

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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, global 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.

- **Kathleen Montgomery**, *Department Chair and Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — Emory University
Specializes in comparative politics, Eastern Europe and Russia, developed democracies and gender politics.
- **William Munro**, *Betty Ritchie-Birrer and Ivan Birrer Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — Yale University
Specializes in African politics, international politics, social movements.



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 Post-Communist Europe
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*)



“The political science program at Illinois Wesleyan University provides students with the tools they need to become engaged citizens and leaders

- **Tari Renner**, *Professor of Political Science*
Ph.D. — American University
Specializes in American elections, public opinion polling, and state and local government. He is also currently mayor of Bloomington.
- **Greg Shaw**, *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 and development.

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.
- 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 such as 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, professors, entrepreneurs, and professional staff members in the U.S. Senate and House offices in Washington, D.C.

in our increasingly complex local, national, and global political environments. Politics touches all of our daily lives in countless ways. Politics involves questions of how people acquire power and how they use that power to forge narratives about collective identities and social goals, distribute economic resources, make peace or war, and demand recognition and social justice. In order to tackle these challenging and often contentious issues, our curriculum stresses the acquisition of (1) sophisticated knowledge of different political institutions, processes, and policies; (2) analytical skills, quantitative reasoning, and critical thinking; and (3) direct engagement with civic life through internships and various off-campus experiences. The curriculum is delivered by an experienced group of faculty who are dedicated to strong innovative teaching and close student/faculty relationships. There is no artificial distinction between teaching and research, theoretical learning and real world experience. We aim to engage our students on all of these levels.”

Dr. Kathleen Montgomery
Professor of Political Science
and Department Chair

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