

Political Science Major

Professor: T. Gibson

Associate Professor: J. Holzer, K. Wright-Smith

Assistant Professor: D. Glasgow

Contact: Dr. Kali Wright-Smith

Email: kali.wright-smith@wcmo.edu

Political Science is a scientific and humanistic discipline that attempts to explain and evaluate politics and political systems in terms of fundamental empirical theories and general normative principles. Political science thus seeks not only to understand the struggles for power and influence that determine who gets what, when and how, but also to ascertain the best or most appropriate way for human beings to live together both within societies and the world community. Both the major and minor in political science are designed to give students a solid grounding in the three main sub-fields of the discipline: American government and politics; comparative politics; and international relations and security. The major program is further structured into three "tracks" to allow students to pursue a more advanced study of politics and government in a manner that is most conducive to their particular interests and professional goals.

All students majoring in political science must complete the three introductory courses. They are urged to take POL 112 and 211 before POL 212. All three introductory courses should be completed by the end of the sophomore year.

Students contemplating graduate school in political science are strongly encouraged to take at least two semesters of a foreign language, Introduction to Computers, an advanced course in statistics, and a relevant methods course such as MAT 313, PSY 270, PSY 274, or ECN 367, or preferably POL/SOC 300, Social Science Research Methods.

All departmental majors must have an overall 2.0 average or better in all courses presented to satisfy the major requirements, including courses in the Pre-Law and Security Studies minors for the tracks two and three.

Westminster College and Missouri State University have entered into an agreement whereby Westminster students, majoring in either Security Studies or Political Science with a Security Studies track, may take courses through Missouri State's Defense and Strategic Studies Graduate Department. These may include Seated courses, Internet courses, and Web Conference courses. Permission to take these courses must be granted by Westminster College before students may enroll. The College will annually determine with Missouri State annual costs for these courses.

