

POLITICAL SCIENCE

The study of Political Science provides students with opportunities to investigate political phenomena ranging from the behavior of the individual citizen to relations among states in the international arena. The program seeks to develop an awareness of the moral and ethical implications of political action as well as an understanding of political institutions and processes from an empirical perspective.

A Political Science degree provides an excellent foundation for careers in such fields as local, state, and federal government, the foreign service, law, journalism, business, education, law enforcement, nonprofit agencies, lobbying, campaign management, and corporate public affairs.

Note: Students must complete a minimum of 120 credits in order to graduate with a Bachelor's degree.

Programs Bachelors

- Political Science, BA (<http://catalog.smsu.edu/academic-programs-degrees/political-science/political-science-ba/>)

Minors

- Political Science, Minor (<http://catalog.smsu.edu/academic-programs-degrees/political-science/political-science-minor/>)
- Public Administration, Minor (<http://catalog.smsu.edu/academic-programs-degrees/political-science/public-administration-minor/>)

Faculty

Douglas Simon (<https://www.smsu.edu/directory/?d=employee&name=00000914#individualTables>)

David Sturrock (<https://www.smsu.edu/directory/?d=employee&name=00000927#individualTables>)

Undergraduate Courses

POL 200 International Relations Credits: 3

Examination of theories, concepts, and structures instrumental in understanding international relations. Includes a realistic, systematic and political economy analysis of actions and interactions, images and realities in international affairs. Topics include great power rivalry, the arms race, great power intervention in the Third World, trade war and conflicts in Africa and the Middle East.

Goal: Goal: 05- Hist/Soc/Behav Sci 08- Global Perspective

Fall: All Years **Spring:** All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223165/>)

POL 217 Global Politics Credits: 3

This course surveys the scope and methods of the study of political behavior and political systems. It examines political ideologies; the emergence and evolution of nation-states; government policies; the pursuit and uses of power; the role of parties, interest groups and social movements in influencing decision-making institutions; the primary forms of governing institutions (parliamentary and presidential); and relations between nations.

Goal: Goal: 08- Global Perspective 09- Ethical/Civic Resp

Fall: All Years **Spring:** All Years **Summer:** All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223166/>)

POL 220 American National Government Credits: 3

Surveys the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the national government; the role of political parties, interest groups and public opinion. Includes discussion of local and state government and the political uses of the law.

Goal: Goal: 05- Hist/Soc/Behav Sci 09- Ethical/Civic Resp

Fall: All Years **Spring:** All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223149/>)

POL 221 State Government Credits: 3

Examines the role of states in the American federal system. Analyzes intergovernmental relations and issues of current interest such as taxing powers, grants, and responsibilities for providing public services such as education, policing, welfare, and environmental protection. Special attention to Minnesota.

Goal: Goal: 05- Hist/Soc/Behav Sci 09- Ethical/Civic Resp

Spring: All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001070/>)

POL 227 Courts and the Law Credits: 3

This course surveys the government and politics of local governments, including counties, cities, and townships. Major topics include contrasts between major urban governments and local governments in Greater Minnesota, intergovernmental relations between local, state and federal levels, elected and appointed leadership, local budget policy, economic development, and land use issues.

Goal: Goal: 05- Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

Fall: Odd Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223172/>)

POL 252 Comparative Politics Credits: 3

A survey of the study of comparative politics. Students examine political concepts (including representation, legitimacy, and the state), ideologies, institutions and processes as applied to selected industrial democracies, authoritarian, totalitarian, communist regimes, and developing countries, ending with a discussion of ethics from a comparative political perspective.

Goal: Goal: 05- Hist/Soc/Behav Sci 08- Global Perspective

Fall: All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223153/>)

POL 255 Model United Nations Credits: 1-2

An examination of history, function, dynamics and future of the United Nations and its role as an international organization. Students will be involved in case studies and problem resolution.

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001074/>)

POL 286 Special Topics Credits: 1-4

A study of more advanced topics in political science not normally provided as part of the curriculum.

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001075/>)

POL 292 Honors Credit Political Science Credits: 1

An independent study course designed primarily for Honors Program students. This course allows more in-depth or comprehensive study or research.

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001076/>)

POL 300 Political Research Methods Credits: 4

Covers the basics of research methodology and an introduction to statistical analysis and data processing with computers as applied to Political Science.

Pre-Requisite : POL 117 OR POL 217 AND POL 120 OR POL 220

Fall: Even Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001077/>)

POL 324 Local Politics Credits: 3

This course surveys the government and politics of local governments, including counties, cities, and townships. Major topics include contrasts between major urban governments and local governments in Greater Minnesota, intergovernmental relations between local, state and federal levels, elected and appointed leadership, local budget policy, economic development, and land use issues.

Goal: Goal: 09- Ethical/Civic Resp

Fall: Odd Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223154/>)

POL 325 Regulatory Law Credits: 3

This course considers the role of government in the regulation of the market. In doing so, we consider regulatory practice and the mechanisms to adjust market behavior. To that end, we consider rulemaking, adjudication, enforcement, licensing, the collection of information, judicial review, and public sector personnel management.

Pre-Requisite : POL 120 OR POL 220

Fall: Department Discretion **Spring:** Department Discretion

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223168/>)

POL 328 Constitutional Law Credits: 3

An examination of the role of the U.S. Constitution and the state and federal courts in handling crime and justice in America. Particular attention is paid to the evolution of legal precedents, recent Supreme Court decisions, federalism, criminal procedure, and efforts to reform the American criminal justice system.

Pre-Requisite : POL 120 OR POL 220

Fall: Department Discretion

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223169/>)

POL 331 Western Political Thought Credits: 3

The study of political thought from Plato to the 17th century. Special attention is paid to Plato and Aristotle. Various ideas are examined, including the nature of rights, absolutes, the nature of human beings, the necessity of laws and the state, and the relationship between people and society.

Pre-Requisite : POL 217 OR POL 117

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001083/>)

POL 340 Public Administration Credits: 3

A broad overview of public administration, including policy analysis, budgeting, personnel, organization, leadership, decision-making and ethics in a political environment. Examination of the theory and application of public management practices at all levels of government.

Pre-Requisite : POL 120 OR POL 220

Fall: Odd Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223150/>)

POL 351 Civil Liberties Credits: 3

An examination of the various rights, responsibilities, and liberties guaranteed Americans in the U.S. Constitution. Special attention is paid to First Amendment speech, assembly, press and religious rights; governments ability to conduct searches; equal protection; economic liberties; protection against self-incrimination, and rights before and during criminal trials.

Pre-Requisite : POL 120 OR POL 220

Spring: Odd Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00223170/>)

POL 355 World Political Geography Credits: 3

A traditional regional approach to geography combined with a survey of several important subfields, such as urban geography, geopolitics, political geography, and economic geography.

Spring: All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001086/>)

POL 415 Law & Society Credits: 3

A study of the impact of American laws, courts, and judicial practices on American society. Includes examination of significant Supreme Court decisions; the changing role of lawyers; the plight of the nations poor; problems associated with civil litigation; public perceptions of the nations judicial system, and efforts to reform the national legal system.

Pre-Requisite : POL 120 OR POL 220

Fall: Department Discretion

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001092/>)

POL 422 American Political Thought Credits: 3

A survey of American political ideas, and their consequences, from the American Revolution to the present. Includes an examination of the European origins of the American political tradition. Among the figures studied are John Locke, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, John C. Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan. Particular attention is paid to the evolution of the dialogue between conservatism and liberalism since World War II.

Pre-Requisite : POL 120 OR POL 220

Spring: All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001093/>)

POL 430 The U.S. Supreme Court Credits: 3

An examination of the history, functions, and characteristics of the United States Supreme Court. Special focus is given to the contemporary Supreme Court, current legal and judicial controversies, and the Supreme Courts individual members. The central feature of the course is a mock U.S. Supreme Court trial, which engages all class members (through research, preparation of written briefs, and presentation of oral arguments) in a term project. The trial is judged by local attorneys and other members of the legal community, all of whom appear clad in black judicial robes.

Pre-Requisite : POL 120 OR POL 220

Spring: Odd Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001095/>)

POL 455 International Law Credits: 3

This course considers the legal regimes that govern how international law is employed, how it is created, its sources, and the substantive bodies of law that have evolved to shape the field. That is, we take a look at human rights, humanitarian law, private international law, and the development of international organizations, all of which influence the structure and governance of the international community.

Fall: Odd Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00002732/>)

POL 486 Advanced Special Topics Political Science Credits: 1-4

Selected topics in Political Science. Special emphasis will be given to individual research projects.

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001097/>)

POL 490 Senior Seminar Credits: 3

Seminar devotes intensive study to selected topics in the fields of government and statecraft. Includes exposure to scholarly literature in the field, student-led discussions of course material, a major research project, and formal presentation of findings.

Pre-Requisite : POL 117 OR POL 217 AND POL 120 AND POL 220 and senior status.

Fall: All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001098/>)

POL 494 Independent Study Credits: 1-4

A study of politics through individual research projects. Topic to be selected by the student.

Fall: All Years **Spring:** All Years

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001099/>)

POL 499 Internship in Government Credits: 3-9

The course gives credit for supervised work assigned in a government agency, political campaign, or interest group for selected and qualified students. Preparation and final report required.

Fall: All Years **Spring:** All Years **Summer** Department Discretion

Course Outline (<https://eservices.minnstate.edu/registration/rest/rcld/0075/curricld/00001100/>)