



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Humanities and Sciences

Department of Politics

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Politics Department at Ithaca College.

These are fascinating times to study Politics. Politics shapes nearly every aspect of our lives. It is present in the news we consume, the social media we scroll through, the elections we participate in, the global events we witness, the music we listen to, the sports teams we support, and the literature we read. Without a proper framework for understanding this information, its sheer volume can appear overwhelming and chaotic.

Studying Politics provides you with that framework. When you join our department, you will learn how power works, why governments exist, what makes power legitimate, why political institutions take the forms they do, and how concepts like freedom, justice, and equality shape public life.

One of the greatest strengths of the Politics Department lies in the wide variety of courses that we teach. We offer a range of classes in the four sub-fields of Political Science, spanning international and comparative politics, political theory, public policy, and U.S. Politics. You might find yourself taking some of the following courses we offer on a regular basis: **U.S. Foreign Policy, Constitutional Law, Feminist Theory, Global Political Thought, U.S. Presidential Power & Leadership, Intro to Global and Policy Studies, European Politics, Liberalism and Marxism, Ideas and Ideologies, Politics of Memory & Transitional Justice, and U.S. Slavery and its Afterlives.** You might also explore **Africa Through Film**, examine **Conspiracy Politics**, or study the political thought of **W.E.B. Du Bois & C.L.R. James**. We bring distinctive breadth and depth in these areas, and so much more to discover and explore!

Explore the World

By studying Politics, you gain valuable insights into both local and global affairs, and the crucial connections between them. You develop the skills to understand the rest of the world, the U.S.'s role in that world, and the ways in which U.S. policies affect other regions of the globe. This is especially important for students who wish to be global citizens in the 21st century. Our department offers internationally focused courses that give you the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics and places. In addition, we offer an International Politics minor, and a Concentration in International Studies for Politics majors.

Study abroad can take that global perspective even further. Many of our students take advantage of the numerous study-abroad options offered by Ithaca College. Since we strongly believe that studying abroad can be an enriching, if not life-changing experience, we work with students to

integrate courses taken abroad into their program of study. Politics students can nearly always use courses taken abroad for fulfillment of major requirements. In recent years, our Politics majors have pursued enriching study abroad opportunities in countries like Japan, Italy, Spain, Hungary, New Zealand, Chile, and Argentina.



Bruges, Belgium. Model EU
Competition (January 2024)



Brussels, Belgium. Model EU
Competition (January 2024)

Learn by Doing

We understand that classroom learning becomes even more meaningful when combined with practical experience. To this end, we help facilitate students' placement in an array of internships at the local, state, national, and international levels. Internships earn credit towards the major. Many Politics students enroll in governmental and NGO/advocacy internships in Washington DC; Albany, NY; and New York City. Local internships include: the Office of New York Senator Lea Webb, Lama Law Firm, and the Community Dispute Resolution Center. Many students in London have interned in the House of Commons; others who study abroad in Europe have interned at the European Parliament.

Work Closely with Faculty

One of the advantages of studying Politics at Ithaca College is the opportunity to work closely with faculty who are active scholars and committed teachers. Our Politics faculty members regularly mentor students through Ithaca College's Summer Scholars program – a unique experience that gives students the opportunity to conduct paid, faculty-guided summer research on an independent project that reflects a student's own academic passions. In recent years, students have also collaborated with faculty on scholarly publications, including co-authoring research articles and presenting their own work at academic conferences. If you are curious about a topic and want to pursue it seriously, our faculty can help you turn that curiosity into meaningful research project.

Find Your Community

Learning about Politics does not stop when class ends. Politics students have opportunities to become involved in activities and organizations across campus, including Model United Nations and Model European Union, as well as student orgs focused on human rights, peace, social justice, African studies, and many others.

Develop Skills That Travel with You

A Politics degree is about much more than learning about governments and elections. Through innovative assignments, research projects, presentations, and engaging in-class discussions, our courses provide you with a set of skills that are essential for all aspects of life: reading carefully, writing thoughtfully, expressing yourself clearly, and thinking critically and honestly about the most consequential questions a society can face.

Those skills can lead in many directions. Our graduates pursue careers in law, public service (governmental and non-governmental), diplomacy, international organizations, public policy, journalism, business, education, advocacy, and non-profit leadership. Some continue their education in graduate and professional programs.

So Why Study Politics?

Perhaps one of the most important reasons to study Politics is its impact on how we understand and engage with the world around us. A healthy democracy depends on people who can think critically about power, question assumptions, evaluate competing claims, and participate meaningfully in public life. We believe that the study of Politics helps you develop precisely these capacities.

If you are curious about the world, interested in difficult questions, and eager to understand how ideas and institutions shape our lives, we invite you to explore what the Politics Department has to offer. We would be delighted to hear from you and answer any questions you may have.

All the best,

Evgenia Ilieva
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Politics
eilieva@ithaca.edu