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

Professors

Dominic Boyer
Peter C. Caldwell
Steven G. Crowell
James D. Faubion
David Leebron
Melissa Marschall
Donald Morrison
George Sher
Lora Wildenthal

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