



# Political Science

## The Passion

The ancient Greek scientist and philosopher Aristotle proclaimed politics “the queen of sciences.” Politics comes first, he said, because it orders and arranges other activities. It is how a city, a country, or a world decides what is important to do now and what can wait. Consequently, politics is as new as today’s headlines and as old as civilization itself. Political science studies politics wherever it occurs: in city council chambers, in Congress, in the corridors of the White House, and in the conference halls of international summit meetings. Even personal relationships in the work place and at home turn out to have political dimensions that interest political scientists.

## The Program

Gonzaga’s political science program is designed to maximize a student’s postgraduate options. The program’s emphasis on effective writing skills, rigorous factual analysis, and the ability to synthesize ideas makes it strong preparation for any and all careers.

Many who study political science at Gonzaga later pursue careers such as law, teaching, public service, the Foreign Service, elected public office, or graduate study in political science. In addition, about one-third of the majors work in business. Gonzaga’s Political Science Department has a distinguished record of helping students achieve these goals.

The Department divides courses into three general areas: politics in America, in the world (within other countries or among nations), and political philosophy. To acquire a major in political science, students must complete at least two courses in each area. This ensures an appreciation for the breadth of politics. In addition, the Political Science Department runs integral parts of Gonzaga’s specialized programs in Pre-Law, Women’s and Gender Studies, Environmental Studies, and International Studies.

For us, the study of politics is, first and foremost, an exercise in understanding divergent values and how those values manifest themselves in people’s beliefs, actions, and laws. In order to reach such understanding, the faculty carefully locates events and theories in their social, historical, and cultural contexts. The Department seeks insights about the forces that create values rather than memorization of facts and figures.

Class formats range from lectures and discussions about the evolution of a certain ideology to role-playing scenarios that reenact important foreign policy

decisions. The Department uses these various teaching methods to help students realize that political science is both practical and theoretical, incorporating fact and value, ethics and utility, the mundane and the spiritual.

Outside the classroom, the Department strongly recommends independent research projects and public affairs internships. These opportunities are an excellent way for students to acquire practical experience while still in school. Recent interns have worked for judges, attorneys-general, public defenders, state legislators, governors, United States Representatives (including the Speaker of the House), Senators, Ambassadors, and the Office of the Vice President. Students obtain credit for their internships by conducting faculty-supervised analyses of their political activities and experiences.

## The Potential

A recent survey of political science graduates found that more than 40 percent were lawyers and 33 percent were in business. The remainder were distributed among all levels of government and education, as well as all forms of journalism and law enforcement.

## Recent Graduates Have Attended the Following Graduate Schools:

Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
University of Idaho  
University of Minnesota  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University  
Yale University

## Recent Graduates Have Attended the Following Law Schools:

Georgetown University  
Gonzaga University

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New York University  
Seattle University  
University of Chicago  
University of Washington  
Willamette University  
Yale University  
Harvard University

Political science graduates who have chosen to enter the political arena immediately after graduation can be found working at the Pentagon, in U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell's office, and on Spokane's city council, to name a few.

### The People

Beyond teaching, we sponsor a Model United Nations Chapter here at Gonzaga. Our professors also advise student clubs such as Young Democrats, College Republicans, and Stop Trafficking. In conjunction with the Gonzaga Student Body Association (also a popular organization among political science majors), these clubs sponsor guest lectures and debates on topics ranging from terrorism to civil rights to health care. During the 2000 Presidential Campaign, former Vice President Al Gore and Senator John McCain spoke on campus, and then Governor George W. Bush was invited as well. Additionally, Gonzaga's Law School invites undergraduates to attend lectures by its guest speakers, including Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

### Faculty Contacts and Specialties:

**Stacy Taninchev, Ph.D.**, specialties include International Relations, International Organizations, International Treaties and European Union Politics. (taninchev@gonzaga.edu)

**Laura Brunell, Ph.D.**, University of Colorado; specialties include Western European and Eastern European politics, feminist theory, women in comparative societies, civil society and social justice through service-learning. (brunell@gonzaga.edu)

**Michael Connolly, S.J., Ph.D.**, Monash University (Melbourne, Australia); specialties include the politics of Russia, China, and the Pacific Rim, the transition from tyranny to democracy, comparative government, global issues, and the political economy of underdeveloped nations. (connolly@gem.gonzaga.edu)

**Blaine Garvin, Ph.D.**, University of California–Berkeley; specialties include classical, medieval, and modern political philosophy, American political thought, Marxism, Congress and the Presidency, parties and elections.

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**Jonathan Isacoff, Ph.D.**, University of Pennsylvania; specialties include Middle East Politics, comparative politics, war and peace, and global environmental politics. (isacoff@gonzaga.edu)

**Cynthia Stavrianos, Ph.D.**, University of California–Santa Barbara; specialties include women and politics, race and ethnicity politics, and American politics. (stavrianos@gonzaga.edu)

**Michael Treleaven, S.J., Ph.D.**, University of Toronto; specialties include state, tribal, and local government, politics of the Pacific Northwest, environmental policy and politics, social policy, Canadian politics, Christian political theory, and African politics. (treleaven@gem.gonzaga.edu)

**Robert Waterman, Ph.D.**, University of California–Berkeley; specialties include 20th century political thought, participatory democracy, public administration, and Latin American politics. (waterman@calvin.gonzaga.edu)

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