Collection Development Policy
Political Science

Subject Librarian: Stephen Craig Finlay

Purpose of policy: The collection development policy for Political Science guides the development and management of the Political Science collection.

Program Description: Courses offered by the Department of Political Science introduce students to the study of government and politics, including an understanding of public affairs, different political systems and political ideas. The program strives to educate citizens who can think critically about politics and its place in their lives and in society; to provide a general liberal-arts education for students continuing on to a wide variety of careers, including public service; and to help prepare those students who choose to continue on to graduate school or law school. Through their coursework, students also come to understand some of the ways in which political scientists study politics, and they learn to express themselves cogently in writing and orally. The department offers both a graduate and undergraduate program.

Areas of established specialization

- United States politics
- Political parties and interest groups
- Constitutional law
- Voting, elections and public opinion
- The American Presidency
- Congress
- Gender and politics
- Racial and ethnic politics in the United States
- Geography
- Pre-law
- Paralegal studies
- Public affairs
- Regional politics (Central America, Latin America, Western Europe, European Union, Russia, China)
- History of political theory and political thought
- Law and public affairs
- Philosophy of political science
- Public policy and public sector relations
- Nonprofit and public management

Changes in user population for most recent five years:

- Increase in online courses
• It was specifically noted that there is an increased need for information literacy given the increase in online delivery of information.

New and expanding areas of interest:

• Civic Engagement, Corporate Citizenship, Digital technology and politics

Degrees Offered/Programs of Study:

• Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
• Minor in political science
• Minor in geography
• Pre-law preparation
• Paralegal studies certificate
• Master of Public Affairs
• Public Affairs Graduate certificate: Public Management; Health Systems Management; Nonprofit Management

Clientele: The primary clientele are the undergraduate students, faculty, and staff of the Political Science Department. Members of the Michiana community may also use the collection.

Scope and Collection Guidelines

The Political Science collection consists of works written for the basic through advanced undergraduate and graduate level, and for basic faculty research.

Formats collected: Scholarly monographs, serials, collections of essays, conference proceedings, videos, and electronic resources are extensively collected.

Formats excluded: Pamphlets, newsletters, article reprints, and required textbooks. Popular and/or journalistic monographs about social issues are selectively collected.

Language: The collection is primarily in English.

Geographic coverage: All geographic areas are covered. For titles with a geographic focus, preference is given to materials relating to the region (Michiana, northern Indiana, and Midwest).

Chronological periods collected: Priority is given to current publications. Older imprints are collected selectively, usually as replacements for classic works, or upon request.

Subject Emphases: See areas of specialization

Current Collecting Priorities: Civic Engagement, Corporate Citizenship, Digital technology and politics
Reference: Reference material for Political Science are selected by the Political Science subject librarian following the general subject parameters of the collection policy.

Interdisciplinary Considerations: Interdisciplinary relationships with philosophy, Latin American Studies, criminal justice, history, economics, social work, sociology, and psychology.

Location: Political Science materials are housed in the Schurz Library. Works specifically about the discipline of political science are classified in J.

- Political science: J
- Philosophy: B
- Law: K
- Criminal Justice: HV
- Social Work: HV
- Economics: HB-HC
- Sociology: HM-HX
- History of the Americas: E, F
- Political history: E183