



"As a politics major, I've gained an appreciation and passion for the law and the inner workings of American government. My writing, critical thinking skills, and general knowledge have improved vastly due to the engaging professors, each of whom truly loves their field of study."

GRAY WHITSETT
Centre Class of 2016
Politics Major

POLITICS (OR POLITICAL SCIENCE, AS IT IS CALLED AT MANY SCHOOLS) IS THE STUDY OF POLITICAL IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS, PUBLIC POLICIES, AND THE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS. THE DISCIPLINE CONTAINS SEVERAL BROAD SUBFIELDS — INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AMERICAN POLITICS, POLITICAL THEORY, AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS. POLITICAL SCIENTISTS USE OF VARIETY OF TECHNIQUES TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL WORLD AROUND THEM.

THE PROGRAM

The politics program is part of a liberal arts curriculum, and the discipline is presented to students with this in mind. We emphasize breadth rather than specialization, attempt to relate what we do to other disciplines, and constantly remind students that politics takes place within a broader context of social, historical, and intellectual forces. We therefore encourage our students to complement their work in politics courses with study in related disciplines. We want to awaken students to the importance of public affairs, help them to function more effectively as citizens, and give them a perspective that can be used to integrate knowledge and information accumulated in a number of disparate courses.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN POLITICS?

Politics students get many opportunities to develop reading, writing, speaking, and analytical skills that are useful in a variety of careers. Since most of them have an interest in public affairs, they tend to gravitate toward careers that allow them to deal with public issues and work with other people. Many find the

career path that interests them requires additional training. Law school is a favorite destination for politics majors. But there is now an increasing interest in graduate programs—both traditional political science programs and specialized programs (public policy, public administration, international relations, communications, and journalism, for example). Others have gone directly from Centre into careers in government or the private sector. Several have found employment with a political party or an interest-group organization.

WHAT IS THE POLITICS MAJOR LIKE?

Politics majors are required to take five introductory courses that cover the major subfields of the discipline, as well as the various approaches to political analysis. **Introduction to Political Ideologies** and **Introduction to Comparative Politics** are first-year courses. **American Politics and Institutions**, **Introduction to International Relations**, and **Introduction to Political Analysis** are sophomore-level courses. These courses provide the basic information necessary to take advanced courses and help to develop analytical skills as well as oral and written communication skills. Our courses offer a number of different emphases, including the historical development of political ideas and institutions as well as the issues, debates, and phenomena that characterize our modern political world.

After completing these introductory courses, students may go in a number of directions. The major requires at least six advanced courses, including **Western Political Theory** and the politics senior seminar. The minor requires three advanced courses. We also encourage our students to study abroad and seek out real-world internships that add depth and breadth to their educational experience.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND CAMPUS

Many politics majors participate in Centre's programs in China, England, France, Japan, or Mexico. All provide exceptional opportunities to observe politics and government in a different setting. Other possibilities for off-campus study also exist, either sponsored by the College — CentreTerm courses in Italy, Vietnam, and Cameroon are recent examples — or through other institutions. The Centre-in-Washington Internship Program allows students to earn a full term's credit while working and studying in the nation's capital. In addition, each year invited speakers give public lectures on topics of political importance. Often they also visit classes or meet with students informally.

Students who want to get involved in politics on campus may join Centre College Democrats or Centre College Republicans, two highly active organizations on campus.

INTERNSHIPS

Politics majors have availed themselves of internships in and around Danville and elsewhere in the country. These have included positions in local, state, and national government as well as in the private sector. Examples include working with U.S. Senators and Representatives, the Governor of Kentucky, state and federal courts, and local trial attorneys.

WHO TEACHES POLITICS AT CENTRE?

DINA BADIE (B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Connecticut), Assistant Professor of Politics and International Studies. Research and teaching interests include the politics of oil, foreign policy, international relations, and East Asian and Middle East politics.

ROBERT BOSCO (B.A., Wheaton College; M.A., American University; Ph.D., University of Connecticut), Associate Professor of International Studies. Teaches courses in religion and politics, international relations, international security, and international political economy. He is the contact person for graduate study in international relations.

LORI HARTMANN (B.A., Denison University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Denver), Hower Professor of International Studies. Teaches courses in comparative politics, international relations, women in politics, and political economy. She has directed the Centre-in-Strasbourg Program, and led a CentreTerm program in Cameroon. She is the contact person for questions about graduate programs in comparative politics and international relations, the Peace Corps, and careers in the Foreign Service.

BENJAMIN KNOLL (B.A., Utah State University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Iowa), Harlan Associate Professor of Politics. Teaches courses in American political behavior and institutions. He is the contact person for graduate programs in American politics.

JAMES P. LEAHEY (B.A., Centre College; J.D., Indiana University), Instructor of Politics. Teaches courses in the judicial process. He is also vice president for legal affairs and gift planning and associate College counsel. He serves with Professor Stroup as a pre-law advisor, and has taken students to Washington and Hawaii during CentreTerm.

JENNAPHER LUNDE SEEFELDT (B.A., Augustana College; M.A., Ph.D., Northeastern University), Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics and International Studies. Teaches courses in comparative politics, foreign policy, and American politics. Her research interests focus on Latin America, democratization, and the resource curse.

J. CHRISTOPHER PASKEWICH (B.S., M.S., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Ph.D., University of Connecticut), Associate Professor of Politics. Teaches courses in political theory and American political thought. He is the contact person for questions about graduate programs in political theory.

DANIEL G. STROUP (B.A., University of Dayton; M.A., Ph.D., University of Virginia), Lively Professor of Politics and Law. Teaches courses in American politics and public law. He has participated in the CentreTerm study in Vietnam. He serves with Mr. Leahey as a pre-law advisor, and is the contact person for questions about graduate programs in public law, and law school.

BRETT WERNER (B.A., St. Olaf College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Minnesota), Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. Teaches courses in public policy and environmental policy, and is the contact for graduate programs in public policy and public administration.

VISIT CENTRE

The best way to judge Centre is to tour the campus, attend a class, talk to the professors and students, and spend the night in a residence hall. We invite you to visit and encourage you to contact the Admission Office if you have any questions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLITICS PROGRAM AT CENTRE, CONTACT:

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TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH A CENTRE STUDENT MAJORING IN POLITICS, CONTACT:

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POLITICS WEB PAGE

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