Northwestern University's Department of Political Science has 40 full-time faculty studying politics in its many forms. We offer graduate training in the five main sub-fields of political science: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and methods. Our faculty are leaders in their respective fields, with research interests that span sub-fields. We let the questions guide the choice of investigatory method, and encourage students to ask big questions and to incorporate diverse and multiple methods as they study politics in its many forms. We offer a full range of methods and theory training courses, providing our students with the skills they need to think big.

Department of Political Science
601 University Place, Evanston IL 60208

Visit our prospective students webpage for program and application information

Who are we?

Why pursue your doctoral studies at Northwestern?

Adjacent to the city life of Chicago, Northwestern University provides a competitive 5-year funding package. Additional opportunities include:

- The Buffett Institute for Global Studies funds working groups and graduate student research.
- An on-site experimental laboratory and a social science-oriented Masters in Statistics.
- Certificate programs in Comparative Historical Social Sciences, Gender Studies, Religion & Global Politics and Critical Theory.
- Dual degree programs with Northwestern Law School, iCourts at the University of Copenhagen and top French Universities.
- Regional strengths in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.
Research Strengths in Northwestern Political Science

Graduate students are most successful when there is a strong fit between student interest and faculty strengths. We especially encourage applications in areas that correspond with our research strengths. To learn about unique opportunities in our areas of research strength, see the research page of our website.

Big Questions, Diverse Methods

Conflict and Security Studies: International and comparative politics faculty explore the causes and processes driving violence and war around the world.

Political Psychology: American and comparative politics faculty investigate the cognitive and emotional components of political decision-making, using methods ranging from qualitative to experimental.

Law and Politics: American, comparative and international politics faculty research legal and judicial politics in democratic, market, international and authoritarian settings. Northwestern offers a joint JD-PhD, and a dual degree with the Faculty of Law at the University of Copenhagen.

Political Economy: International and comparative politics faculty study inequality, economic policymaking, market globalisation, and economic distribution through analytically and methodologically eclectic approaches.

American Political Development: Our strength in comparative historical studies mixes with a focus on American institutions, encompassing party politics, political behavior and political institutions. Deep interaction with NU’s Sociology department adds strength to our program.

Legal, Critical, and International Theory: Political theory, critical theory, and legal theory intersect to generate inventive perspectives to analyze concepts like sovereignty, citizenship, immigration, international relations, religion, gender, and sexuality.

Historical and Contemporary Political Theory: Interpretations of texts in classical, early modern, late modern, and contemporary political theory as they intersect with problems in contemporary politics.

Law and Politics

American Politics
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Traci Burch
Anthony S. Chen
James N. Druckman
Daniel J. Galvin
Laurel Harbridge
Thomas Ogorzelski
Julie Moreth
Benjamin I. Page
Reuel Rogers
Chloe Thurston
Alvin Bernard Tillery, Jr.
Jeffrey Winters

Comparative Politics
Karen J. Alter
Ana Ajanina
Jordan Gans-Morse
Edward L. Gibson
Richard Joseph
Michael Loriaux
James Mahoney
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