

Political Science



As a Westmont political science major, you will 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



WESTMONT
SANTA BARBARA

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



KATHERINE BRYANT, PH.D.

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



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.

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

Tyler Castle '12, earned a bachelor's degree in political science and—most importantly—a Spring Sing title while at Westmont. A former John Jay Institute fellow and intern for Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI), he began as a values and capitalism intern at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a public policy research organization in Washington, D.C., and was later promoted to director of academic programs at AEI.

David Dry '14, a political science graduate, has built a career at the intersection of politics and public policy. After serving as a legislative assistant and campaign staffer on Capitol Hill, he earned a master's degree in public policy from Pepperdine University. He now helps clients navigate legislation at the local, state, and federal levels.

Olivia Reichwald '21, named Outstanding Graduate in Political Science at Westmont, is now pursuing her Juris Doctor at Harvard Law School.



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