Political Science and Pre-Law

The major in Political Science is meant to foster in students an awareness of and appreciation for their cultural, historical, and political heritage as well as an understanding of important national and international issues. The major helps develop in students critical thinking skills in addition to research and writing skills in order to prepare them to be effective learners and leaders.

Program Strengths
The Department of History and Political Science offers a wide range of curriculum offerings in American and global politics and history with instructional emphasis placed upon theoretical, historical, and institutional concerns as well as the trends and events which have influenced the development of the contemporary world.

As a Political Science major at University of Jamestown, you will benefit from:
- small class sizes and individual attention
- directed and independent studies in advanced and specialized topics for interested students
- professors with complementary specialties providing a variety of viewpoints
- challenges in critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, open-mindedness, research and writing skills, and reflective thinking in problem solving

Students individualize a schedule with the assistance of a faculty adviser to fit with their goals and interests.

Complementary Majors
Political Science complements numerous majors and minors offered at University of Jamestown, including programs in:
- Business
- Communication
- Criminal Justice
- English
- Foreign Languages
- Psychology
- Religion-Philosophy

Internship Opportunities
Internship experiences help students apply what they've learned in the classroom and gain valuable on-the-job training. Internships may be available in the Jamestown area, in surrounding cities, or even in our nation's capital. Examples of recent internships include:
- Law intern, Ottmar & Ottmar Law Firm, Jamestown
- Senate intern, office of Sen. Byron Dorgan, Washington, D.C.
- Congressional intern, office of Rep. Michele Bachmann, Waite Park, Minn.

Major
- Political Science

Minors
- Political Science
- Global Studies

“MY STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MY CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND COMPOSITION SKILLS.”
Scott, 2002 graduate, employed by PT Freeport Indonesia
Political Science and Pre-Law

Law School Preparation
Political Science majors and minors frequently choose to apply to law school in furtherance of their career goals. Law schools appreciate the liberal arts education provided by the study of politics as well as the rigor in research and writing required by the department. Our graduates are accepted into prestigious law schools around the United States, and are attending or have recently attended:

- William Mitchell
- California Western School of Law
- University of North Dakota
- University of South Dakota
- University of St. Thomas
- Hamline University
- University of Montana
- University of Minnesota
- University of Nebraska
- Arizona State University
- New England School of Law
- University of Idaho
- University of Oregon

Graduate Schools
Graduates from the department who have gone on to do graduate work in history, political science, or related fields have been accepted into a variety of excellent programs, including:

- American University
- Yale University
- Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas
- Philipps-Universität Marburg (Germany)
- University of North Dakota
- University of Ottawa (Canada)
- University of Durham (UK)
- Cambridge University (UK)

Career Opportunities
A degree in history or political science provides a solid foundation for the pursuit of many career opportunities, including:

- Law
- Local, State, and Federal government
- Law Enforcement
- Business
- Journalism
- Religious Ministry
- Public Administration
- Military

Political Science & Pre-law
Department Faculty

Mark Joy, Ph.D. Kansas State University; Professor and Department Chair; teaches 19th Century American History, Religion in American History, and The American West.

Thomas Johnson, Ph.D. American University; Professor; teaches American, Comparative, and International Politics, Political Theory, and Chinese and Indian History; Pre-Law Advisor.

John Weinzierl, Ph.D. Florida State University; Assistant Professor; teaches Ancient through Modern European History, Middle East History, Military History, and the History of Medicine.

“The department helped develop my critical thinking and writing skills which were essential to my success in law school. I had the freedom to choose classes in which I was most interested, thus allowing me to take the classes that would most benefit me in achieving my future goals.”

Amber, 2006 graduate, attorney in North Dakota

University of Jamestown does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or other status with respect to which discrimination would be unlawful in its programs and activities.