

## Politics and Sociology Major

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Class of 2018

Coming to Hendrix I knew I was interested in politics. I took politics classes and enjoyed them, so I continued to take more politics classes and ended up declaring a double major in Spanish and politics my sophomore year. For me, the 2016 election has changed the way I view politics as a discipline. Regardless of your political ideology, the outcome of the most recent election came as a shock to most. I really had a hard time explaining the outcome of the election through what I learned in the several politics classes I had taken. Despite this, I was taking a sociology class called Medicine and Culture which I found extremely helpful for understanding this election. While Medicine and Culture may seem not related in any way to the 2016 election, the sociological concepts I learned to apply in the field of medical sociology easily applied to the election. For me, my understanding of politics is now inherently linked to the field of sociology. Culture, identity, race, and inequality are huge sociological concepts that I learned and discussed in detail in Medicine and Culture, and these concepts ended up defining this election. This is not going to be something that changes in the future. Culture, identity, race, and inequality currently define the state of American politics and will for a long time in my opinion.

I am proposing a politics and sociology major so that I can take sociology classes in place of political philosophy classes my senior year. In my politics degree plan I currently lack two political philosophy classes, and if I were to continue being a politics major then I would take these two classes my senior year along with Senior Research Seminar. Being a double major I do not have enough space to take sociology classes and the political philosophy classes. For me I am still very interested in politics; however, I feel like it would be more beneficial for me to

take sociology classes my senior year given my interest to write about the role of inequality and culture in Southern politics for my thesis and also given my post-graduate plans. I plan on going to law school, and am also currently looking at JD/MPH dual degree programs because of my interest in public health, so for me I do not see the political philosophy classes that I would take through the politics major to help me after Hendrix.

The course structure of this interdisciplinary major in many ways takes both from the politics and sociology degree plans. The core for the politics and sociology is made up of introductory courses from both politics and sociology, and entry level research courses from the politics department. Issues in Politics and Introduction to Sociology are both requirements along with Statistical analysis and Normative Research Methods, one of two politics research methods courses available with the other being Empirical Research Methods. Normative Research Methods is based on political theory and it will also act as a theoretical course for the major.

From the politics coursework section The World of Elections, Southern Politics, and Political Economy are all requirements. These classes all come from the politics department, but also discuss sociological topics a little as well such as race/ethnicity and inequality. It is important to note that Analyzing Quality of Government is also a requirement in this section. In the new politics major, research methods has now become a two course sequence in preparation for Senior Research Seminar. There are several analyzing courses which make up the second course in the research sequence and Analyzing Quality of Government was selected here because it seemed the most sociological in nature and also seemed to fit more of my research interests. It is also empirically based which gives me a good background in empirical research, along with the philosophical research from Normative Research Methods.

In the sociology coursework section there are three required courses – Medicine and Culture, Food, Nature, Culture, and Social Change/Social Movements. In this course selection I have already taken Medicine and Culture, and I would take Food, Nature, Culture and Social Change/Social Movements my senior year. These two courses both reflect my interests in public health and sociology when it gets political. For example, Food, Nature, Culture will focus a lot on health and nutrition, but it will also focus on the social influences of this and how food and culture interact with each other. How does race and inequality affect people's health through food and their natural environments? These two sociology courses that I will take my senior year are both sociological and political, and I feel like I will use what I learned from these two classes in whatever I decide to do when I graduate from Hendrix. It is also important to mention here that these two sociology courses will deal quite a bit with social theory, which is good to have in order to mirror the political theory learned from the politics coursework.

The senior capstone will be the same capstone that all politics majors take and that is Senior Research Seminar. In this course I will be writing my own thesis that will be submitted to and graded by the politics department. The sociology major at Hendrix, utilizes both sociology and anthropology for its degree requirements. This interdisciplinary major will be doing much of the same by utilizing two disciplines as well – politics and sociology.

### **Requirements and Course Structure:**

(12 total courses)

#### Core courses:

- POLI 100: Issues in Politics\*
- SOC 110: Introduction to Sociology\*
- MATH 200: Statistical Analysis\*
- POLI 201: Normative Research Methods\*

#### Politics Coursework:

- POLI 341: The World of Elections\*
- POLI 205: Southern Politics\*
- POLI 303: Analyzing Quality of Government\*
- POLI 260: Political Economy\*

Sociology Coursework:

- SOC 380: Medicine and Culture\*
- SOC 340: Food, Nature, Culture
- SOC 360: Social Change/Social Movements

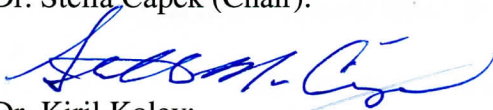
Capstone:

- POLI 497: Senior Research Seminar

(\* indicates a course I have already taken or am currently taking)

**Supervisory Committee:**

Dr. Stella Čapek (Chair):



Dr. Kiril Kolev:



Jordan May:

