



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 communication and computer skills are essential to political scientists. Students are encouraged to develop their communication skills by taking ENGL 3150 Writing in the Disciplines and COMM 1100 Public Speaking and to develop their computer skills by taking BUSN 2280 Computer Business Applications.

Programs

- Political Science, B.A. *major*
- Social Studies, B.A. (Political Science Emphasis) *major*
- International Relations *minor*
- Political Science *minor*
- Public and Non-Profit Management *cert*

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 Diverse News Sources
 Attention to News Events
 Civic Engagement

Political Science, B.A. *major*

A total of 120 semester credits are needed for the **Political Science B.A.** degree and include the following:

- Completion of a minimum of 40 upper division credits (level 3000/4000)
- Completion of all required major credits
- Completion of Core Curriculum credits (Minnesota Transfer Curriculum [MnTC] Goal Areas 1-10 with a minimum of 40 credits) required for all baccalaureate degrees
- Completion of BSU Focus and Nisidotaading Course Requirements

Dual Degrees

Students wishing to complete two degrees concurrently, (example: Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts) must complete a minimum of an additional 30 credits above the required 120 credits.

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: 42

Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- POLS 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POLS 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
- POLS 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

A. GENERAL

Select 21 semester credits of guided electives from Political Science courses numbered above 3000 with consent of advisor:

Complete one of the following courses:

- COMM 3000 Applied Research Methods (3 credits)
- CJST 3201 Research Methods and Statistics for Criminal Justice (3 credits)
- PSYC 3401 Basic Statistics for Research (4 credits)
- SOCI 3001 Quantitative Research Methods in the Social Sciences (3 credits)
- STAT 2610 Applied Statistics (4 credits)

B. PRE-LAW EMPHASIS

Complete the following courses:

- POLS 2800 Introduction to Law and Law School (3 credits)
or POL 2800
- POLS 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)
- POLS 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
or POL 3200
- POLS 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)

Select 18 semester credits of guided electives from appropriate courses numbered above 3000 with consent of advisor. Up to 6 credits from law school early admission programs and/or from pre-law partners may be applied here subject to program approval.

Program Learning Outcomes | Political Science, B.A.

1. An understanding of American government and politics: Students will be able to develop an in depth understanding of American governmental institutions and policy-making processes; with an appreciation of the role of the citizen and the motivations of public officials.
2. Develop thinking, leadership and communication skills: Students will be able to develop student abilities in critical thinking, analytical reasoning, leadership, writing, presentation, and research.
3. Effectively present paper to college community: Students will be able to effectively present their senior paper in a roundtable or panel format to the college community.
4. Evaluate political beliefs and tolerance of diversity: Enable students to evaluate political structures in terms of their beliefs about the proper relationship between the individual and the state. To encourage students to appreciate the diversity of political perspective, and to encourage understanding and tolerance of differing point of view.
5. Evaluating politics from a comparative perspective: Enable student to evaluate differing governmental systems and policy outputs from a comparative perspective.
6. Foundation for career, learning and participation: Student will be able to provide the foundations for a career in the public or private sector and for a lifetime of learning and participation in politics.
7. Produce a quality senior paper: Students will be able to write a senior paper of approximately 20 pages that is tightly focused, persuasive, well documented and clearly presented. The papers should contain an abstract, literature review, original analysis, and a discussion and conclusion.
8. Students should participate in politics: Student will be able to participate in politics in some form either on or off campus either for credit or not. (e.g., Model UN, Student government, political campaigning, community volunteer work, internship, etc.)
9. Understand and utilize research methodologies: Students will be able to understand and utilize the major research methodologies of the discipline.
10. Understand theories explaining international actors: Students will be able to understand the various theories useful in explaining the behavior of nation-states and other international actors.

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

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

Sophomore

- POLS 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Electives in Political Science

Junior

- POLS 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)
- POLS 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
- Liberal Education Requirements
- Electives in Political Science
- Courses needed for minor

Senior

- POLS 4100 Political Inquiry (3 credits)
- POLS 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)
- Electives in Political Science
- Courses needed for minor

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

A total of 120 semester credits are needed for the **Social Studies, Political Science emphasis B.A.** degree and include the following:

- Completion of a minimum of 40 upper division credits (level 3000/4000)
- Completion of all required major credits
- Completion of Core Curriculum credits (Minnesota Transfer Curriculum [MnTC] Goal Areas 1-10 with a minimum of 40 credits) required for all baccalaureate degrees
- Completion of BSU Focus and Nisidotaading Course Requirements

Dual Degrees

Students wishing to complete two degrees concurrently, (example: Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts) must complete a minimum of an additional 30 credits above the required 120 credits.

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: 48

Required GPA: 2.50

Note: A minimum of 22 semester credits used to meet course requirements in I and II must be completed at Bemidji State University. No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.50 in this major is required for graduation. Students who desire a second field of emphasis are to consider a completion of a minor or a second major in that field. Such action may complement and increase the marketability of this major.

I REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM

CAPSTONE COURSE

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:

- POLS 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

ECONOMICS COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (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)

WORLD HISTORY

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HIST 2219 Medieval European Culture (3 credits)
- HIST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HIST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HIST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HIST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HIST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HIST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HIST 3208 Greece and Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HIST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HIST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HIST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

U.S. HISTORY

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HIST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HIST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
- HIST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HIST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
- HIST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Antebellum America, 1787-1865 (3 credits)
- HIST 3137 The American Civil War (3 credits)
- HIST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HIST 3187 American West (3 credits)

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

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

SOCIOLOGY COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOCI 3010 Sociological Theory (3 credits)
- SOCI 3210 Social Movements - How to Change the World (3 credits)

II REQUIRED FIELD OF EMPHASIS

SELECT 18 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE:

International Relations *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: 18

Required GPA: 2.00

I REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- POLS 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POLS 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

II ELECTIVE CREDITS

Elective credits, you must complete 12 credits from groups A and B, with at least 3 coming from group B.

Group A: Political Science Electives (at least 6 credits)

- POLS 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
- POLS 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
- POLS 3140 Canadian Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POLS 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POLS 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)

Group B: Other Electives (at least 3 credits)

- ANTH 1110 Cultural Anthropology (3 credits)
- BUSN 3751 International Marketing (3 credits)
- COMM 1090 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
- ECON 3400 International Trade and Finance (3 credits)
- ENGL 2357 British Literature to 1800 (3 credits)
- ENGL 2358 Diverse British Literatures from 1800 to Present (3 credits)
- ENGL 2370 World Literature to 1600 (3 credits)
- ENGL 2377 World Literature from 1600 to Present (3 credits)
- GEOG 1400 World Regional Geography (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)
- GEOG 3850 Geography of the Middle East (3 credits)
- GEOG 3860 Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean (3 credits)
- GEOG 3870 Planning for Sustainable Cities (3 credits)
- HIST 1304 World History, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
- HIST 1305 World History, 1500-Present (3 credits)
- HIST 2219 Medieval European Culture (3 credits)
- HIST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HIST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HIST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HIST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HIST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HIST 3208 Greece and Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HIST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HIST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HIST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)
- HIST 3799 Tudor and Stuart England, 1485-1714 (3 credits)
- INTL 1130 Education Abroad Basics (3 credits)
- INTL 2100 Instructed International Tour (1-3 credits)
- INTL 2200 International Study Experience - Humanities (1-3 credits)
- INTL 2300 Comparative International Study Project (1-3 credits)
- SOWK 2110 Intercultural Communication (3 credits)
- SPAN 1111 Elementary Spanish I (4 credits)
- SPAN 1112 Elementary Spanish II (4 credits)
- SPAN 2211 Intermediate Spanish I (3 credits)
- SPAN 2212 Intermediate Spanish II (4 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 POLS 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POLS 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.

Public and Non-Profit Management *cert*

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: 18

Required GPA: 2.50

Admission requirement: Sophomore status or prior work experience in the non-profit or public section. See program coordinator for additional details.

I REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- POLS 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
or POLS 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POLS 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)
or INDS 4000 Nation Building and Leadership (3 credits)
- POLS 3310 Intersection of Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3 credits)
- POLS 3320 Non-Profit Management (3 credits)
- POLS 3330 Non-Profit Financial Management (3 credits)

Complete one of the following for 3 credits:

- POLS 3940 In-Service Course (3 credits)
- POLS 3970 Internship (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970 Internship (6-12 credits)

Political Science Courses

POLS 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)

An introduction to the basic ideologies, concepts, processes and institutions of modern government and politics. [Core Curriculum Goal Areas 6 & 9]

POLS 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. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 7B]

POLS 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. [Core Curriculum Goal Areas 8 & 9]

POLS 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

A comparative analysis of political systems and their functions in the context of unique cultures and histories. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 7A & 8]

POLS 2800 Introduction to Law and Law School (3 credits)

Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of law and society as well as introducing students to the process of entering the legal profession. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 9]

POLS 2925 People of 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.

POLS 2953 Study-Travel, History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences (1-6 credits)

Study Travel course in Political Science.

POLS 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)

Traces the development of American foreign policy: its objectives, limitations, domestic and international factors influencing foreign policy. Prerequisite(s): POLS 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)

Course investigates the unique political and economic challenges facing the countries of Asia and South Asia. Prerequisite: POLS 1400. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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.)

POLS 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)

Course explores underlying political dimensions of topical issues. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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: POLS 1400. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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: POLS 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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: POLS 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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: POLS 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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. (Might not be offered every year.) [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 9]

POLS 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(s): POLS 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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(s): POLS 1200 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)

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

POLS 3310 Intersection of Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3 credits)

Studies federal, state and local agency policy domains and interactions; government agency grant making policies and procedures, ideological and partisan views of the public and non-profit sectors. Prerequisite(s): none.

POLS 3320 Non-Profit Management (3 credits)

This course deepens students' understanding of the role of management and leadership in today's nonprofit sector. Topics covered include: the responsibilities and challenges facing today's non-profit managers, the role of the board of directors, planning, funding and staffing programs, financial accountability, and ethical decision making. Prerequisite(s): none.

POLS 3330 Non-Profit Financial Management (3 credits)

This course examines the critical financial considerations of nonprofit organization, including sources of funds and fundraising, grant writing and management and financial accountability. The students will consider the key financial measures and strategies required to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the organization. The course will also consider nonprofit financial statements as indicators of financial health and sound management. Prerequisite(s): none.

POLS 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. Prerequisite(s): POLS 1100 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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(s): POLS 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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(s): POLS 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

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

Directed Independent Study

POLS 3940 In-Service Course (3 credits)

A course for practitioners seeking additional training or expertise in their current vocation or profession. The in-service format typically includes an educational experience in which a University faculty member and a group of students concentrate on working toward the resolution of a specific problem.

POLS 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.

POLS 4100 Political Inquiry (3 credits)

Students will learn the theory and practice of quantitative political analysis through the completion of original research projects. Prerequisite(s): None.

POLS 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)

An examination of legal interpretations of the constitution regarding the separation of powers and the Bill of Rights. Prerequisite(s): POLS 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

POLS 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(s): POLS 4100 or consent of instructor.

POLS 4917 DIS Tchg Assoc | (1-2 credits)

Directed Independent Study | Teaching Associate

POLS 4970 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.

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