

American Politics and Law, Minor

The Minor in American Politics and Law

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Overview

Sponsored by the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy and Technology (CMIST) (<https://www.cmu.edu/cmist/>), the minor in American Politics and Law is designed to equip students with comprehensive insights into the political and legal landscape of the United States. Our curriculum emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach, blending theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Students have the opportunity to engage with a variety of courses that cover key aspects of American civics, policy development, and legal principles. A core objective of this program is to nurture critical and analytical thinking skills through engagement with primary source materials, real world examples of policy and legal conflicts, and current events and matters of national policy debate. Students are challenged to dissect and debate major policy issues facing the nation, fostering their ability to develop, draft, and articulate informed political analyses and recommendations on complex matters.

Through this minor, students will develop a robust understanding of both the historical and contemporary dynamics of American politics and law. This approach ensures that they not only grasp the fundamentals but also learn to apply this knowledge in real-world scenarios. It provides a gateway to understanding the intricate workings of American governance and law, and a platform for building a career that makes a meaningful impact in society. The skills and objectives learned in the minor provide students from any discipline with core and foundational knowledge that is particularly useful for students entering law school, as well as other potential future careers in policymaking, politics, non-governmental organizations, political analysis, and legislative affairs, at all levels of government. In addition to those aspiring to careers in the public sector or law, the program is also uniquely tailored for students from diverse academic backgrounds seeking to integrate an understanding of American politics, domestic and international law into other disciplines.

Curriculum

Students may double count a maximum of two courses with another major or minor. Unlimited double counting is permitted with general education requirements.

Minor in American Politics and Law 60-63 units

Foundational 18 units

Students must complete all of the following courses:

	Units
84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions	9
84-120 Introduction to US Constitutional Law	9

Communication 6-9 units

Students must complete one of the following courses:

84-250 Writing for Political Science and Policy	9
84-252 Briefing in the Policy World	6

American Politics 18 units

Students must complete 18 units from the following list of courses:

84-280 Popcorn and Politics: American Foreign Policy at the Movies	12
84-301 Policy & Persuasion	6
84-304 Analysis of Current US National Security Priorities	6

84-309 American Political Divides and Great Debates	9
84-319 Civil-Military Relations	9
84-324 The Future of Democracy	9
84-325 Contemporary American Foreign Policy	9
84-327 Who Really Runs America?: Subnational Governance and Policymaking	9
84-328 Military Strategy and Doctrine	9
84-338 Analysis of US Presidential Powers *	6
84-347 Congress & National Security	9
84-352 Representation and Voting Rights	9
84-353 US-China Strategic Stability	6
84-355 Democracy's Data: Analytics and Insights into American Elections	9
84-358 Money, Connections, and Power: Interests and Influence in the US	9
84-365 The Politics of Fake News and Misinformation	9
84-366 The 21st-Century Presidency: Expanding Powers, New Challenges	9
84-367 The Politics of Antisemitism	9
84-380 US Grand Strategy	9
84-393 The US Congress: Legislative Progress or Paralysis?	9
84-402 Judicial Politics and Behavior	9
79-248 U.S. Constitution & the Presidency	9
79-250 Voting Rights: An Introduction	9

Law 18 units

Students must complete 18 units from the following list of courses:

84-285 Introduction to Legal Education and the Legal Profession	9
84-331 Technology, Law, and Democracy	6
84-332 Contemporary US Constitutional Law Issues *	6
84-333 Law of US Democracy	9
84-338 Analysis of US Presidential Powers *	6
84-343 Offensive Cyber: Law & Policy	6
84-345 Hackers, the Law, & Policy Responses	6
84-349 Digital Diplomacy: Cybersecurity Challenges and Global Governance	9
84-373 International Law	9
84-402 Judicial Politics and Behavior	9
17-333 Privacy Policy, Law, and Technology	9
66-221 Topics of Law: Introduction to Intellectual Property Law	9
66-226 Law and Literature	9
70-244 Contract Law and Strategy for Entrepreneurs	6
70-364 Business Law	9
73-408 Law and Economics	9
76-219 Law & Blame	9
76-475 Law, Performance, and Identity	9
79-178 Equality Under the Law	9
79-360 Crime, Policing, and the Law: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	9
88-281 Topics in Law: 1st Amendment	9
88-284 Topics in Law: The Bill of Rights	9

* Denotes courses taught in Washington, DC, through the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP).