

Political Science



As a Westmont political science major, you'll learn by doing.

You might play the part of a congressional party whip trying to reform health care; or issue a decision on religious freedom as the chief justice on the U.S. Supreme Court in a mock trial; or you might travel to New York as part of a Model United Nations. The political science major trains students in the theory and practice of politics in the United States and the global community, emphasizing international relations, American politics, and political philosophy. Our department helps students become politically competent citizens in light of the Christian faith, working faithfully for justice in a world characterized by political, social, cultural, religious, and economic diversity.

SELECTED COURSES

- American Government
- International Development
- Political Theory and Ideology
- Empirical Political Research
- Constitutional Law
- The Politics of Sports
- Presidential Election Politics
- American Public Opinion
- Christianity and Politics
- International Organizations and Law
- Politics of Film
- Contemporary Political Theory

CAREER PATHS

- Business and finance
- Law
- Management consulting
- Teaching
- Public relations
- Government administration
- Foreign service
- Social services
- Military and police services
- Journalism
- Christian ministry

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



JESSE COVINGTON, PH.D.

Specializes in political theory, constitutional law, political theology, religion and politics, First Amendment.



TOM KNECHT, PH.D.

Specializes in American politics, public opinion, foreign policy, politics of sports.



KATHERINE BRYANT, PH.D.

Specializes in international politics, international development, empirical methods, international conflict and peace building.

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS OPPORTUNITIES



- Westmont's Europe Semester
- Westmont in Northern Europe
- Westmont's England Semester
- Westmont in Asia
- Westmont in Cairo
- Westmont in San Francisco
- Westmont Downtown
- Washington D.C. Semester
- And many more!

ALUMNI

Jimmy Wittrock '10 graduated on the pre-law track and worked as a field organizer for a senatorial campaign before earning a master's degree from George Washington University in political management. During his time at GWU, he worked as a marketing assistant at the Democratic National Committee and eventually returned to Santa Barbara to work for Lois Capps, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He served as the deputy campaign manager for Salud Carbajal's successful congressional campaign and is now a legislative aid at the California State Assembly.

Hannah Cochran Byrnes '11 has worked for the Department of State in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs as their policy and regional affairs intern. After receiving her master's degree in security studies at Georgetown University, she served as a research intern for the International Strategic Research Organization focusing on the United States position toward the PKK in Turkey and Iraq. She is a senior consultant for Deloitte Consulting, one of the Big Four accounting firms.



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