

Here are just a few of the reflections we've heard from alumni about what skills and experiences they gained from their time in our department:

*“WRITING. It is so important in my job that I can communicate to clients, legislators, staff, and stakeholder groups – and most of that work is done via written communication (emails, memos, etc.)” – Emily Sischo '17, Vice President, Ostroff Associates*

*“Studying abroad in Cuba. 100% a life-changing experience which helped me understand a completely other culture and socio-political structure.” – Nate Partridge '17, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority*

*“Structuring legal classes like a law school class – with having to brief cases and expecting the possibility of a cold call was unbelievably helpful when I started law school. I found many students were not nearly as comfortable with reading cases as I was.” – Veronica DeVries '18, Associate Attorney, Underberg & Kessler LLP*

*“My time at Vote Oswego! When I took it in 2018 it 100% helped me land my job as an organizer on a political campaign and my congressional internship.” – Lauren Fitzgerald, '21, Sustainability Coordinator, Mom's Organic Market*

## Major Requirements

### Core Requirements (12 credits):

POL 201: Global Politics  
POL 203: Political Theory  
POL 205: American Gov't & Politics  
POL 497: Seminar in Political Science

### Electives (24 credits):

- Select 8 courses, under advisement, at least seven of which must be at the 300 and 400 level.
- These courses must also include one upper division course in each of the three subfields (Global, Theory, and American)

### Course Plans

We encourage students to develop a focus within our major that aligns with their areas of interest and career goals. Current course plans include:

- Law & Justice
- Sustainability & Development
- Global Engagement
- Political Organizing & Change

If none of these plans suit your interests, department faculty can help you design a plan to better fit your needs.

For more details, please check out our Department of Politics Course Plans handout.

# Department of Politics



*Members of the Nu Beta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honors Society) with our 2023 induction ceremony speaker Stefen Short '10, Acting Deputy Director, Prisoners' Rights Project at the The Legal Aid Society*



Information for Current & Prospective Majors

[www.oswego.edu/political-science](http://www.oswego.edu/political-science)

The world is full of problems. In the Department of Politics, faculty and students work together to learn how to make sense of those problems – and make the change we need.

Our faculty specialize in critical, historical, and interdisciplinary approaches to analyzing political issues that matter. From the local to the global, and from the conceptual to the concrete, our expertise covers a wide range of regions, topics, scholarly traditions, and methodologies. As researchers, we believe in bringing the best ideas to light and advancing our shared understandings of power and governance. As teachers, we believe in firmly grounding those ideas and equipping students with the skills needed to build better lives and build better worlds.



*Members of the 2018 Vote Oswego Campaign Team celebrate front page coverage of their National Voter Registration Day event*

Our teaching comprises three primary fields of study: American Politics, Global Politics, and Political Theory. We're committed to offering students a curriculum that moves

across these fields, pursuing diverse and dynamic questions broadly. For example, in recent years we've offered courses focusing on:

- International Feminist Theory
- Race and Racism in the United States
- Climate Change and the Politics of Disaster
- Contemporary Movement Politics
- Law and Popular Culture
- Technological Security and US Foreign Policy
- Voter Mobilization and Civic Engagement
- Superheroes and American Political Culture



*Students at the University of Havana in the Sustainability in Cuba course*

**For more information, contact:**  
**Dr. Allison D. Rank, Chair**  
**[allison.rank@oswego.edu](mailto:allison.rank@oswego.edu)**

As a department we're inspired by deep liberal arts traditions, which means we put critical thinking and communication at the

core of our teaching. Our students will learn the intellectual tools necessary to read, engage, and think alongside scholars while they dig into the substantive public debates they care about. Our students will also improve their ability to communicate, especially with effective writing. Our classes are designed to help you ask questions creatively, and our focus on writing provides the structure to channel your passion into tangible projects.



*Students in Spring 2022 Politics & Literature debut their final creative projects at Pop-Up Minicon in Penfield Library's Lake Effect Cafe*

Our alumni understand that learning to research effectively and write clearly opens doors to further educational and career opportunities. Recent alumni serve in both the careers that immediately spring to mind when you hear “political science” (e.g., lawyers, campaign organizers, and political consultants) and careers you might be less familiar with (e.g., advocacy & government relations, emergency preparedness, grant writing, and sustainability coordinator).