World Politics

Are you interested in foreign policy, international political economy or national security? Do you want to learn more about other countries and regions of the world? Do you want to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to live and work in an increasingly globalized environment? If so, then world politics may be a great fit for you.

The major contains four areas of specialization: foreign policy and security, political institutions and processes, political economy and development, and international theory. Students are required to take at least four courses in one of these areas and at least one course in each of the other three. Students may also take advantage of the rigorous training in data analysis offered by the Department of Political Science.

Pursuing World Politics at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in world politics within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students majoring in world politics at Ohio State should meet with their academic advisors as soon as possible. Advisors work with students to plan a course of study, including General Education (GE) courses and introductory and upper-level political science courses.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
World politics majors have access to the co-curricular programs sponsored by the Department of Political Science and may also participate in the activities of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies and other interdisciplinary programs on campus.

Students have interned around the world and around the country, at every level of government as well as with law firms, lobbying groups, non-profit organizations and political campaigns.

World politics majors also have the opportunity to be a part of more than 100 study abroad programs in more than 40 different countries. Three programs have exclusive partnerships with the Department of Political Science:

• The Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) in Paris, France, specializes in political science, economics, history, sociology, law, finance, business, communication, social and urban policy, management, and journalism.
• The Canadian Parliament Internship Program is a five-week program during which interns work in the office of a Member of the Canadian Parliament.
• The Department of External Studies of the University of Oxford provides students the opportunity to study a variety of subjects in the British tradition of lectures and tutorials.

The Collegiate Council on World Affairs (CCWA), a student organization focusing on international politics and diplomacy, participates in activities such as Model United Nations, Model European Union and Model African Union. CCWA hosts a mock conference and sends members to intercollegiate model UN competitions. Past conferences and competitions have been held at Georgetown University, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago.

The Journal of Politics and International Affairs is published biannually by Undergraduate Political Science Organization.

Top-rated program
In 2013, the international relations field in the Department of Political Science was ranked among the top 10 programs in the country (U.S. News and World Report)

Honors & Scholars Programs
Honors political science courses are offered at both the introductory and upper levels. The senior Honors thesis gives qualified students the opportunity to specialize in a topic of their own choosing and to work closely with a faculty supervisor. Recent Honors courses include:

• American Foreign Policy
• Democracy in Muslim Majority Countries
• Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
• African Politics
• Data Analysis in Political Science

In addition, the faculty collaborate with other departments across campus to create unique interdisciplinary opportunities.

Research opportunities
You may pursue independent research under the supervision of a faculty advisor or assist a world-renowned faculty member with his or her ongoing research.

For more information, check these websites:
Political Science: polisci.osu.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Career Prospects in World Politics

World politics majors at Ohio State will develop critical reasoning, research and writing skills and will graduate with a degree that signals that they are curious and well-informed about the world in which they live.

They will be prepared to pursue a variety of careers with a global focus, including intelligence and national security, foreign policy and diplomacy, international business analysis and consulting, international finance and global investment banking, international humanitarian and development organizations (e.g. CARE, Oxfam, USAID), international governance organizations (e.g. the UN, the World Bank, the World Health Organization), conflict mediation and resolution, research institutes and think tanks with a global focus, secondary and higher education, and journalism.

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a BA with a major in world politics. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests.

Note: This sample represents one of many possible paths to a degree with a major in world politics. Consult the departmental website, polisci.osu.edu, for details on the world politics major.

Freshman Year:
- Survey course: 1
- Pre-World Politics major: 3
- World Politics major course: 3
- GE courses: 19–21
- Electives and minor courses: 3
- **Total hours**: 29–31

Sophomore Year:
- World Politics major courses: 6
- GE courses: 19–20
- Electives and minor courses: 3
- **Total hours**: 28–29

Junior Year:
- World Politics major courses: 9
- Open option 1: 3
- GE courses: 13–14
- Electives and minor courses: 6
- **Total hours**: 31–32

Senior Year:
- World Politics major courses: 15
- Open option 2: 3
- Electives and minor courses: up to 16
- **Total hours**: up to 34

Revised June 2014. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the political science program, visit polisci.osu.edu.