Political Science

Getting Acquainted with Political Science

First-year students with some interest or curiosity about political science are strongly advised to sample one or more political science courses in their first year. Introductions to political science at Haverford are offered through six “gateway courses.” Each of the six is suitable for exploring what political science is about. Each course serves the dual purpose of surveying a sub-field of political science and beginning the journey towards majoring. Two gateway courses are required to enter the Department of Political Science at the end of sophomore year. Any gateway course will serve the purpose of acquainting students with critical issues in politics and government, and with ways of analyzing such issues. Students who enjoy their first-term introduction to political science can go on to a higher level political science course in that sub-field or sample another introductory gateway course in their second semester. (Political Science 101 at Bryn Mawr is designed as a one semester introduction to all of political science. It is not regarded as a gateway course to the Haverford Political Science major.)

100-level courses at Haverford sometimes have two or three “teaching associates” leading discussion sections. “TAs” are normally senior majors in political science selected by the course instructor, usually from among the students who have taken an earlier version of the introductory course. TAs receive one course credit for their work. Discussion sections of about 8-10 students each meet once a week to discuss assigned readings for an hour in an informal setting, in addition to scheduled classes.

First-year students are advised to pursue their curiosity and be guided by their interests. Political Science courses usually change from one year to the next in response to shifting events and to new modes of analysis. Faculty in the Political Science Department are happy to be interviewed about their courses by inquiring students.

Courses Offered at Haverford in 2013-2014 Appropriate for First-Year Students

121a,b  American Politics and Its Dynamics. Introduction to the American political system. Steve McGovern, Meredith Wooten

131b  Comparative Government and Politics. An introduction to foreign governments and their major forms, as well as to the uses of comparing political systems. Anita Isaacs

151b  International Politics. An introduction to contemporary politics among states in the world.

161b  The Politics of Globalization. An introduction to issues arising out of globalization in world affairs.  Craig Borowiak

171a  Introduction to Political Theory. An introduction to political philosophy. Joshua Ramey

Major Requirements

- Two 100-level courses are required to enter the major. Options include: 121, 123, 131, 151, 161, and 171. These courses must represent two different subfields.
• Six elective courses must be taken above the 100 level.

• A 300 level research seminar must be taken in the department during the fall semester of the senior year. This is in addition to the six elective courses described above.

• **Subfields:** The combination of introductory and elective courses is expected to include representation of three of the five subfields, with work at the intermediate or advanced level in at least two subfields. Some courses may count in either of the two subfields but not in both. With the consent of a member of the department, students may substitute two or three intermediate- or advanced-level courses from another department for the third subfield, where this serves to complement and strengthen the student’s work within the political science department. For example, a student concentrating in international politics might offer international economics courses as a subfield; or a student in comparative politics -- courses in an area study; and so forth. Such substitutions would count towards fulfilling the subfield requirement only. They would not count towards political science course credit and they cannot be used to fulfill the introductory, elective, and seminar requirements outlined above.

• All senior majors write a thesis and complete an oral defense of the thesis through enrollment in 400.

• **Related Studies:** Four courses outside political science at Haverford or Bryn Mawr College which are related to the major. Some examples of possible interests around which the courses could cluster are: American or other area studies; political and social theory; international affairs; environmental policies; urban affairs; intermediate and advanced foreign language work related to work in the major; or courses from one or more of the other social sciences.

Political Science is also available as a major at Bryn Mawr. Every year a small number of Bryn Mawr students major in Political Science at Haverford and vice versa. With a few exceptions, there is free trade and a common market in courses between the two Departments. The net effect for the student is to expand the number of courses that “count” towards a major at either college. Haverford students who find they are taking most of their Political Science courses at Bryn Mawr should major there; the same advice is given to Bryn Mawr students regarding Haverford.

**Faculty**

Harvey Glickman, Professor Emeritus
Sidney R. Waldman, Professor Emeritus
Anita J. Isaacs, Professor
Steve McGovern, Associate Professor
Susanna Wing, Associate Professor
Craig Borowiak, Associate Professor
Barak Mendelsohn, Associate Professor
Zachary Oberfield, Assistant Professor
Joshua Ramey, Visiting Assistant Professor
Meredith Wooten, Visiting Assistant Professor