Political Science Department

Portrait of the Major
Politics can be described as “who gets what, when and how.” As a political science major at Thiel College, you’ll learn to break down these power relations to uncover the behaviors, practices and rules of the game whose victors designate who gets what, when and how. You will study the full spectrum of power to understand the behavior that leads to political gains as well as the barriers that prohibit access to political power.

Curriculum Highlights
Political scientists study power and influence in society, especially when government is involved in some way, as well as law and public policy. We focus on accomplishing these tasks by offering courses in five subfields: American politics, comparative political systems, international affairs, public law and public policy/public administration.

Special Features
By studying political science at Thiel College, you’ll be able to:
• Go deeper into the political world—as you explore the notion of power, our dedicated faculty with help you think more deeply about the democratic and policy processes, equality and social justice, and the role you play in the power struggle of American politics.
• Explore the law—Thiel offers a legal studies minor that allows you to choose from a variety of classes related to law, giving you the opportunity to create a unique program tailored to your interests and goals. This minor will prepare you to understand, evaluate and tackle the legal challenges you are sure to face in both your professional and personal lives.
• Study in the nation's capital—Thiel College's Washington Semester is a small, personalized program where you live, study and intern while earning a full semester of academic credit in Washington, D.C. Some recent internship placements have included the Washington Wizards, Brookings Institution, Department of Defense, the office of the U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, the Washington Times, the Republican National Committee, the office of the Vice President of the U.S. and many more public, private and nonprofit organizations.

Career and Graduate School Outlook
Our political science graduates find themselves well prepared for a variety of work and graduate school experiences. Recent graduates have found themselves in government and private investigative work, and graduate studies ranging from law and public policy to education and human resources at such universities as Georgetown, Northern Illinois, Duquesne and Roosevelt.

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Grant Alexis ‘05
Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges
Washington, DC
Major: History
Minor: Political Science

“From the first day I took a class with Dr. Wells (political science), I was hooked. Dr. Wells was not only brilliant intellectually, but he encouraged diverse thought in his classes. He loved encouraging the class to debate their views. He was also always willing to discuss ideas or issues in his office after class. Finally, and most importantly personally, he encouraged me to go after whatever I wanted to do. I’ve never had another professor tell me that he or she thought I was good enough to get into any grad or law school. I took his advice and graduated from the best international relations master’s program in the country (Georgetown). Then, continuing with his advice, I graduated magna cum laude from a top 20 law school (Minnesota). I owe my intellectual courage and development to a great extent to Dr. Wells.”

Steve Morgan ’15
Raritan, N.J.
Majors: Political Science and Business Administration
Minor: Economics
Clubs and Organizations: Cross Country, Track & Field, Alpha Chi (highest academic honorary)

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