas of major American political theorists and politicians, concerning the individual, community, and world, to develop a framework for evaluating contemporary political thought and practice.

POL 377/Issues in Contemporary Political Theory

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An examination of selected issues surrounding the interpretation of concepts such as justice, democracy, liberty, rights, equality, obligation, power, or authority within the context of major schools of contemporary political thought, e.g., conservatism, liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, and others.

Special Courses

POL 291, 370/Topics in Political Science

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Current or specialized topics proposed by faculty or students and approved by the department. May be taken for credit several times if content differs each time.

POL 390/Tutorial in Political Science

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Junior status

An intensive study under close faculty supervision of a particular topic or problem in political science through extensive reading by the student and the submission of both oral and written reports to the tutor. Emphasis on the development of the student's depth of knowledge and

understanding of scholarly issues through a close professional relationship between tutor and student.

POL 391/Independent Study in Political Science

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Student proposals must be approved by the political science department prior to registration

Independent reading or research pursued under supervision of a departmental adviser; project proposals may be presented by upper-level students who have completed two units of 300- and 400-level political science courses.

POL 399/Internship in Public Affairs

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Permission of intern supervisor

This course provides an opportunity for students to integrate theory with practical work experience in public affairs under the supervision of a field supervisor and a faculty coordinator. Work settings include but are not limited to the Governor's Office, legislative offices, state departments, lobbying firms, trade or union organizations, political campaigns and parties, and non-profit organizations. The College has cooperative arrangements with programs in Washington, D.C.

POL 476/Honors Independent Study

variable course units

POL 495/Honors Thesis in Political Science

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Special invitation by the department

This course is designed to permit participants in the departmental honors program to pursue an advanced independent research project culminating in a paper to be defended before a departmental committee. May be repeated for credit.

POL 498/Seminar in Political Science

1 course unit

(fall)

Prerequisite: Junior standing

Advanced study through individual research and formal seminar reports on topics of special interest to seminar participants. May be repeated for credit.