Political science is concerned with the systematic study of government and the political process. Within the discipline, scholars analyze the development, distribution, and uses of political power; determinants and consequences of various forms of political behavior and sources of political conflict; ways in which conflicts are both intensified and resolved; and the relationship between the individual and the state. Political science is a discipline of special interest to scientists and engineers who must understand the political system within which they live in order to evaluate their influence upon that system. It is of interest as well to those students who are considering careers in public service or university teaching and research.

The Department of Political Science has a research-oriented faculty that welcomes both undergraduate and graduate students in ongoing research. The department, which offers degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, covers the fields of American politics and public policy, comparative politics, international relations and foreign policy, and political philosophy and social theory.