Politics, Law and Social Thought (PLST) is an interdisciplinary minor open to all undergraduate students at Rice from all backgrounds. Its task is the study of political ideas in their philosophical and historical contexts as well as with regard to their effects on constitutional law and social and political practices.

The central focus of the minor is political theory, taken in a wide sense to mean the theory and philosophy of how polities form, function, and fail. The minor has a strong orientation toward works of political, legal, and social philosophy, understood in their historical context. Politics, Law and Social Thought is a program of study that enables Rice students to engage successfully with the “big” political questions relevant to contemporary society in a global setting: Why democracy? What are the foundations of law? What is political liberty? What is political citizenship? Are states necessary? How do normative political and social orders come into existence? Is there a philosophical justification for human rights?

### Minor

Politics, Law and Social Thought does currently not offer an academic program at the graduate level.

### Co-Directors
Christian J. Emden
Aysha Pollnitz

### Humanities Faculty Director, Law, Justice and Society Scholars
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For Rice University degree-granting programs:
To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat)

### Politics, Law and Social Thought (PLST)

PLST 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
**Short Title:** SPECIAL TOPICS
**Department:** Politics Law Social Thought
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter
**Course Type:** Internship/Practicum, Lecture, Laboratory, Seminar
**Credit Hours:** 1-4
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level
**Description:** Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
PLST 401 - LAW, JUSTICE AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS LEGAL PRACTICUM
Short Title: LJSS LEGAL PRACTICUM
Department: Politics Law Social Thought
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course focuses on the public and private practice sectors of the legal profession through a work experience coupled with classroom instruction at Rice. The goal is to expose undergraduates to the field of law through structured on-site experiences, relevant coursework, and professional development opportunities. Instructor Permission Required. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for PLST 401 and HUMA 404/SOSC 405. Repeatable for Credit.

PLST 402 - LAW, JUSTICE AND SOCIETY SCHOLARS JUDICIAL PRACTICUM
Short Title: LJSS JUDICIAL PRACTICUM
Department: Politics Law Social Thought
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Students will participate in a semester-long “practicum” with a sitting judge (federal, or Texas appellate) in Houston. This program is designed to give select Rice undergraduates a broad and practical introduction to what lawyers do in court and how judges and the law clerks who work with them think about the questions they are asked to resolve. Instructor Permission Required. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for PLST 402 and HUMA 404/SOSC 406.

PLST 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Politics Law Social Thought
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
Description and Code Legend

Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
- Course offerings/subject codes: PLST

Program Description and Code
- Classical and European Studies: PLST

Undergraduate Minor Description and Code
- Minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought: PLST