

**University of Dayton
2010-11 Political Science Assessment Data**

Goal #1: During the course of their studies, Political Science graduates will evaluate critically the history, institutions, processes, issues, and questions that give rise to and broadly comprise the contemporary political order.

- Measures:**
1. 100% of graduating seniors will answer either “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” on a Senior Exit Interview to the questions in Part A.
 2. Faculty will submit their course syllabi to the Chair with a brief self-evaluation that maps the requirements for their respective courses against those same questions. The Chair will then construct a matrix that matches the questions and the courses where the material was introduced in whole or in part to the students.

- Results:**
1. Exit Interviews: POL achieved the goal on one question, although strong majorities answered in the affirmative on four of six questions. Results from two questions warrant close consideration: social science research methods and Catholic Social Teaching.
 2. Syllabi review: All of the components were covered by at least five courses, although the extent of coverage afforded in each course likely varies by professor. POL also found that the Catholic Social Teaching component had the thinnest coverage across the POL curriculum. This may explain, at least in part, the senior exit interview data indicating mixed success linking POL course content and Catholic Social Teaching.

Part A: Detailed Senior Exit Interview Results

During the course of my studies, I critically evaluated:

1. The major historical documents, movements, and trends in American political history and thought:

Strongly Agree -16
Agree -18
Not sure
Disagree -2
Strongly Disagree

2. The major institutions of American government like Congress, the Judiciary, the Presidency, and the Bureaucracy:

Strongly Agree -23
Agree -11
Not sure -1
Disagree - 1
Strongly Disagree

3. A significant number of major political issues and questions like those surrounding war and peace, human rights, social justice, civil rights and liberties, wealth and poverty, environmental sustainability, crime and punishment, as well as ethical or moral issues like abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, gay marriage, racism, sexism and so on from multiple perspectives and “sides” of the issue:

Strongly Agree - 22

Agree -13

Not sure - 1

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

4. A majority of the various modes of political participation including voting and public opinion, campaigns and elections, political parties, interest groups and so on:

Strongly Agree - 11

Agree - 20

Not sure - 2

Disagree - 3

Strongly Disagree

5. The statistical and data driven methods of social-scientific analysis of political issues, questions, and phenomena:

Strongly Agree - 4

Agree -19

Not sure -11

Disagree - 2

Strongly Disagree

6. The relationship between all of the above and the body of thought known as Catholic Social Teaching:

Strongly Agree -3

Agree -11

Not sure - 12

Disagree - 10

Strongly Disagree

Results of Preliminary Self-Evaluation of Syllabi Regarding Goal #1	
Component of Goal	Courses that Addresses Goal
Major historical documents, movements, and trends in political history and thought.	101, 201, 214 , 301, 303, 305, 313, 316, 317 , 334, 360, 406, 411, 450
Major institutions of government.	201, 202 , 301, 303, 305, 306, 307, 313, 371, 411, 412
Major political issues and questions, including war and peace, human rights, social justice, civil rights and liberties, wealth and poverty, environmental sustainability, crime and punishment, as well as ethical or moral issues including abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, gay marriage, racism, and sexism from multiple perspectives and sides of an issue.	101, 201, 214 , 300 (NGO), 303, 305, 306, 308, 310, 314, 316, 317 , 318, 333, 334, 340, 360, 371, 406, 412, 450, 452
Majority of the various modes of political participation including voting and public opinion, campaigns and elections, political parties, interest groups and so on.	201, 202, 214 , 301, 303, 310, 311, 314, 318, 340, 360,
Statistical and data driven methods of social-scientific analysis of political issues, questions, and phenomena	201, 202, 207 , 214, 300 (Asian Pol), 301, 303, 306, 308, 310, 311, 313, 314, 318, 334, 340, 360
Relationship between all of the above and the body of thought known as Catholic Social Teaching	214, 316, 317 , 318, 333, 334, 452
Require students to write a substantive research paper (10 pages or more) individually or as part of a team.	207 , 301, 306, 310, 314, 316, 317, 333, 334, 340, 360, 371, 406, 411, 412, 450, 452
Required courses are in bold.	

Goal #2: Political Science graduates will be capable of discussing, evaluating, and thinking creatively about the history, institutions, processes, issues, and/or questions that comprise the contemporary political order.

Measures: 75% of graduating seniors will answer either “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” on the Senior Exit Interview to the questions in **Part B (Reflection)**.

Results: Exit Interview: Achieved on four questions. Failed to achieve on questions concerning social science research methods and Catholic Social Teaching.

Part B: Detailed Results from Senior Exit Interviews

As a result in whole or in part of my study as a Political Science major I am now **capable** of intelligently researching, discussing, evaluating and thinking through alternatives concerning:

1. The major historical documents, movements, and trends in American political history and thought:

Strongly Agree - 22
Agree - 12
Not sure
Disagree - 2
Strongly Disagree

2. The major institutions of American government like Congress, the Judiciary, the Presidency, and the Bureaucracy:

Strongly Agree - 24
Agree - 10
Not sure - 1
Disagree - 1
Strongly Disagree

3. A significant number of major political issues and questions like those surrounding war and peace, human rights, social justice, civil rights and liberties, wealth and poverty, environmental sustainability, crime and punishment, as well as ethical or moral issues like abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, gay marriage, racism, sexism and so on from multiple perspectives and “sides’ of the issue:

Strongly Agree - 25
Agree - 11
Not sure
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

4. A majority of the various modes of political participation including voting and public opinion, campaigns and elections, political parties, interest groups and so on:

Strongly Agree - 16

Agree - 17

Not sure - 1

Disagree - 2

Strongly Disagree

5. The statistical and data driven methods of social-scientific analysis of political issues, questions, and phenomena:

Strongly Agree - 6

Agree - 18

Not sure - 9

Disagree - 3

Strongly Disagree

6. The relationship between all of the above and the body of thought known as Catholic Social Teaching:

Strongly Agree - 5

Agree - 15

Not sure - 9

Disagree - 5

Strongly Disagree - 2

Goal #3: Political Science graduates will follow, discuss, engage with, and participate in politics and the political world.

Measures: 75% of graduating seniors will answer either “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” on the Senior Exit Interview to the questions in **Part C (Habits)**.

Results: Achieved on three questions. Failed to achieve on question concerning Catholic Social Teaching.

Part C: Detailed Results from Senior Exit Interviews

As a result in whole or in part of being a Political Science major I now **regularly**:

1. Follow current political events at the local, state, national and global level through a variety of media sources including books, newspapers, magazines, television, radio and the internet:

Strongly Agree - 23
Agree - 13
Not sure
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

2. Engage in discussions, conversations, and debates on a significant number of major political issues and questions like those surrounding war and peace, human rights, social justice, civil rights and liberties, wealth and poverty, environmental sustainability, crime and punishment, as well as ethical or moral issues like abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, gay marriage, racism, sexism and so on:

Strongly Agree - 27
Agree - 8
Not sure - 1
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

3. Participate in the political system in one or more of the following ways on a regular basis: voting, writing letters to elected officials, working on campaigns for candidates, working on campaigns related to particular policy issues or questions, writing essays or letters for public consumption in the form of newspapers, magazines, blogs, e-mail, participating in rallies, demonstrations, marches, boycotts, or other forms of direct political action:

Strongly Agree - 18
Agree - 14
Not sure - 4
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

4. Reflect on the relationship between my actions and habits and the body of thought known as Catholic Social Teaching:

Strongly Agree - 5

Agree - 11

Not sure - 14

Disagree - 6

Strongly Disagree