

Political Science

Chair, Professor S. Hoffmann
Professor P. Loy

Political Science examines the structure and processes of government, contrasting philosophies about how government should be ordered, as well as various opinions about what policies government should pursue and by what means.

Politics is present in all organizations. Public policy affects most areas of life, and knowledge of how the political process actually works is crucial for anyone who seeks to influence public life as a leader or ordinary citizen. Students majoring in political science often combine political science with another major or minor. An undergraduate major in political science is an especially strong foundation for law school and graduate programs in public and international affairs. Because government and politics affect many areas of society, it can also be a good foundation for such graduate programs as seminary and business school.

Political Science (BA)

The bachelor of arts degree with a major in political science requires two years of sequential study in one foreign language and a minimum of 32 hours.

Major Requirements

POS 100	3	American Politics
POS 211	3	World Politics
POS 232	3	Political Thinking
POS 361	3	Political Philosophy
POS 451	2	Senior Paper

Select one course from the following:

POS 222	3	Comparative Politics
POS 321	3	Modern Middle East

Select one course from the following:

POS 312	3	Political Behavior
POS 331	3	Public Policy
POS 345	3	Congress and the Presidency

Electives

Select 12 hours of political science electives or American Studies Program (see Off-Campus/International Studies Programs) courses.

Students planning to go on to graduate work in political science should also take SOC 250, 350, and 355 to gain a strong foundation in the methodology of social research as well as POS 450 (3-4 hrs) to deepen their knowledge of the scholarly literature in their field of interest.

Political Science/Systems (BS)

The bachelor of science degree with a major in political science/systems consists of the 32-hour major and curriculum requirements in systems analysis. All systems curriculum courses must be completed with a grade of C- or better.

Systems Curriculum Requirements

COS 120	4	Introduction to Computer Science I
IAS 330	3	Human Relations in Organizations
MAT 151	4	Calculus I
MAT 382	3	Advanced Statistical Methods
SYS 101	3	Introduction to Systems
SYS 390	3	Information Systems Analysis
SYS 392	1	Systems Seminar
SYS 394	3	Information Systems Design
POS 393	3-4	Practicum

Select one course from the following:

COS 121	4	Introduction to Computer Science II
COS 240	3	Business Application Programming

Select one course from the following:

MAT 210	4	Introductory Statistics
MAT 352	4	Mathematical Statistics

Select one course from the following:

*SYS 401	4	Operations Research
*SYS 402	4	Modeling and Simulation

Systems Electives

Select at least three hours of electives, in addition to those required in the major or systems.

COS 265	3	Data Structures and Algorithms
COS 382	3	Language Structures
MAT 230	4	Calculus II
MAT 240	4	Calculus III
MAT 245	4	Linear Algebra
MAT 251	4	Differential Equations
SYS 214	3	Principles of Human Computer Interaction
SYS 310	3	E-Commerce
*SYS 401	4	Operations Research
*SYS 402	4	Modeling and Simulation
SYS 403	3	Operations Management

*Courses in both areas may count only once.

Political Science Minor

A minor in political science consists of 18 hours.

Minor Requirements

POS 361	3	Political Philosophy
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Electives

Select at least 15 hours of political science electives.

Eight hours from the American Studies Program may also be used toward minor hours.

Pre-Law Program

Advisor, Professor P. Loy

The best preparation for graduate training in the field of law is a regular four-year college academic program leading to the bachelor of arts degree. The student's major, chosen in consultation with the pre-law advisor, should be one that enhances reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Normally, the courses are taken during the junior or senior years. If, however, the student plans to participate in an off-campus program, such as the American Studies Program, it may be necessary to take one or two of the courses during the sophomore year. Students should consult with their academic advisors or the pre-law advisor about the best time to take pre-law courses.

Pre-Law Minor

As a supplement to their major, students may opt for a pre-law minor which consists of 18 hours.

Minor Requirements

CAS 331	3	Team-based Communication
MGT 311	3	Business Law
POS 385	3	American Constitutional Development: Institutional Powers
POS 386	3	American Constitutional Development: Civil Rights Liberties
PRL 441	3	Legal Studies
PRL 442	3	Legal Thought

Political Science Courses

POS 100 3 hours

American Politics

Primary emphasis is given to the relationship between the theories and ideals of democracy and the actual practice of making and implementing policy. The course considers the constitutional system, as well as the institutions of American government. *Meets general education civic engagement or general social science requirements. Offered fall semester.*

POS 170 1-4 hours

Selected Topics

A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.*

POS 211 3 hours

World Politics

Surveys the development of the international political system and the relations among nation-states, international organizations and other entities. Gives special attention to war, conflict resolution, and international law. *Meets general education civic engagement or general social science requirements.*

POS 213 3 hours

International Political Economy

Examines trade, development and environmental protection as issues involving both states and non-state actors in world politics. Uses case studies to consider the relationship between Christian ethics and the wealth and poverty of nations. *Meets general education civic engagement or general social science requirements. Offered spring semester.*

POS 222 3 hours

Comparative Politics

Studies political institutions and processes in selected countries. Focuses on political culture, democracy, and factors affecting how well governments function. *Meets general social science requirement. Offered fall semester of even years.*

POS 232 3 hours

Political Thinking

Introduces students to central concepts and theories of politics and engages students in critical analysis of those concepts and theories. Special consideration is given to key works on the integration of Christianity and politics. *Offered spring semester.*

POS 270 1-4 hours

Selected Topics

A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.*

POS 312 3 hours

Political Behavior

A description and examination of the voting behavior of the American people and opinions about candidates, political parties and public policy. Some attention is also given to the formation of public opinion in a democratic polity. *Meets general social science requirement. Offered spring semester of odd years.*

POS 321 3 hours

Modern Middle East

A political history of Southwest Asia and North Africa in the 20th century. Special attention is given to the variety of governments in the region, Islam and politics and domestic and international conflict. *Offered spring semester.*

POS 325 3 hours

American Foreign Policy

Uses case studies of major events in U.S. foreign relations since World War II to consider the relationship between morality and politics. Includes an overview of the process of making and implementing foreign policy within the U.S. government. *Offered fall semester of odd years.*

POS 331 3 hours

Public Policy

An extensive examination of the interaction between Congress and the Presidency in making public policy. The course focuses on major theories of public policy and examines governmental policy-making from these perspectives. *Meets civic engagement or general social science requirement. Offered fall semester.*

POS 345 3 hours

Congress and the Presidency

Studies congressional processes such as leadership, committees and rules and the role of the President in American politics. Special emphasis is given to the interaction between Congress and the President in formulating public policy. *Offered spring semester of even years.*

POS 360 1-4 hours

Independent Study

An individualized, directed study involving a specified topic.

POS 361 3 hours

Political Philosophy

A survey of major thinkers from Plato to the present through discussion of perennial issues such as individualism and community, liberty and equality and governmental power. *Offered fall semester.*

POS 362 3 hours
Christian Political Thought
A seminar based on the discussion of major works by such Christian political philosophers as Niebuhr, Tindler, and Hauerwas. Offered January interterm.

POS 370 1-4 hours
Selected Topics
A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.

POS 385 3 hours
American Constitutional Development: Institutional Powers
Considers the development of judicial review in relation to the powers of the President and Congress. Focuses on judicial interpretations of the commerce and taxing clauses, as well as state powers under the due process clause of the 14th Amendment. Offered fall semester.

POS 386 3 hours
American Constitutional Development: Civil Rights Liberties
Focus is on the Bill of Rights and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. Considers such topics as freedoms of speech, press and religion, the civil rights movement and the controversy over privacy rights. Offered spring semester.

POS 393 1-4 hours
Practicum
Supervised learning involving a first-hand field experience or a project. Generally, one hour of credit is awarded for a minimum of 40 hours of practicum experience. Offered primarily during summer.

POS 450 1-4 hours
Directed Research
Advanced work under the supervision of a professor in connection with a special project or to enhance preparation for graduate work.

POS 451 2 hours
Senior Paper
A journal-length analytical research paper based on scholarship in the field that is related to the student's chosen topic. Fulfills the senior comprehensive requirement.

POS 480 3 hours
Seminar
A limited-enrollment course designed especially for upper-class majors with emphasis on directed readings and discussion.

POS 490 1-2 hours
Honors
Individualized study or research of an advanced topic within a student's major. Open to students with a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the major field.

Pre-Law Courses

PRL 170 1-4 hours
Selected Topics
A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.

PRL 270 1-4 hours
Selected Topics
A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.

PRL 360 1-4 hours
Independent Study
An individualized, directed study involving a specified topic.

PRL 370 1-4 hours
Selected Topics
A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.

PRL 393 1-4 hours
Practicum
Supervised learning involving a first-hand field experience or a project. Generally, one hour of credit is awarded for a minimum of 40 hours of practicum experience. Offered primarily during summer.

PRL 441 3 hours
Legal Studies
Taught by an attorney, this course is designed for those who expect to attend law school. Students gain experience with the writing, reading and critical thought levels expected of all law students.

PRL 442 3 hours
Legal Thought
An overview of ancient, modern, and contemporary theories of the law. The course explores the nature of law and its relationship to politics, morality and ethics. Prerequisite: MGT 311 or permission of instructor.

PRL 450 1-4 hours
Directed Research
Investigative learning involving closely directed research and the use of such facilities as the library or laboratory.

PRL 480 3 hours
Seminar
A limited-enrollment course designed especially for upper-class majors with emphasis on directed readings and discussion.

PRL 490 1-2 hours
Honors
Individualized study or research of an advanced topic within a student's major. Open to students with a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the major field.