

Political Science

Political science is the study of political systems and the ways they affect our lives. If you plan to play an active role in our society — participating in community affairs, analyzing the consequences of international events or advocating for a cause — you must have an understanding of political science.

Why Political Science at Illinois Wesleyan?

- Curriculum begins with basic courses that examine the intellectual, historical and behavioral development of political institutions and patterns of political behavior.
- Students will gain a necessary core of knowledge, including American government, international and comparative politics, political theory and the role of scholarly research in understanding modern government and politics.
- Students learn that political institutions and processes do not develop in a vacuum; instead, they reflect the cultures, values, beliefs, historical experiences and economic conditions of the societies in which they exist.
- Political science students work closely with faculty advisors to develop an individualized political science program that concentrates on a specific area (or areas) of interest or particular career goals.
- The upper-level political research seminars (junior and senior years) provide opportunities for collaborative learning and the integration of knowledge at an advanced level by conducting original political science research.

Learning from a Quality Faculty

Political science faculty teach general courses in political science as well as courses within their area of specialty. Faculty are dedicated to innovative teaching and close student-faculty relationships.

- **Frank Boyd**, *Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Provost*
Ph.D. — Emory University
Specializes in international political economy, third world development and international organization.
- **Abigail Jahiel**, *Associate Professor of Environmental and International Studies and Director of Environmental Studies*
Ph.D. — University of Michigan
Specializes in the politics of China and international and comparative environmental politics.
- **Min-hyung Kim**, *Associate Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — University of Washington
Specializes in international political economy, the European Union and Asian politics



A Sampling of Courses Offered by Political Science

American Social Policy
The American South and the Politics of Race
Conflict Areas in the Third World
Congress and the Legislative Process
Constitutional Law II: The First Amendment and American Democracy
Globalization and Development
International Law and Organizations
International Political Economy
Political Protest and Social Movements
Politics in Africa
Politics in Developing Societies
Public Opinion and Political Behavior
Theories of International Relations
Women and Politics

Recent May Term Courses Related to Political Science

Politics and Society in Contemporary South Africa (*travel course*)
Politics in Fiction
Studies in French Political Culture (*travel course*)
The Politics of the Civil Rights Movement (*travel course*)

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“The Illinois Wesleyan political science program delivers both academic excellence and practical relevance. Our curriculum stresses the acquisition of

- **Kathleen Montgomery**, *Associate Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — Emory University
Specializes in comparative legislative politics in the new democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
- **William Munro**, *Betty Ritchie-Birrer and Ivan Birrer Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — Yale University
Specializes in African politics.
- **Tari Renner**, *Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — American University
Specializes in American elections, public opinion polling, and state and local government.
- **Greg Shaw**, *Department Chair and Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — Columbia University
Specializes in American public opinion and social policy.
- **James Simeone**, *Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — University of Chicago
Specializes in American political thought.

Putting Learning into Practice

- Our extensive internship program includes positions with members of the local judiciary, the Illinois State legislature, in a variety of public and private businesses, and law offices. Students will also benefit from the paid State Farm Summer Community Partner Internship sponsored by the Action Research Center (ARC), and a host of national and international programs.
- Special study opportunities through the Department's cooperative programs: the Associated Colleges of the Midwest Chicago Semester, the American University Washington Semester, Georgetown University's Semester in Washington Program and the Drew University United Nations Semester.
- Students have the opportunity to submit independent research and/or assist in the editing and publication of *Res Publica*, the political science journal of original undergraduate research.
- Political science majors can join on-campus political organizations including Amnesty International, College Democrats, College Republicans, Model Illinois Government, Model United Nations, Student Senate and the IWU Law Club.
- Political science is a natural preparation for the lawyer, journalist, lobbyist, political campaign consultant or the public servant. Our alumni include successful lawyers with top law firms, policy experts, state and federal lobbyists, politicians, political campaign analysts and consultants, and professional staff members in the U.S. Senate and House offices in Washington, D.C.

1) sophisticated knowledge of different political institutions, processes and policies; 2) analytical skills, quantitative reasoning, and critical thinking; and 3) direct civic engagement and practical experience in politics. The curriculum is administered by an experienced group of faculty who are dedicated to strong innovative teaching and close student/faculty relationships. While all members of the Department have their own research projects, students are never lost in the process. We often attempt to include students directly in our research. Students also conduct original research in the classroom. For example, in the required research methods class, students carry out public opinion surveys of voters' political attitudes. There is no artificial separation of teaching and research in our Department.”

Dr. Greg Shaw

Professor of Political Science
and Department Chair



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

**For Further Information,
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