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 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/demoworks/officialcertifier).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<th>Minor Requirements</th>
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Core Requirement

Select 1 course from the following:

- 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 ANCIENT GREECE
- SOCI 325 SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

Elective Requirements

Select 5 courses from the following offerings (see course list below)

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Total Credit Hours

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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.

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Elective Requirements

Select 5 courses from the following:

Anthropology

- ANTH 309 GLOBAL CULTURES
- ANTH 317 REVOLUTIONS AND UTOPIAS
- ANTH 319 SYMBOLISM AND POWER
- ANTH 322 CULTURES AND IDENTITIES: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALISM
- ANTH 326 LAW, POWER AND CULTURE
- ANTH 340 NEOLIBERALISM AND GLOBALIZATION
- ANTH 372 CULTURES OF CAPITALISM
- ANTH 424 MAJOR FIGURES IN CULTURAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT
- ANTH 429 ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Asian Studies

- ASIA 489 / POLI 489 CHINESE POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Classical and European Studies

- 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
History

HIST 305  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 392  PRE-MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM CICERO TO LOCKE
HIST 398 / SWGS 398  FREEDOM OF SPEECH
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 448  WESTERN EUROPEAN WELFARE STATE, 1880-1980: ORIGINS, CONSOLIDATIONS, CRISIS
HIST 455  THE HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
HIST 457  FOUR MODERN REVOLUTIONS: 1776, 1789, 1917, 1989

Philosophy

PHIL 111 / SWGS 111  INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 116  INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
PHIL 201 / CLAS 201 / MDEM 201  HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I
PHIL 202  HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II
PHIL 306  ETHICS
PHIL 307  SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 308  CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 316  PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
PHIL 319 / SWGS 319  FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 326  HISTORY OF ETHICS
PHIL 327  HISTORY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Political Science

POLI 209  INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTIONALISM AND MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
POLI 210  INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
POLI 211  INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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 401  LAW, JUSTICE AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS LEGAL PRACTICUM
PLST 402  LAW, JUSTICE AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS 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

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 (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 (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

Most courses that count toward the PLST minor originate in other academic units, and their distribution status is determined there. Two types of courses carry the PLST subject code. One type are applied courses, including 400-level practica, which do not carry DI or DII credit, due to their advanced, specific, and fluctuating course content. The second type are PLST core courses, which 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. These courses may carry DI or DII credit, depending on which school the instructor is from. We leave it to the discretion of individual professors to decide whether to request distribution credit for their PLST core courses.

DII designation is managed by the faculty in the School of Social Sciences.

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 (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university) (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (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 for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this minor.