

Eastern Oregon University

# Political Science

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR**

(This minor is also available online/onsite. See Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The goal for study in political science is to maximize students' capacity to analyze and interpret the significance and dynamics of political events and governmental processes. The purpose is not simply to arouse curiosity, purvey factual information, or reveal the significance of political events and issues. Instead, study in political science is intended to equip

students for managing the effects of politics on themselves and society, while equipping them with the tools to evaluate and shape future political action. Political Science should prepare politically interested and concerned students to deal with their political world after graduation, in ways appropriate to their individual inclinations as actively engaged citizens in our democratic society.

Courses in political science are an integral facet of a well-rounded liberal arts education and valuable to students from all academic disciplines. Students are encouraged

to connect and apply their knowledge and skills to real-life political situations in off-campus settings during their time at Eastern. Political Science is an integral component of several programs at EOU, including (1) major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, along with pre-approved Liberal Studies programs in (2) Small City and Rural County Management and (3) Environmental Studies.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete a minor in Political Science should be able to:

- Assess different theories, concepts, methods, and analytical approaches employed by the discipline of political science.
- Evaluate problems of normative inquiry as well as those of empirical analysis, and synthesize the two appropriately in the analysis of the political ideas, values, and assumptions underlying public policy conflicts.
- Compare the problems of diversity faced by different peoples in different nations (including the students' own), with the interrelated nature of the world's political, economics, and social problems.
- Judge contemporary political analysis via the ability to recognize, arguments, test hypotheses and support via oral and written communication.
- Apply contextual knowledge and skills to the public policy process and "real-life" political situations via the opportunity to observe and participate as an informed citizen in a variety of on and off-campus settings.

### MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

Political Science students are evaluated in a variety of ways across the curriculum. Evaluation modes and strategies attempt to measure program learning outcomes. Objective exams measure student mastery of the concepts, critical thinking and logic skills underlying the study of political science. Writing in a variety of formats including policy memoranda, short essay examinations, critical reading summaries, and research papers of varying length hone the student's abilities in communication, persuasion, and critical thinking. Role-playing exercises and group processes improve the student's ability to work in collaborative situations. Students are encouraged to self-assess their own learning as well as develop an understanding of the evaluative strategies utilized by faculty members.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

The degrees that are available with an emphasis in Political Science are B.A. or B.S. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics or a B.A. or B.S. in Liberal Studies.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The taxing, spending and regulatory decisions of government affect the activities of virtually every profession, from the fine arts to the hard sciences. Therefore, a minor in Political Science is a valuable complement to any major.

A minor will consist of the following:

- A. A minimum of 30 credit hours in Political Science, 20 of which must be graded.
- B. At least 15 upper division credit hours in Political Science.
- C. A "C-" or better in all courses counted toward the minor.
- D. A 2.00 or better GPA in all Political Science courses.
- E. A minimum of 10 credits applied toward the minor must be completed at EOU.

### POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **POLS 101- American Nat Gov\*SSC Credits: 5.00**

##### **Gen Ed Core-Social Sciences**

An overview of the historical foundations of our democratic system of government, appraisal of key political institutions and actors, with the intent of promoting informed and active citizenry by students.

#### **POLS 110- Selected Topics Credits: 1.00 TO 6.00**

An in-depth presentation of a topic of interest. Topics will vary from year to year depending on the interests and availability of faculty.

#### **POLS 150- Political Econ Sport\*SSC Credits: 5.00**

##### **Gen Ed Core-Social Sciences**

An examination of (a) The role of gender and race in sports; (b) The politics underlying the pursuit of professional sports franchises; (c) The political economy of international sports (Olympics, World Cup); (d) Labor-management issues in professional sports; and (e) The role played by quasigovernmental institutions (NCAA, IOC, FIFA). (This course is cross listed with ECON 150.)

#### **POLS 200- Comparat Politic\*SSC Credits: 5.00**

##### **Gen Ed Core-Social Sciences**

A comparative study of political culture, institutions, and processes in a selected group of countries.

#### **POLS 210- POLS 210 Credits: 1.00 TO 6.00**

An in-depth presentation of a topic of interest. Topics will vary from year to year depending on the interests and availability of faculty.

#### **POLS 221- International Relations\*SSC Credits: 5.00**

##### **Gen Ed Core-Social Sciences**

An examination of the primary issues confronting the international system, including the environment, nationalism, transition to democracy and human rights, along with attempts to regulate political, economic, social and military conflict.

#### **POLS 310- Selected Topics Credits: 1.00 TO 6.00**

An in-depth presentation of a topic of interest. Topics will vary from year to year depending on the interests and availability of faculty. Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 314- State & Local Govt Credits: 5.00**

This course evaluates the structural factors, actors, political economy and primary policy challenges confronting state and local government in the United States. Prerequisite: Any lower division Political Science course. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 320- The Presidency Credits: 5.00**

An evaluation of the primary sources of presidential power, including electoral politics, the presidency, media relations, along with an appraisal of the role of symbolic and political leadership in democratic societies. Prerequisite: Any lower division Political Science course. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 340- Politics and Media\*SSC Credits: 5.00****Gen Ed Core-Social Sciences**

An analysis of the political economy of the mass media, its role in the American electoral system, and the impact of new and emerging forces (Internet, e.g.) on democracy. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 350- Public Policy\*SSC Credits: 5.00****Gen Ed Core-Social Sciences**

An evaluation of the American political system by following individual programs through their origins, design and formation, and implementation. Prerequisite: Any lower division Political Science course. Cross listed with ECON 350. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 351- Public Admin\*SSC Credits: 5.00****Gen Ed Core-Social Sciences**

An investigation of the role of public management in the political process; including the social and political environment of public administration and issues of organizational behavior, efficiency, responsiveness, and ethics. Prerequisite: Any lower division Political Science course. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 381- Law & Politics Credits: 3.00**

A study of the role of law, courts, and lawyers in American society with attention to the decision processes and political impact of the United States Supreme Court. Prerequisite: Any lower division Political Science course. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 382- Constitutional Law Credits: 5.00**

A survey of the principles of Constitutional Law, focusing on Federalism, Interstate Commerce and Separation of Powers Evaluation of case management tools (standing, judicial review, political question) employed by the Supreme Court, along with an assessment of the judicial politics underlying constitutional development. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 383- Civil Liberties Credits: 3.00**

An appraisal of substantive due process and its impact on social issues (abortion, gender), along with an evaluation of the Supreme Court's treatment of freedom of expression and the impact of the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause

on our diverse 'melting pot' society. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

**POLS 402- Selected Topics Credits: 1.00 TO 5.00**

This course is recommended for advanced students wishing to gain in depth knowledge of a particular subject. Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 407- Seminar Credits: 5.00**

(Capstone) Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 409- Field Placement Credits: 1.00 TO 15.00**

Designed to offer the student an opportunity to explore career areas and to extend the educational experience beyond the classroom. Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 410- Selected Topics Credits: 1.00 TO 5.00**

Topics will vary, but may include theory, law, behavior and conflict regulation, and regional studies. Prerequisite: Upper division standing or consent of instructor. Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 420- Sports Policy Credits: 5.00**

This course examines the relationship between the realms of sports, politics and economics. There are four primary substantive foci for the course including: (1) An examination of sport as an agent of social change with regard to issues of racism and gender discrimination; (2) The impact of sport on contemporary society via the mass media; (3) Globalization's impact on sport; (4) The impact of intercollegiate sports on higher education values. Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 440- Political Theory/Philosophy Credits: 5.00**

Political theory, is a topic oriented examination of an issue, major thinker, or historical period in western political theory from Plato to Locke, a historical and conceptual investigation of the social contract, and an examination of contemporary theories of justice focusing on the work of John Rawls. (Cross-Listed: PHIL 440) Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 477- Gambling Policy Credits: 5.00**

An appraisal of (1) theoretical explanations of the public process, and their applicability to the study of gambling; (2) the role of state lotteries within public finance; and (3) Emerging types of gambling activity (Indian gaming, Casino gambling, Internet). Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 480- Political Sci Ed Credits: 1.00 TO 3.00**

Designed to provide an overview of the discipline of Political Science for those intending to teach it as a primary and secondary school subject. This course is a supplement for education majors who already have substantial course work in political science. Student must have at least junior standing to register for this course.

**POLS 710- Selected Topics Credits: 1.00 TO 5.00**

A graduate-level seminar course for teachers dealing with

special topics in political science education. Student must have graduate standing to register for this course.

**POLS 808- Pol Sci Ed Wkshp Credits: 1.00 TO 5.00**  
Student must have graduate standing to register for this course.