



PSPS

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Law Concentration

Course work in the Public Law concentration encourages Political Science majors to focus attention on structural and procedural aspects of our federal court system while also analyzing philosophical and ideological perspectives that have influenced conflicting assessments of the proper role of the Supreme Court in our system of government. Students explore the nature of legal reasoning as well as diverse theories of constitutional interpretation while pursuing in-depth studies within such topical areas as justice and the American trial process, constitutional law, civil liberties, the philosophy of law, the philosophy of punishment, religious liberty, and a complex array of constantly evolving First Amendment issues.

Analysis of the nature and functioning of the American judiciary is essential to understanding our American version of republicanism. As Alexis de Tocqueville observed in *Democracy in America* (1836), “There is hardly a political question in the United States which does not sooner or later turn into a judicial one.” Clearly, court decisions affect nearly all aspects of our political and personal lives since our federal courts, through the exercise of judicial review, are entrusted with assessing the constitutionality of both executive and legislative actions on all levels of American government. Moreover, in recent times, Supreme Court decisions have often defined the limits of contested political and legal rights and civil liberties.

Students enrolled in the Public Law concentration confront such seminal questions regarding our Constitution and judiciary as how did Americans come to possess a Constitution that functions as a “higher law” to which Congress and the President must conform? Is Supreme Court rule-making compatible with democratic rule? Why are federal judges appointed rather than elected? Should judges interpret constitutions in the same manner as they construe statutes? What role, if any, should the federal courts play in facilitating social change? What are the practical outcomes of the supremacy of the Constitution, federal laws and treaties to state laws and constitutions? Should courts protect established legal doctrines, or should such doctrines be subjected to continual scrutiny and revision? Should due process be regarded merely as a procedural concept, or should due process entail substantive rights guarantees? Experienced in textual analysis, with well-practiced written and verbal communication skills, and evidence of analytical expertise, students graduating with a BS in Political Science and a concentration in Public Law are well-equipped to be competitive in law school, the public sector, and judicial administration.

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<http://www.utc.edu/psps>

CLEAR PATH – *Political Science: Public Law, B.S.*

Please see the [Courses](#) section of this catalog for complete course descriptions.

Freshman Year			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Academic Advisor two times each semester. Go to every class. Contact your instructor if you are absent and devote time to your studies. Become actively involved in at least one co-curricular activity. Create your PSPS portfolio and document required items and your best work this year. 			
<i>Fall Semester:</i>	Hrs	<i>Spring Semester:</i>	Hrs
PSPS 1010	3	PSPS 1020	3
PSPS 1000	1	ENGL 1020 or HIST 200	3
ENGL 1010 or 1011	3-4	Non-Western Culture	3
Mathematics	3	FAH: Visual and Performing Arts	3
Behavioral and Social Sciences	3	FAH: Literature	3
FAH: Thought, Values, and Beliefs	3		
	16-17		15
Sophomore Year			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve yourself in learning opportunities that are challenging and relevant. Maintain your PSPS portfolio and document your best work and experiential learning. 			
<i>Fall Semester:</i>	Hrs	<i>Spring Semester:</i>	Hrs
HIST 2010 or ECON 1010	3	HIST 2020 or ECON 1020	3
Approved PSPS directed elective (2000 level)	3	PSPS 2220 or 2230	3
PSPS elective (2000 level)	3	ENGL 2830, 2880, or 3830	3
Statistics	3	HIST 2020 or ECON 1020 or PHIL 2110	3
Natural Sciences with Lab	4	Natural Sciences without Lab	3
	16		15
Junior Year			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in study abroad, leadership opportunities, service learning, civic engagement, internships, research projects, and other learning opportunities. Develop your job or graduate school strategy. Maintain your PSPS portfolio and document your learning inside and outside of the classroom. 			
<i>Fall Semester:</i>	Hrs	<i>Spring Semester:</i>	Hrs
PSPS 3000	3	Approved PSPS directed elective (3000)	3
Approved PSPS directed elective (3000 level)	3	PSPS elective (3000 level) (Theory)	3
PSPS 3010	1	Minor Course	3
Minor Course	3	Minor Course (3000-4000 level)	3
Minor Course	3	Elective	3
Elective	3		
	16		15
Senior Year			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete your portfolio and ensure all required elements are included. Seek additional learning activities aligned with your plans after graduation Implement the job or graduate school strategy you developed during your junior year. Complete your Graduation application with the Records Office. 			
<i>Fall Semester:</i>	Hrs	<i>Spring Semester:</i>	Hrs
Approved PSPS directed elective 4000-level	3	PSPS 4000-level elective	3
PSPS elective 4000-level	3	PSPS elective 4000-level	3
Minor course (3000-4000 level)	3	PSPS elective 4000-level	3
Elective (3000-4000 level)	3	Minor Course (3000-4000 level)	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
	15		15

One PSPS course must be designated theory: PSPS 2051, 2450, 2820, 3052, 3053, 3054, 3055, 4050, 4051, or 4052.