The Political Science program at Worcester State University offers a minor in Political Science and a minor in Pre-Law. Political Science gives students the opportunity to pursue a broad range of questions about the organization and function of government. Students in Political Science programs acquire the analytical skills to ask and answer questions about how and why governments operate in the way that they do. Students can choose to focus on any of the traditional subfields of political science, which include American politics, comparative government, international relations, and political theory. Graduates are prepared to work in a broad array of professional settings, including in traditional career paths such as government service, law, business, journalism, and education; working with community and nonprofit organizations; and involvement in political movements and elected office. Many graduates continue their education to pursue advanced degrees in graduate school or law school.

- Political Science Minor
- Pre-Law Minor

Faculty

Nathan Angelo, Assistant Professor (2016), B.A. Hofstra University; M.A. New York University and City University of New York; Ph.D. New School for Social Research

Joseph Preston Baratta, Associate Professor (1999), B.A. St. John’s College; M.A., M.A.T., Ph.D. Boston University

Erika Briesacher, Assistant Professor (2012), B.A. Illinois Wesleyan University; M.A. Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville; Ph.D. Kent State University

Anthony Dell'Aera, Assistant Professor (2016), B.A. Trinity College; M.A., Ph.D. Brown University

Tona J. Hangen, Department Chair, Associate Professor (2008), B.S. Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Ph.D. Brandeis University

Najib E. Saliba, Professor (1971), A.B. Miami University; M.A., Ph.D. University of Michigan

Robert W. Smith, Associate Professor (2007), B.A. Syracuse University; M.A., Ph.D. College of William and Mary

PO-110 American Government
LASC Categories: HBS, USW, CON
This course introduces students to the American political system and thus it will be an exploration of American republican democracy. We will attempt to understand the way that the political system operates by examining Congress, the presidency, the judiciary, federalism, political parties, interest groups, elections, civil liberties and civil rights, and policy issues relevant to Americans. We will explore the way that institutional arrangements facilitate debate, which ultimately leads to policy changes. Our objective in this class will be to understand the workings of American democracy.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits
PO-215 State and Local Government
LASC Categories: HBS, USW
Examines sub-national governments and politics in the United States; the structure and problems of these governments. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-216 Political Parties & Pressure Groups
LASC Categories: HBS, USW
Examines the organization, functions, and methods of political parties; the role of interest groups in the American political process. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-217 The Legislative Process
LASC Categories: HBS, USW
The nature and function of the United States Congress, including the complexities of the lawmaking process, Congressional elections, the relationship between individual members of Congress and their constituencies, major issues of public policy, and institutional relations between Congress, the Presidency, and the Judiciary. Alternating and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-218 US Constitutional History I
LASC Categories: CON, HBS, USW
The development of constitutional history as seen in decisions of the United States Supreme Court and their effects, from 1789 to 1921. [Cross listed as HI218.] Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-219 US Constitutional History II
LASC Categories: CON, USW, HBS
Supreme Court decision-making from 1921; Federal-State relations, civil liberties, civil rights, loyalty program, labor, rights of defendants. [Cross listed as HI219.] Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-220 Comparative Politics I
LASC Categories: HBS, GP
A comparative study of the politics and governments of Great Britain, West Germany, and the Soviet Union. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-221 Comparative Politics II
LASC Categories: HBS, GP
A comparative study of the political and social systems of South Africa and India, including recent trends in their political development. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-222 Government and Politics of Latin America
The political organization, problems, and possibilities of representative Latin-American countries. Special emphasis will be given to crisis areas. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-223 Political Communication
LASC Categories: TLC
This course will analyze the relationship between citizens' opinions and the mass media through a focus on political campaign and governmental communication strategy. Specific attention will be given to the history of the relationship between politicians and the media. We will also study political campaign advertisements. We will analyze how political candidates and governments communicate with voters, how they shape their images and manage crises, and ultimately attempt to determine how effective politicians are in influencing public opinion. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-230 Campaigns and Elections
LASC Categories: HBS
This course examines political campaigns and elections in the United States, with a focus on the candidate nomination and electoral process, campaign structures and strategies, voting, political participation, public opinion, the media, political behavior, and the role of political parties. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-234 Modern and Contemporary Political Theory
This course will focus on how recent political philosophers have responded to questions such as what constitutes liberty, freedom, and justice. In turn, students will be prompted to consider questions such as when is it necessary for government to constrain freedom, and how can conflicts between the rights of the individual and the rights of the community be adjudicated. This class will allow for engagement with these concepts through the works of modern political theorists such as Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, and Arendt, and contemporary political theorists such as Rawls, Nozick, Dworkin, Berlin and Strauss. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-241 English Constitutional History
LASC Categories: GP, HBS
Development of English Constitution from Magna Carta through revolution, supremacy of Parliament, reform acts, entry into European Union and devolution. [Cross-listed with HI-241.] Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-243 City Politics
LASC Categories: HBS, DAC
This course examines the political development and the political processes of America’s central cities. The actors in this story include machine bosses, reformers, immigrants, bureaucrats, politicians, average citizens, the rich, and the poor. Particular attention will be given to the political institutions of city government, structures and strategies of city elections, local party organizations, governing strategies of mayors, evolving urban populations and interests, and enduring public policy problems such as poverty, crime, education, and economic decay. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-262 Principles of US Public Policy
LASC Categories: HBS
This course introduces students to how American public policy is formulated and how public policies can be evaluated. These theoretical and structural frameworks are then applied to a series of case studies of public policies to examine the role of politics in how the policy process works and to develop a fuller understanding of the political and ideological debates over contemporary public policy issues such as welfare, social security, health care, education, labor, criminal justice, and the environment. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-264 American Political Thought
LASC Categories: TLC, USW, DAC
This course examines the evolution of American political thought as a means to better understand the role of political ideology in contemporary politics. Through a close reading of mainly primary source documents in political theory spanning the colonial period through the present era, students will critically engage topics such as American iterations of Republicanism and Democracy, American character, slavery, race, women’s rights, ethnicity, class, and immigration. These topics will reveal challenges to core American values which would shape American political development. We will also examine how different varieties of liberals and conservatives confront these political questions. Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits
PO-265 Racial and Ethnic Politics  
**LASC Categories:** HBS, USW, DAC  
This class will analyze the relationship between the United States government and racial and ethnic groups and explore the way that race is utilized in American politics. We will focus on issues affecting racial and ethnic communities in the United States, the politics behind racial and ethnic classification, and the use of racial and ethnic appeals in American political campaigns. The readings for this course will cover topics such as affirmative action, criminal justice reform, and civil rights. It will offer students an opportunity to analyze political speeches and advertisements that utilize race and ethnicity.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-311 Environmental Politics and Policy  
**LASC Categories:** HBS, NSP  
Investigation of the factors that determine the formation of public policy on the environment with consideration of the roles played by federal, state, and local regulatory agencies in the United States. Case studies will include global climate change, air and water pollution, energy, land use, brownfields, waste management, endangered species, and population growth.  
Alternating and every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-312 Health Politics and Policy  
**LASC Categories:** HBS, ICW  
Examination of the process and factors that influence formulation, implementation and modification of health policy in the United States. Topics will include health ethics, insurance, finance, prescription drug regulation, Medicare/Medicaid, epidemics, private markets, public interest, distributive justice, and the role of government.  
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

PO-320 Citizen Nation  
**LASC Categories:** CON, TLC, USW, DAC, WAC  
**Prerequisites:** HI-111 or HI-112 and EN-102, EN-202 or EN-250  
Explores the history and meaning of citizenship in the United States, including discrimination, rights struggles and changing citizenship criteria. [Cross-listed with HI-320.]  
Other or on demand. 3 Credits

PO-322 Nationalism  
Examines the theories of nationalism, the development of the modern Nation-state, and its effect on global politics. [Cross-listed with HI-322.]  
Other or on demand. 3 Credits

PO-323 Empire  
**Prerequisites:** HI-103 and HI-104  
Theories and models of colonization, the reaction of colonized peoples, and the way historians analyze imperialism from 1400 to 1920's. [Cross-listed with HI-323.]  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-330 Politics of the Middle East I  
**Prerequisites:** one course from HI-104 HI-105 HI-111 HI-112 PO-101 HI-261 or HI-314  
Discusses governments and politics of eastern Arab countries, Turkey, Iran, and Israel. International rivalries in the area are also discussed. [Cross listed as HI330.]  
Every year. 3 Credits

PO-331 Politics of the Middle East II  
Discusses liberation of North African countries from imperialism; politics of independence, nation-building, and international rivalries in the area.  
Every year. 3 Credits

PO-338 History of Political Theory I  
The development of political thought from the Greeks to the Enlightenment. [Cross listed as HI338.]  
Other or on demand. 3 Credits

PO-339 History of Political Theory II  
The development of political thought from the Enlightenment to the present. [Cross listed as HI339.]  
Other or on demand. 3 Credits

PO-370 Crisis Politics  
**Prerequisites:** PO-101  
Analyze the theories regarding the roots of violence, revolution, and terrorism. Special attention will be devoted to violence in America.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-380 American Foreign Policy Since the Cold War  
**LASC Categories:** CON, USW, HBS  
**Prerequisites:** PO-101 or HI-112 or HI-212  
Instruments of American foreign policy; major foreign policy developments since 1947.  
Every 2-3 years. 3 Credits

PO-400 Independent Study: Political Science  
Special topics for advanced research and study under the guidance of a faculty member.  
Fall and Spring and every year. 1-3 Credits

PO-408 Directed Study: Political Science  
Directed study offers students, who because of unusual circumstances may be unable to register for a course when offered, the opportunity to complete an existing course with an established syllabus under the direction and with agreement from a faculty member.  
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

PO-440 Internship in Political Science  
Internships in museums, archives, government agencies, etc. Performing a variety of tasks at beginning professional level in cooperating institutions.  
Fall and Spring and every year. 1-6 Credits

PO-450 Special Topics: Political Science  
Selected areas of interest to students and instructors. Topic, prerequisites and instructor are announced in advance.  
Other or on demand. 3 Credits