Political Science

Political science is the study of political systems and how they function. It has its origins in the fourth century B.C., when Aristotle set out to classify governments. Today it encompasses four major focus areas: International Politics, including the behavior of countries, trade regimes, and theories of war; American Politics, including political parties, interest groups, and legislative, judicial, and executive powers; Comparative Politics, including the nature of democracy and comparison of parliamentary and other political systems; and Political Theory, including philosophical considerations such as what constitutes a good society.

Students of political science gain an understanding of the political nature of the contemporary world, from simple acts such as choosing products as consumers to the complexity of global politics in the information age. As governments and the private sectors of society become more intermingled, political scientists become more valued for their understanding of how both systems work and for their reasoning and analytical skills. Majors in political science are prepared for entry level positions in a variety of fields and for graduate study. Advanced degrees in political science offer the applied skills often necessary for professional advancement.

Note: Good writing and computer skills are essential to political scientists. Students are encouraged to develop their writing skills by taking ENGL 2152 Argument and Exposition, and their computer skills by taking CS 1107 Introduction to Computers.

Programs

- Political Science, B.A. *major*
- Social Studies, B.A. (Political Science Emphasis) *major*
- Applied Public Policy *minor*
- Political Science *minor*

Career Directions

Business
Government
Interest Groups
International Organizations
Journalism
Law
Also: Graduate Study

Preparation

Recommended High School Courses

English

History

Social Studies

Speech

Computers

Languages

Recommended Activities

Reading Newspapers

Attention to News Events

Political Science, B.A. *major*

Required Credits: 42
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)
  or POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)
- POL 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
- POL 4100 Political Inquiry (3 credits)
- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

A. GENERAL

SELECT 12 SEMESTER CREDITS OF GUIDED ELECTIVES FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES NUMBERED ABOVE 3000 WITH CONSENT OF ADVISOR. MAY INCLUDE INTERNSHIP UP TO 4 CREDITS:

SELECT 6 SEMESTER CREDITS OF GUIDED ELECTIVES FROM APPROPRIATE COURSES NUMBERED ABOVE 3000 WITH CONSENT
OF ADVISOR. MAY INCLUDE INTERNSHIP UP TO 4 SEMESTER CREDITS.

Note: A total of up to 8 credits of internship may be taken.

B. PRE-LAW EMPHASIS

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:

- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)

SELECT 15 SEMESTER CREDITS OF GUIDED ELECTIVES FROM APPROPRIATE COURSES NUMBERED ABOVE 3000 WITH CONSENT OF ADVISOR.

SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR, B.A.

The following is a list of required Political Science Major, B.A. courses arranged by year. This schedule is intended to help students plan their courses in an orderly fashion; however, these are only suggestions and this schedule is flexible.

Freshman

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements

Sophomore

- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)
  or POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Electives in Political Science

Junior

- POL 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)
- SOC 3001 Social Statistics (3 credits)
- Liberal Education Requirements
- Electives in Political Science

Senior

- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)
- Electives in Political Science

Social Studies, B.A. *major*
Political Science Emphasis

Required Credits: 48
Required GPA: 2.50

I REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM

CAPSTONE COURSE
COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:

- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

ECONOMICS COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ECON 2000 Markets and Resource Allocation (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Macroeconomics and the Business Cycle (3 credits)

GEOGRAPHY COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- GEOG 2100 Introduction to Physical Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography (3 credits)

GEOGRAPHY COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- GEOG 3410 Geography of North America (3 credits)
- GEOG 3800 Regional Geography (1-3 credits)
- GEOG 3810 Geography of Europe (3 credits)
- GEOG 3820 Geography of East, South, and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- GEOG 3840 Geography of Africa (3 credits)

UPPER DIVISION WORLD HISTORY
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3208 Greece and Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
- HST 3268 The Roman Revolution, 200 BCE-CE 14 (3 credits)
- HST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3449 Middle East (3 credits)
- HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

UPPER DIVISION U.S. HISTORY
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
- HST 2640 United States Diplomatic History (3 credits)
- HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
- HST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Nineteenth-Century America (3 credits)
- HST 3137 Civil War and Reconstruction, 1844-1877 (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3187 American West (3 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
- POL 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
- POL 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)
- POL 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)
- POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)
- POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)
- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)

SOCIOLOGY COURSES
COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 2200 Social Movements and Change (3 credits)
- SOC 3010 Social Theory (3 credits)

II REQUIRED FIELD OF EMPHASIS

SELECT 18 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE.

SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.

The following is suggested for logical and effective scheduling but can be interpreted as flexible for meeting requirements and a student's particular needs. Students should meet with the Social Studies coordinator and advisor as early as possible in their planning.

Freshman - Sophomore

- Geography and History constitute the "matrix" of Social Studies and students should complete required core courses in these subjects first.
- Complete Liberal Education requirements

Junior-Senior

- Complete remaining core course requirements and courses for area of emphasis.
- Complete Professional Education courses
- Students pursuing the B.S. Teacher Licensure in Social Studies should complete GEOG 3460 no sooner than their junior year, preferably just prior to their student teaching.

Applied Public Policy *minor*

Required Credits: 32
Required GPA: 2.00

I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ECON 2000 Markets and Resource Allocation (3 credits)
- ECON 3010 Public Economics (3 credits)
- ECON 3230 Benefit/Cost Analysis (3 credits)
- GEOG 2400 Introduction to Planning (3 credits)
- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)

II REQUIRED OPTION

SELECT 12 SEMESTER CREDITS FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

A.ENVR POLICY:

- GEOG 3560 Metropolitan Land Use Planning (3 credits)
- POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)
- SOC 3050 Environmental Sociology (3 credits)
- ECON 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)
  or ENVR 3040 Environmental Economics (3 credits)

B. PLANNING:

- GEOG 2100 Introduction to Physical Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 3570 Public Lands Planning (3 credits)
- GEOG 3560 Metropolitan Land Use Planning (3 credits)
- GEOG 3580 Regional Development Planning (3 credits)

C. AM POL/ECON:

- ECON 2100 Macroeconomics and the Business Cycle (3 credits)
- ECON 3070 Labor Economics (3 credits)
- ECON 3200 Economics of the Financial Sector (3 credits)
- POL 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)

D.INT/POL/ECON:

- ECON 2100 Macroeconomics and the Business Cycle (3 credits)
- ECON 3400 International Trade and Finance (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)

E. PUBLIC POLICY SERVICE LEARNING
COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE. (1 credit per semester; must be taken twice, but no more than 4 credits total)

- POL 3910 Directed Independent Study: Student Leadership (1 credit)

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:

- POL 3970 Internship (3 credits)

Political Science *minor*

Multiple Credentials
Any additional major, minor or certificate in a degree must have at least 6 credits of course work not used to meet the requirements of another major, minor or certificate in the degree.

Required Credits: 24
Required GPA: 2.00

REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)
  or POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

GUIDED ELECTIVES

SELECT 12 SEMESTER CREDITS FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES NUMBERED ABOVE 3000 WITH CONSENT OF ADVISOR.
MAY INCLUDE INTERNSHIP UP TO 4 CREDITS.

Political Science Courses

POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
An introduction to the basic ideologies, concepts, processes and institutions of modern government and politics. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 9.

POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
An introductory survey to the institutions and actors, such as the media, interest groups, political parties, congress, and presidency of contemporary American government and politics. Liberal Education Goal Area 5 & 9.

POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
Surveys various theories explaining the behavior of nation-states, the causes of war and peace as well as the role of multinational corporations and international organizations in international politics. Liberal Education Goal Areas 8 & 9.

POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
A comparative analysis of political systems and their functions in the context of unique cultures and histories. Liberal Education Goal Area 8.

POL 1500 Mock Trial (1 credit)
Through engaging in trial simulations in competition with teams from other institutions, students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as knowledge of legal practices and procedures.

POL 2925 People and the Environment: Political Science Perspective (3 credits)
An introduction to political processes and institutions involved in making environmental policy. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

POL 2953 Study-Travel, History and the Social and Behaviorial Sciences (1-6 credits)
Study Travel course in Political Science for Lib Ed Goal Area 5.

POL 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
Traces the development of American foreign policy: its objectives, limitations, domestic and international factors influencing foreign policy. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
Course investigates the unique political and economic challenges facing the countries of Asia and South Asia. Prerequisite: POL 1400. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3140 Canadian Politics (3 credits)
Explanation of Canada's history, political and economic systems, and regional variations within the nation-state. Special attention to political parties, ideologies, policy processes, and outcomes. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)
Course explores underlying political dimensions of topical issues. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
Course includes an analysis of political structures and processes in Europe. The mechanisms of parliamentary governments, political parties, interest groups and ideologies are included. Prerequisite: POL 1400. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
The study of conflict and cooperation in international relations, the foreign policies of the great powers, international organizations, and the United Nations. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
Explores the role of international organizations such as the United Nations, economic alliances, international law, and regional consolidation in international politics. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)
Analyzes how economic policy decisions are made within and between countries and the effect those decisions have on affected interests in domestic and international politics. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
Using Minnesota politics as a central focus, the role of and function of state and local governments in the context of American federalism is examined. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)
An introduction to the field of public administration. Emphasis is on the political dimensions of management in the public sector. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)
Surveys the dynamics of the policy process that produce our environmental policies. An analysis of actors, institutions, and organizations that shape U.S. environmental law and policy. Prerequisite: POL 1200 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)
Examines the application of political science research methodology to current questions of politics and public policy. Prerequisite: Completion of Core Curriculum mathematics requirement (Goal Area 4) or consent of instructor.

POL 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
This course surveys the development of western political thought. Included is an examination of some of the ideas and values associated with major social and political movements in Europe and the United States. Topics will vary and may include liberalism, conservatism, populism, democracy, communism, nationalism, fascism, environmentalism, realism, and feminism. POL 1100 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)
Explores the legislative process by analyzing the motives and evolving legislative styles of legislators in relation to the evolution and powers of the modern presidency and executive establishment. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)
Includes analysis of the congressional and presidential electoral process, including the role of political parties, interest groups, and the media. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 3910 Directed Independent Study: Student Leadership (1 credit)
Directed Independent Study

POL 3970 Internship (3 credits)
Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only. Student internships may be either full-time or part-time in a public or private agency appropriate to the degree objective. Internships consist of closely supervised periods of service that are arranged in advance of the course registration. Students should consult their advisor concerning prerequisites.

POL 4100 Political Inquiry (3 credits)
Students will learn the theory and practice of quantitative political analysis through the completion of original research projects. Prerequisites: POL 3240.

POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)
An examination of legal interpretations of the constitution regarding the separation of powers and the Bill of Rights. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)
This is a senior year capstone course. In a seminar format, students discuss progress on their individual research projects and develop career plans and skills. Prerequisite: POL 4100 or consent of instructor.

All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY
1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE
1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE
1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR
1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION
1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP
1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH
1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS