



School of Humanities and Sciences
Politics Department

Dear Prospective Student,

As Chair of the Politics Department, I would like to express my appreciation for your interest in our department. These are **interesting** times to be engaged in the study of Politics.

One of the greatest strengths of the Politics Department lies in the interesting variety of courses that we teach. We have an array of courses in a variety of our sub-fields, which include international and comparative politics, political theory, public policy, and U.S. politics. Some of the courses include a core curriculum of courses, as well as courses that are always new and tied to contemporary events, and this makes our department unique.

A quick list of recent courses includes: Africa Through Film; Understanding Capitalism; U.S. Foreign Policy; Constitutional Law; Feminist Theory; Global Political Thought; U.S. Party Politics; Latin American Politics; Terrorism and Insurgencies; Political Implications of the Holocaust; Understanding Islam; Environmental Politics; Global Migration; European Politics; The Politics of U.S. Citizenship; and Global Indigenous Struggles. We offer much in these distinctive areas, and more:

Close work with recognized scholars: Members of the Politics Department are active scholars who integrate ideas that they research and write into their new and evolving courses as well as their daily practices. In the past few years, several members of the department published books with prestigious academic presses, continuing the department's long tradition of serious, creative scholarship. We believe that our department offers students "the best of both worlds"--research and attentive teaching.

Beyond the classroom: The Politics Department offers numerous opportunities to be involved with activities outside of the classroom setting. Members of the department serve as faculty advisers for student organizations such as Amnesty International, Students for Reproductive Rights, Students for a Just Peace, IC Students for Fair Trade, and the African Students Association, Peace Action, and the Committee on Decolonial Affairs. Participation in the Model U.N. Program has been a popular option among students for many years, and also have a Model EU Program. The Mock Trial team combines elements of the law, public speaking, and performance in mock trial competitions with other schools across the region. Members of the Department actively participate in the annual Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival.

Global Curriculum: The Politics Department has more internationally-focused courses than any other department on campus, giving you the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics and places. In addition, we offer International Collaborative courses, an International Politics minor, and a Concentration in International Studies for Politics majors.

Study Abroad: Many of our students take advantage of the numerous study abroad options offered by Ithaca College. Since we strongly believe that studying abroad can be an enriching, if not life-changing experience, we work with students to integrate courses taken abroad into their program of study. Politics students can nearly always use courses taken abroad for fulfillment of major requirements.

Internships: We help facilitate students' placement in an array of internships at the local, state, national, and international levels. Internships earn credit towards the major. Many Politics students enroll in governmental and NGO/advocacy internships in Washington DC; Albany, NY; and New York City. Local internships include: the Office of Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Lama Law Firm, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center. Many students in London have interned in the House of Commons; others who study abroad in Europe have interned at the European Parliament.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, or to set up a meeting. My email is vgagnon@ithaca.edu.

All the best,
Chip Gagnon
Chair and Professor of Politics