

Politics and Government

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Departmental Mission Statement: Politics and humanity are inseparable. There is no civilization, society, or community without politics. Politics affects our lives whether it is in the formal environment of Congress, or the informal environment of our office, student groups, or other social associations. The Politics and Government Department of Ripon College seeks to provide students with the knowledge and experience required to play an active and vital role in their local, state, national, and international communities.

Communicating Plus - Politics and Government: Politics and government majors address the four Communicating Plus skills areas - written and oral communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking - throughout the major. Politics is about the search for answers to problems affecting society; thus political science seeks to identify and propose solutions to these problems. In all politics courses, the often volatile and emotional issues of political life are subjected to rigorous rational analysis - that is, critical thinking is applied to the “stuff” of politics. Because political effectiveness depends on the ability to communicate accurately and persuasively, written and oral communication are significant components of most departmental courses. The culmination of the program is a yearlong senior seminar, in which students identify, research, and analyze a contemporary political problem and draft, revise, and publicly present and defend their conclusions. In this process, they utilize the Communicating Plus skills to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained throughout their study of politics and government.

Requirements for a major in politics and government: POL 110, 220; one of the following: POL 111, 112, or 280; four elective courses (up to two of the electives may be pre-approved courses in other departments or in off-campus programs such as the Washington Semester program; POL 501 and 502).

Requirements for a minor in politics and government: POL 110 and 220; 12 additional credits of which 4 credits must be 300-level or higher. Students considering American Government and Politics for graduate school should also take a social sciences statistics course. Students considering a career in international relations should take POL 280.

Requirements for a teaching major in politics and government: POL 110, 220, 280, 231 or 324, 335, 381, 501-502; and HIS 401.

Requirements for a teaching minor in politics and government: POL 110, 220, 280, 335 or 341; HIS 401; and other courses agreed upon by student and advisor to total 22 hours, excluding HIS 401.

Broad Field Social Studies Teacher Licensure (Early Adolescence/Adolescence (Grades 6-12): Students seeking licensure at the levels in the social science disciplines (economics, history, politics and government, psychology, and sociology) may choose one of the options listed below to add endorsements in fields outside their major. Students may complete a minor in a discipline outside the social sciences or the broad field licensure program outlined below. Broad field licensure prepares teachers to teach in general social studies classes in grades 6-9. They will also be licensed to teach the specific discipline of their two concentrations at the high school level. Given the very difficult job market for social studies teachers, students should consider one of these options to strengthen their employment options.

Option 1 - Major/Minor Program: The first option open to student majoring in a social studies discipline is to complete a minor in another social studies discipline or a subject outside the social sciences. Recent examples of programs designed on this model are a history major with an English minor and a politics and government major with an English minor. In this case, the student would student teach and be fully licensed to teach both subjects.

Option 2 - Social Studies Major with Broad Field Social Studies Licensure: As part of their program of study, students must complete the following:

1. A major in a social science discipline,
2. Concentrations, as defined in the chart below, in two other social science disciplines, only one of which may be in history,

<p>Economics ECO 211 and 212 One 300-level course other than 313</p>	<p>US History 2 of the following 5 history classes: 241, 242, 262, 263, or 264 One 300-level course</p>	<p>World History HIS 281 and 282 2 area studies courses, one at the 200-level, one at the 300-level, selected with a history advisor</p>
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Politics and Government POL 112, 220 One 300-level course	Psychology PSC 110 Two 200-level topics courses	Sociology SOC 110 One 200-level course One 300-level course
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3. At least one course in each of the following disciplines: economics, history, politics and government, psychology, and sociology.

4. One of the courses that address geography as a factor that influences human interactions and society from the following list: HIS 281, HIS 282, ECO 332 or 361, or POL 112. This course may also count toward fulfillment of criteria 1-3.

Students are encouraged to extend the breadth of their social science background by also taking courses in anthropology, global studies, Latin American and Caribbean studies, and religion.

110. Introduction to Politics

Colucci

Four credits.

An introduction to the study of political ideas, institutions, and procedures. Provides the theoretical foundation for the discipline in the works of thinkers including Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, the American framers, Marx and Mill. Important contemporary applications of these ideas are also considered.

111. Global Political Culture

Mahoney

Four credits.

Defines political culture and examines its dynamics at various levels in today's world, from the local to the global. Specifically examines ways in which history, language, religion, literature, ethnicity, and tradition affect identity-formation and its correlates in today's world. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information. Same as GLB 111. *Open to first-year and sophomore students only, except by permission of instructor.*

112. Global Political Economy

Mahoney

Four credits.

Defines political economy and examines its manifestations in today's increasingly interdependent world. Specific issues include population, resources, environmental protection, trade and development, trends toward democratization, human rights, and new and enduring sources of conflict and cooperation. Same as GLB 112. *Open to first-year and sophomore students only, except by permission of instructor.*

200. Departmental Studies

Staff

Two credits.

Special subjects in politics and government not covered by regular courses. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

212. Introduction to Law

Staff

Four credits.

Examines the role of legal institutions in contemporary society. Topics include private law, criminal law and social deviance, civil rights and liberties, and theories of justice.

220. American Politics and Government

Schatzinger

Four credits.

Analysis of American political institutions as processes, including the constitution, political culture, civil liberties and rights, federalism, Congress, the presidency, the federal courts, public opinion, political parties, interest groups, campaigns and elections, the media, and public policy. Discussion of contemporary and controversial issues in American politics. Emphasis on placing current issues in comparative and historical perspective where relevant.

222. Media, Politics, and Personal Power

Schatzinger

Four credits.

Examines the interplay of the U.S. media, the American public, and the governing process. Emphasis will be placed on learning how to use the media in a sophisticated and useful manner. Explores media effects on individuals, on groups, and on society in general in light of the major technological developments that are changing the news media scene. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing or consent of the instructor.*

227. Political Psychology: Citizens, Movers and Shakers

Schatzinger

Four credits.

Political psychology studies human nature so as to understand politics. We explore what psychology tells us about people as political citizens and as leaders. Specific course topics include: attitude formation, attitude change, decision biases, group decision making, personality, social identity, political leadership, voting behavior, public opinion, and media framing. The course pays special attention to the powerful roles that emotions play in all aspects of politics. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing or consent of the instructor.*

231. American Political Thought

Miller

Four credits.

This course will explore the philosophical foundations of American politics in depth. An emphasis will be placed on over-arching themes that have shaped and continue to shape American history, politics, and society. Students will be exposed to a variety of thinkers that have influenced American political thought such as John Locke, Adam Smith, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Madison. Themes such as natural law, natural rights, American exceptionalism, manifest destiny, New Jerusalem, liberty vs. the state, political conflict, and the philosophic roots of American liberalism, libertarianism, and conservatism will be highlighted.

246. Morality and Public Policy

Schatzinger

Four credits.

The goals of the course are two-fold: first we examine how moral judgments arise based on various theories, including evolutionary and anthropological approaches. After we understand the origins of moral politics, we debate some of the social and moral issues that have become politically divisive in the United States. We will also discuss the emergence and growth of social movements around these issues, and the ways in which battles over morality continue to shape our society. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing or consent of the instructor.*

250. Comparative Politics: The US and the Rest of the World

Mahoney

Four credits.

This course introduces students to the field of comparative politics, which tries to increase our understanding of politics by comparing political systems in different countries. Why do some countries have similar political systems, while others have different ones? Why are some countries more democratic than others? How has the political system promoted or undermined the economic situation in different countries? Students will learn research methods necessary for answering these types of questions.

272. Development and Change in Latin America

Mahoney

Four credits.

Individual countries considered as examples to illustrate or contradict overall patterns of politics and government in Latin America. The course stresses the influence of particular forms of political development, foreign economic dependence, frequent military interventions, and a revolutionary heritage. Student politics and inter-American relations are also considered. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

273. China in Transition

Mahoney

Four credits.

Begins with analysis of the traditional Chinese system and its breakdown, leading to four decades of political strife and the victory of the Communist party in 1949. The bulk of the course examines politics since the death of Mao, with specific reference to the contradictions between economic reform and political stagnation. Concludes with an assessment of the prospects for a democratic transition in the 1990s. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

276. Politics of Contemporary Europe

Mahoney

Four credits.

Examination of the governments and politics of Europe today. Domestic issues and trends are linked to regional and global developments, especially in the post-Cold War context. Transnational institutions such as the European Union are examined with respect to Europe's providing an alternative to *Pax Americana*. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

280. Introduction to International Relations

Colucci

Four credits.

This course will explore international relations in both theory and practice. Throughout the semester we will consider how various actors - nation states, multi-national corporations, individuals, sub-national groups, trans-national groups and international organizations - use political, military, economic, and cultural power in pursuit of their interests. This course will serve as a foundation for understanding international affairs and foreign policy for both the student who is majoring in the field as well as those who simply want a way to conduct an educated analysis of the subject.

288. International Law**Colucci**

Four credits.

This course will examine the role of international law in international relations. We will explore issues such as sovereignty, territoriality, jurisdiction, treaties, the sanction of force, human rights and the role of international institutions. A particular focus on the United States and international law will be considered. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing or consent of the instructor.*

300. Departmental Studies**Staff**

Variable credit course, 1-4 credits.

Special subjects in politics and government not covered by regular courses. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

320. Topics in American Politics**Staff**

Four credits.

Special subjects in American politics not covered by regular courses. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information. *Prerequisite: POL 220 or consent of the instructor.*

323. Interest Group Politics**Schatzinger**

Four credits.

Examines the ways that citizens, firms, and institutions struggle to gain representation through organized interest groups in the United States. Special attention is given to interest group formation and maintenance, legislative and executive branch lobbying, and the impact of interest groups on legislative behavior in light of theories of representation. *Prerequisite: POL 220 or consent of the instructor.*

324. Campaigns and Elections**Schatzinger**

Four credits.

Analyzes presidential and congressional primaries as well as general election campaigns and outcomes. Some attention will also be given to state and local campaigns. Examines the rules governing process, the role of money and interest groups in campaigns, media coverage, and campaign strategy. Explores the effect of campaigns on voter participation and vote choice, but also other predictors of electoral outcomes. Uses current events to better understand course content. *Prerequisite: sophomore standing or consent of the instructor.*

335. Congress and the Presidency**Schatzinger**

Four credits.

Examines patterns of cooperation and conflict between the two branches of government and their impact on the formulation and implementation of public policy. The course first focuses on theories of congressional representation, the history of Congress, institutional rules, committee, and party leadership. Students will then explore the development and modern practice of presidential leadership and other issues such as presidential selection, decision-making, and the relationship of the presidency with the executive branch, courts, the press and the public. *Prerequisite: POL 220 or consent of the instructor.*

**341. American Public Policy:
Process, Promise and Performance****Schatzinger**

Four credits.

This course provides an overview of the policy process and an examination of specific policy areas in the American political system. Each student will explore one policy issue area in depth and also write several policy memos on the chosen issue. We will focus on what constitutes public policy and basic aspects of the policy process, including agenda setting, implementation, and policy evaluation. The course will also provide us with an opportunity to consider the various ways knowledge about particular issues is put to use by academics, policy advocates, policy makers, and others. *Prerequisite: POL 220 or consent of the instructor.*

343. U.S. National Security Policy**Colucci**

Four credits.

Provides an overview of U.S. national security policy, with special attention to the sources of threats to U.S. national security, approaches to national security strategy, the role of conventional military force and nuclear weapons, and actors in the policy making process. In addition, we will investigate several current debates affecting national security policy making in the United States. *Prerequisite: POL 280 or consent of the instructor.*

362. The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Moral and Political Dimensions **Brusin**

Four credits.

How can we explain the persistent and relentless antagonism between Jews/Israelis and Arabs, both in Palestine and in neighboring Arab countries, whose roots go back to medieval times—if not before? Though we will begin our study in ancient times, the focus of this course will be the 20th century and our own. In addition to trying to understand the ongoing conflict from both the Arab/Palestinian and Jewish/Israeli perspectives, we will frame our discussions around a few interconnected central questions or issues:

Is it a religious conflict between Islam and Judaism in which both sides are motivated by deep-seated suspicions and hatreds that ultimately rest on divine mandates or revelations?

Is the conflict in essence the collision of two sets of historic and moral rights to the same land? And, if so, does this mean the conflict will never be resolved?

Is it an ethnic conflict between competing groups reflecting constantly changing demographic patterns?

Is it a war of self-defense in which a new state is defending itself against its neighbors whose objective is to destroy it?

Is it a war of territorial expansion in which one state seeks to expand its borders at the expense of its neighbors?

Not all these questions can be answered. But understanding their role in events unfolding in the Middle East is crucial if we are to find a way to bring some measure of peace and stability to the region and to the Israelis and Palestinians in particular. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Study Requirement. Same as HIS 200 and REL 362.

370. Topics in Comparative Politics **Mahoney**

Four credits.

Exploration and analysis of problems of contemporary concern in comparative politics. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

375. Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective **Smith**

Four credits. Offered in spring 2018 and alternate years.

An analysis of the interaction between religious beliefs and practices (Christian, Islamic, Hindu), with political dynamics in various countries in the 20th century. Regional areas will include Central and South America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Southern Asia, and the United States. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information. Same as IDS 322 and REL 322. *Prerequisite: POL 280 or REL 221.*

380. Topics in International Politics **Colucci**

Four credits.

Exploration and analysis of problems of contemporary concern in international politics. Special emphasis on how to go about conducting research and writing a research paper in international politics. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

381. United States Foreign Policy **Colucci**

Four credits.

This course will explore the role of the United States in the world. The class will follow a historical model of diplomatic history and politics from the American Revolution to the present. *Prerequisite: POL 280 or consent of the instructor.*

383. Ethics and International Affairs **Smith**

Four credits.

The central question addressed in this course is whether or not ethically motivated action in international affairs is possible. Do the absence of global consensus on moral values and the lack of a world government to impose sanctions mean that nations and trans-national organizations will engage in pursuit of political and economic interests without ethical restraints? The first part of the course will deal with contrasting arguments by political theorists on the role of morality in international relations. The second part focuses on specific issues in contemporary international relations that have moral implications - 1) new forms of international warfare; 2) international intervention inside nation states to stop genocide; 3) the protection of human rights; 4) the legitimacy of international tribunals to punish crimes against humanity; and 5) economic justice for developing countries. Same as IDS 321 and REL 321. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, and POL 111, 112, or 280.*

385. Terrorism and Intelligence**Colucci**

Four credits.

Focuses on the misunderstood topic of terrorism and the neglected area of intelligence. The first half of the course deals with the issue of terrorism. This section identifies the fundamental and underlying reasons why America is a target for terrorists as it compares and contrasts various international terrorist groups and their respective ideologies. The second section will deal with intelligence, exploring the organization and functions of the U.S. Intelligence Community, its interaction with national security policy makers, key issues about its workings, and the challenges it faces in defining its future role. *Prerequisite: POL 280 or consent of the instructor.*

412. Constitutional Law I: Landmark Decisions**Staff**

Four credits.

An introduction to the United States Constitution and issues of federal constitutional law as developed in landmark Supreme Court decisions. Major topics will be judicial review; the scope of federal legislative and presidential powers under the Constitution; and the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. Focus will also be placed on current cases and controversies before the Supreme Court. *Prerequisite: POL 212 or 220, or consent of instructor.*

413. Constitutional Law II: The Bill of Rights**Staff**

Four credits.

An examination of constitution law focusing on the Bill of Rights and its interpretation as reflected in landmark decisions. Strong emphasis will be placed on the study of the freedoms contained in the First Amendment and their development throughout United States history. Significant attention will be devoted to current civil liberties cases and controversies. *Prerequisite: POL 212 or 220, or consent of instructor.*

501. Senior Seminar**Colucci/Schatzinger**

Four credits.

In the fall semester, students will develop significant understanding of the subfields of political science, by reviewing the research literature in each area. Concurrently, they will begin to research and draft of a research project on a topic chosen by themselves in consultation with their thesis supervisor. In the spring semester, students continue to refine their research and revise their projects into final form. The senior seminar culminates in a public presentation of the research projects. Students on off-campus programs during the first semester of their final year, may present a project incorporating substantial independent research undertaken in connection with the off-campus program to fulfill the POL 501 requirement, and must demonstrate knowledge of the subfields of political science. They remain responsible for completing 502 in the second semester. *Prerequisite: major in politics and government or consent of instructor.*

502. Senior Seminar**Colucci/Schatzinger**

Four credits.

Continuation of POL 501: Senior Seminar. *Prerequisite: POL 501 or consent of instructor.*

541, 542. Independent Study**Staff**

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits.

Supervised investigation of problems in politics and government of special interest to the student. No more than twelve credit hours of independent study or internship may be taken, and no more than eight credit hours may be in one department. A registration form is required. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of the department chair and department project director, and 12 credits toward the major including POL 110, and whichever of POL 220 or 280 is most appropriate to the proposed project.*

550. National Security Capstone**Colucci**

Two credits.

Under the direction of the national security studies advisor, a capstone thesis will be developed on a topic concerning contemporary national security. The research will result in a paper and an oral presentation.

551, 552. Independent Study: Internship**Staff**

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits.

Supervised field study involving participant observation of day-to-day work in a politically relevant office or agency. A brief paper which explains and analyzes the work experience will be required. No more than twelve credit hours of independent study or internship may be taken, and no more than eight credit hours may be in one department. A registration form is required. Grading is S-U. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of the department chair and a department project director, and 12 credits toward the major including POL 110, and whichever of POL 220 or 280 is most appropriate to the proposed project.*