

MINOR IN POLITICS, LAW AND SOCIAL THOUGHT

Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought

Upon completing the minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought, students will be able to:

1. Understand the main lines of political, legal, and social thought in their historical context through original sources.
2. Analyze and evaluate complex texts in political, legal, and social thought through a close reading and critical interpretation of arguments, metaphors, images, and the emotions that drive political arguments.
3. Compare different authors and texts and formulate complex arguments across different traditions in the history of political thought.
4. Develop and communicate their own arguments about politics, law, and society in research papers, class presentations, and discussions.

Requirements for the Minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought

Students pursuing the minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought must complete:

- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) to satisfy minor requirements.
- A minimum of 4 courses (12 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credits. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 3) tab.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from the same subject code (i.e., GERM, HIST, etc.) may be used to meet the Elective Requirements.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this minor. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the minor's academic advisor, or where applicable, the Program Director. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the minor's [Official Certifier](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>)). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought		18

Minor Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirement		
Select 1 course from the following:		3

HIST 373	SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN 19TH CENTURY EUROPE
HIST 392	PRE-MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM CICERO TO LOCKE
PLST 301	MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT: MACHIAVELLI TO RAWLS
PLST 302	CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY
PLST 303	HOW DEMOCRACY FAILS
PLST 316 / CLAS 316	DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL THEORY IN ANCIENT GREECE
SOCI 325	SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

Elective Requirements

Select 5 courses from the Elective Requirements (see course list below)¹ 15

Total Credit Hours 18

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ Students may use a maximum of 3 credit hours of independent study coursework to fulfill Elective Requirements. See the minor advisor for more information.

Elective Requirements

To complete the Politics, Law and Social Thought minor, students must complete a total of 5 elective courses (15 credit hours) from the following Rice departmental course offerings. If a student takes more than 1 course from the Core Requirement list, that extra course may be used toward the Elective Requirements. Ultimately no more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) from the same subject code (i.e., GERM, HIST, etc.) may be used to meet the Elective Requirements for the minor.¹

Code	Title	Credit Hours
------	-------	--------------

Elective Requirements

Select 5 courses from the following: 15

Anthropology

ANTH 309	GLOBAL CULTURES
ANTH 317	REVOLUTIONS AND UTOPIAS
ANTH 319	SYMBOLISM AND POWER
ANTH 322	GLOBAL IM/MOBILITIES: BORDERS, MIGRATION, AND CITIZENSHIP
ANTH 326	LAW, POWER AND CULTURE
ANTH 340	NEOLIBERALISM AND GLOBALIZATION
ANTH 372	CULTURES OF CAPITALISM
ANTH 396	LAW AND RESISTANCE IN THE EVERYDAY
ANTH 424	MAJOR FIGURES IN CULTURAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT
ANTH 429	ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Asian Studies

ASIA 377 / POLI 377	CHINESE POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
---------------------	---

Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

CLAS 316 / PLST 316	DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL THEORY IN ANCIENT GREECE
FREN 324 / POLI 324 / RELI 476	FROM DECOLONIZATION TO GLOBALIZATION

FREN 453	IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY FRANCE
GERM 333	NIETZSCHE: PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, HISTORY
GERM 334	NATIONALISM AND CITIZENSHIP
GERM 349	GERMAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
LASR 378	LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT: IDENTITY, LIBERATION, MODERNITY

History

HIST 305	READING HISTORIES OF WORK
HIST 332	AMERICAN LEGAL HISTORY, 1863 TO THE PRESENT
HIST 340 / SWGS 345	HISTORY OF FEMINISM
HIST 359	THE UNITED STATES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY WORLD
HIST 373	SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN 19TH CENTURY EUROPE
HIST 387	THE UNITED STATES IN THE WORLD: AGE OF EMPIRE AND REVOLUTION
HIST 392	PRE-MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM CICERO TO LOCKE
HIST 405	DEMOCRACY AND CAPITALISM: THE HISTORICAL DEBATE FROM MARX TO TRUMP
HIST 412	EMPIRE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
HIST 423	AMERICAN RADICALS AND REFORMERS
HIST 426	DISABILITY AND U.S. LAW
HIST 427	HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1954 TO THE PRESENT
HIST 448	WESTERN EUROPEAN WELFARE STATE, 1880-1980: ORIGINS, CONSOLIDATIONS, CRISIS
HIST 449	LAW IN THE DIGITAL WORLD
HIST 455	THE HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
HIST 457	FOUR MODERN REVOLUTIONS: 1776, 1789, 1917, 1989

Humanities

HUMA 122	WHO SHOULD VOTE? A BIG QUESTIONS COURSE
HUMA 315	COMMUNICATION LAW

Philosophy

PHIL 230	HUMAN MINDS
PHIL 275	FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 281	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I
PHIL 283	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II
PHIL 360	ETHICS
PHIL 362	HISTORY OF ETHICS
PHIL 370	SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 372	HISTORY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 373	PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
PHIL 386	CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Political Science

POLI 210	INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
----------	-----------------------------------

POLI 211	INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
POLI 212	INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS
POLI 321	AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
POLI 333	LEGISLATURES AROUND THE WORLD
POLI 342	POLITICS OF THE JUDICIARY
POLI 357	DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION
POLI 371	CIVIL WARS
POLI 457	CONDITIONS OF DEMOCRACY

Politics, Law, and Social Thought

PLST 301	MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT: MACHIAVELLI TO RAWLS
PLST 302	CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY
PLST 303	HOW DEMOCRACY FAILS
PLST 305	INTRODUCTION TO LAW
PLST 315	AUTHORITARIAN CONSTITUTIONALISM AND DEMOCRATIC DICTATORSHIPS SINCE 1848
PLST 330	RACE AND THE LAW: HOW LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS HAVE PERPETUATED RACISM AND SUPPORTED PROGRESS
PLST 401	LEGAL PRACTICUM
PLST 402	JUDICIAL PRACTICUM

Sociology

SOCI 325	SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
SOCI 349	CRIME, LAW & JUSTICE IN POPULAR CULTURE
SOCI 358	CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND SOCIETY
SOCI 380	SOCIAL THEORY
SOCI 396 / ANTH 396	LAW AND RESISTANCE IN THE EVERYDAY
SOCI 426	CONTEMPORARY THEORY

Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

SWGS 250 / ASIA 251 / POLI 250	SEX, MONEY, AND POWER AROUND THE WORLD
--------------------------------	--

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ Students may use a maximum of 3 credit hours of independent study coursework to fulfill Elective Requirements. See the minor advisor for more information.

Practica

Students may count one practicum with 3 credit hours toward the Elective Requirements for the minor, as long as the practicum substantively reflects the thematic focus of the minor in PLST. As general guidance, acceptable practica are concerned with the public dimension of law or fall into the area of public policy. Proposed practica have to be approved by the director before the official start date of the practicum. Practica must adhere to the requirements and policies governing practica as they have been established by the School of Humanities and/or the School of Social Sciences.

Policies for the Minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought

Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in [Majors, Minors, and Certificates](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/>), i.) students may declare their intent to pursue a minor only after they have first declared a major, and ii.) students may not major and minor in the same subject.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/>). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the minor.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Transfer credit coursework received via the articulation of AP, IB or A-level credit will not be considered towards minor requirements.
- Transfer credit from online-only courses may not be used to count towards the minor.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution credit eligibility is done initially as part of the [new course creation process](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/>). Additionally, as part of an [annual roll call](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution credit eligibility is routinely reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean's Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-credit-eligible meet the criteria as set in the [General Announcements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet [graduation requirements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>) by completing coursework designated as distribution-credit-eligible at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from Politics, Law and Social Thought (PLST) are designed to provide students with the tools for thinking critically about politics, law, and society, and for using those tools to participate in the life of our society and polity.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Politics, Law and Social Thought website: <https://politics.rice.edu/>

Opportunities for the Minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Politics, Law and Social Thought website: <https://politics.rice.edu/>.

See <https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life> (<https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life/>) for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this minor.