Government (GOV)

The Department of Government offers a major in Government, with optional concentrations in American Politics, World Politics, and Political Thought. It also offers a minor in Government.

Honors Courses and In-Course Honors

The Department of Government encourages its students to undertake honors work. For further information, the student is referred to the sections on Honors Courses (http://catalog.wofford.edu/archive/2014-15/academics/academic-honors/honors-courses) and In-Course Honors (http://catalog.wofford.edu/archive/2014-15/academics/academic-honors/honors-courses) in the Catalog.

Chair

William E. DeMars

Professors

J. David Alvis
John Farrenkopf
Robert C. Jeffrey
Rachel J. Vanderhill

Requirements for the Major in Government

Government 202 and 203 must be completed, with a grade of ‘C’ or better, before a student will be accepted as a major in Government. A total of 30 credit hours is required with courses to be completed in each division, American Government, International Relations & Comparative Government, and Political Theory. Students majoring in Government who are seeking to earn secondary education licensure to teach social studies should refer to the Teacher Education Handbook and consult with the chairs of the departments of Government and Education to plan for the required related work in the areas History, Geography, Economics and Sociology.

Foundation Courses

GOV 202 Foundations of American Politics
GOV 203 Foundations of World Politics

Division A: American Government

Select 6 credit hours from the following:

GOV 250 Leadership & Globalization in South Carolina
GOV 330 American State and Local Government
GOV 331 The American Presidency
GOV 332 American Political Parties
GOV 333 Southern Politics
GOV 335 African American Politics
GOV 340 Public Administration
GOV 345 Health Care Policy & Administration
GOV 411 Constitutional Law of the United States
GOV 425 America & the Global Economy
GOV 440 American Political Thought
GOV 444 The American Constitution
GOV 480 Advanced Topics in Government

Division B: International Relations & Comparative Government

Select 6 credit hours from the following:

GOV 360 European Politics
GOV 361 Middle East Politics
GOV 362 China: Politics, Economy and Foreign Relations
GOV 363 African Politics
GOV 381 The Bomb: Nuclear Weapons Past, Present and Future
GOV 382 Global Issues
GOV 420 American Foreign Policy
GOV 421 International Conflict
GOV 422 Empire
GOV 423 NGOs in World Politics
GOV 424 Politics of the United Nations
GOV 435 Contemporary Political Thought
GOV 490 Advanced Topics in International Relations and Comparative Government

Division C: Political Theory

Select 6 credit hours from the following:

GOV 391 Classical Political Thought
GOV 392 Modern Political Thought
GOV 436 Statesmanship of Winston Churchill
GOV 437 Politics and Literature
GOV 495 Advanced Topics in Political Theory

Electives

Select an additional 6 hours from any division

Total Hours

1  GOV 335 and 440 can apply to EITHER Division A or Division C.
GOV 250 and 425 can apply to EITHER Division A or Division B.

Optional Concentrations in the Major

Students majoring in Government may choose to deepen their study of politics by choosing one of three optional concentrations. In each concentration, students delve into one arena of politics by combining direct experience with formal study. Students undertaking concentrations will be asked to meet occasionally before and after their off-campus experience to share plans, experiences, and ideas. Students who complete the requirements for a concentration will receive a letter and certificate from the chair of the Department of Government, and the concentration will be recognized on their official college transcripts.

American Politics Concentration

Two courses in American Government taken on the Wofford campus (in fulfillment of the regular Government major requirements in Division A), and, in addition, a semester or summer in Washington, D.C., at a Wofford approved program including a practical internship of the student’s choice and formal courses. At least one three-hour academic course taken in Washington must address a topic in American politics (specific arrangements to be approved by major adviser).

World Politics Concentration

Two courses in International Relations and Comparative Government taken on the Wofford campus (in fulfillment of the regular Government major requirements in Division B), and, in addition, a semester or summer abroad, including an internship if available. At least one three-
GOV 335. African American Politics. 3 Hours.
American political life is defined by two fundamental commitments: democracy and the protection of individual rights. The most notable conflicts in our nation's history have been those where the desires of a majority impede the rights of a minority. This course examines the struggle of African Americans for equal rights by studying both the political and civil rights movements, and also the legal battles for racial equality in the courts.

GOV 340. Public Administration. 3 Hours.
This course provides a working knowledge of the history, theories and practice of public administration in the United States at the national, state and local levels, and an introduction to careers in public management.

GOV 345. Health Care Policy & Administration. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of the U.S. health care system, its internal administration, and the evolution of federal and state policy. We focus on the political dynamics of public health care, and particularly on administration and policy formulation as it affects private insurers, Medicare and Medicaid, and changes wrought by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The course draws on lectures by experts in the public health sector and examines the growing body of administrative and public policy literature in this area. No disciplinary background is assumed, nor is any special familiarity with the field of health care required.

GOV 350. Foundations of American Politics. 3 Hours.
An introduction to American national government emphasizing constitutional principles and the historical development of institutions and processes.

GOV 202. Foundations of American Politics. 3 Hours.
A historical, philosophical, and topical foundation in international relations and comparative politics, and an introduction to essential research skills.

GOV 203. Foundations of World Politics. 3 Hours.
A historical, philosophical, and topical foundation in international relations and comparative politics, and an introduction to essential research skills.

GOV 250. Leadership & Globalization in South Carolina. 3 Hours.
Students will learn how South Carolina is shaped by its global connections of culture, work and politics, and how leaders in all these fields attempt to shape those forces and with what results. Students will integrate a wide range of encounters with leaders, experiences, readings, teachings, files and student projects. Must be taken in conjunction with HUM 250.

GOV 280. Selected Topics in Government. 1 to 4 Hours.
Selected topics in Government at the introductory or intermediate level.

GOV 300. American State and Local Government. 3 Hours.
A study of the institutions and processes of state and local governments, including a survey of intergovernmental relations.

GOV 301. The American Presidency. 3 Hours.
An examination of the sources of and constraints on Presidential authority, of the roles of the President in the United States and the world, and of the organization of the office and its advisory institutions and its relations with Congress and the Judiciary.

GOV 302. American Political Parties. 3 Hours.
A comparison of the theory of political parties with their reality in the American experience. The course analyzes the history, structure, functions, psychology, voting behavior, composition and dynamics of American political parties.

GOV 303. Southern Politics. 3 Hours.
This course examines the political culture, historical background, and current trends in the politics of the American South. The course consists of reading, discussion, lectures, and presentations by members of the seminar.

GOV 310. Contemporary World Politics. 3 Hours.
A study of modern international relations, particularly those pertaining to the United States and its role in the world. No disciplinary background required.

GOV 311. Readings in Political Theory. 1 to 4 Hours.
An examination of the major texts and authors in political theory. Requires a background in political science.

GOV 312. Theories of Democracy. 3 Hours.
This course explores the various theories of democracy, their strengths and weaknesses, and their implications for contemporary politics. The course is required for the major in political science.

GOV 313. Global Issues. 3 Hours.
A study of major global issues, such as Third World poverty, the population explosion, hunger in the poor countries and food consumption in the rich countries, energy use and supplies, environmental deterioration, the appropriate and inappropriate uses of technology, and alternative futures.

GOV 314. Classical Political Thought. 3 Hours.
A study of the political philosophy of the ancients through close reading and discussion of selected texts of the major authors.

GOV 315. Modern Political Thought. 3 Hours.
A study of the political philosophy of the moderns through close reading and discussion of selected texts of the major authors beginning with Machiavelli.
GOV 411. Constitutional Law of the United States. 3 Hours.
An overview of the major areas of American constitutional law emphasizing the reading and analysis of cases and the natural and common law background of the Constitution.

GOV 420. American Foreign Policy. 3 Hours.
A study of the forces and factors involved in the formulation and implementation of contemporary United States foreign policy.

GOV 421. International Conflict. 3 Hours.
A study of war and the use of force in international affairs with emphasis on the causes of international conflict.

GOV 422. Empire. 3 Hours.
A survey of the history, politics, and interaction of various modern empires in world politics. In addition, an inquiry into the debate about America as an empire.

GOV 423. NGOs in World Politics. 3 Hours.
An exploration of the changing roles and influence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in world politics, with case studies including human rights, hunger relief, environmentalism, population control, women's rights, democratization, peacemaking, and inter-religious dialogue.

GOV 424. Politics of the United Nations. 3 Hours.
A study of the evolution of the United Nations, its activities and impact, its use and misuse by member states and other actors, how both the world and the United States need the UN, and the potential for UN adaptation to change.

GOV 425. America & the Global Economy. 3 Hours.
This course provides a survey of the politics of the global economy with emphasis on historical developments, concepts, theoretical perspectives, institutions, and contemporary topics. Substantial emphasis is placed on America's role in the global economy, though other economic powers, including the European Union, China, Japan, and India are also examined.

GOV 435. Contemporary Political Thought. 3 Hours.
A study of the most important political questions and movements of thought shaping the post-modern age through the reading of texts chosen by the instructor.

GOV 436. Statesmanship of Winston Churchill. 3 Hours.
A study of statesmanship through the career of Winston S. Churchill.

GOV 437. Politics and Literature. 3 Hours.
The teachings of the greatest poets about politics.

GOV 440. American Political Thought. 3 Hours.
An examination of the origin and development of major American political ideas as revealed in political essays, letters, and novels. (Counts in Division A or C.).

GOV 444. The American Constitution. 3 Hours.
A study of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the text of the document and the evolution of some of the major provisions.
Prerequisite: GOV 202 with a minimum grade of D.

GOV 447. World Politics Project. 0 Hours.
For students majoring in Government who return from an approved semester abroad program and wish to earn the World Politics Concentration, this course is the vehicle for completing a paper or project on a topic of interest that arose from the experience abroad.