



GENEVA COLLEGE

Department of History, Political Science, and Sociology Political Science Major

DEPARTMENTAL MISSION

The Department of History, Political Science & Sociology seeks to give all students an understanding of human society, its history and its present condition from a Christian perspective, and it seeks to develop in students an awareness of their appropriate role that society. The department offers majors in history, political science and sociology for students who wish to concentrate in those fields and it offers selected minors in related professional fields such as pre-law and criminal justice.

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR MISSION

The political science major seeks to help students understand and assess the discipline of political science, theories of politics, political systems and governmental structures, and the tools used in social science research. In addition, the Political Science major encourages students to develop their reasoning, analytic and communication skills, and to apply what they are learning to contemporary political issues. The political science major particularly seeks to help students apply biblical perspectives to the study, practice and transformation of politics. In conjunction with Geneva's core curriculum, the political science major provides students with a broad liberal arts background while training them in the discipline, and equipping them for service in government, law, politics, teaching, policy analysis, private sector management, etc.

OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR

The political science major at Geneva College requires 39 hours of course work. Each student will develop a broad overview of political science by taking introductory courses in American government, international politics, and comparative politics. Students build on this foundation by taking a two-semester research methods and statistics sequence, and by taking at least one upper level course in American politics or public policy, one in international or comparative politics, and one in political theory. Students continue to build their understanding of political science by taking at least nine additional hours of upper level course work. The college-wide required course "Great Issues in Politics" serves to introduce all Geneva students, including political science majors, to key questions in political philosophy and to some Christian approaches to dealing with those questions. Students complete the major by taking a capstone senior seminar. This course helps the student synthesize the material he or she has learned in the major and related courses and it seeks to help each student think through the implications of a biblical worldview for the study and practice of politics.

OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our students also gain hands-on experience by interning in a job related to political science. Some of those internships are built into the programs noted below. Others are developed by the student in consultation with the department. In recent years students have interned in federal and state legislative offices, in law offices, in campaigns, in local government offices and in offices that are involved in policy analysis and advocacy.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Many political science majors spend at least one semester studying off campus. Many of those students participate in programs sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. These programs have included the American Studies Program in Washington, D.C.; the Middle East Studies Program in Cairo, Egypt; the Oxford Honors Program at Oxford University in England; and the Russian Studies Program in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhni Novgorod, Russia. Others have studied at colleges such as Lithuania Christian College and the Russian-American Christian University. Others have been involved in summer programs such as the Institute for Comparative Economic and Political Systems at Georgetown University.

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATION IN SOCIAL STUDIES

History and political science majors can achieve secondary education social studies certification. This makes our students more marketable than if they were certified only in history or political science. Students seeking this certification must complete their major, a set of supplementary courses in other social studies disciplines and a set of professional education courses, including student teaching. There are opportunities for students to participate in student teaching overseas. Additional information is available through the department of History, Political Science, & Sociology or through the department of Education at Geneva College.

OUTCOMES

Political science majors find their first job in a variety of fields. In recent years our majors have taken their first jobs as staff members in congressional or state legislative offices, on campaign staffs, as entry-level managers or human resource personnel in the private sector, in sales, in law enforcement and in teaching. Over a third of our majors continue their education to obtain an advanced degree. In recent years our graduates have completed masters or doctoral degrees in political science or related fields at Penn State University, the University of Pittsburgh, American University, Georgetown University and Regent University. Other graduates have gone to law schools at institutions such as Boston College, Florida State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Akron University, the University of Dayton, Regent University and Temple University.

OUR FACULTY

JEFFERY COLE (2003), Associate Professor of History and Coordinator of the department of Humanities; B.S., Lynchburg College; M.Ed., Lynchburg College; Ph.D., Bowling Green State University

THOMAS COPELAND (2004), Assistant Professor of Political Science; B.A., Geneva College; M.A., University of Pittsburgh; Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh

SEAN DOYLE (2008), Assistant Professor of History; B.A., Toccoa Falls, College; M.A., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Edinburgh

BRADSHAW FREY (1984), Professor of Sociology; B.A., Geneva College; M.Div., STM, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh; department chair

ERIC J. MILLER (1999), Associate Professor of History; B.S., Lancaster Bible College; M.A., Trinity International University; Ph.D., University of Delaware

FREDERICK R. NEIKIRK, JR. (1992), Professor of Political Science; B.A., M.A., University of Delaware; Ph.D., University of Illinois

DONALD OPITZ (1999), Associate Professor of Sociology and Director, M.A. in Higher Education Program; B.A., Westminster College; M.Div., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Boston University

ANDREA SMIDT-SITTEMA (2006), Assistant Professor of History; B.A., Calvin College; M.A., Ohio State University; Ph.D., Ohio State University



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