

Political Science

Contact Person: Robert J. Phillips, Ph.D.

Requirements for Political Science Major Bachelor of Arts Degree

Upon completion of the Political Science program, students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Display familiarity with the basic concepts of government and politics.
2. Show a general knowledge of the structure and functions of all levels of government.
3. Explain the philosophical underpinnings of various forms of government, as well as an ability to understand relations among states.
4. View and evaluate the output of the current American political process through a conscious paradigm.
5. Employ a variety of tools to participate at all levels in American politics as opposed to remaining passive observers.

Political Science Majors must complete the following social science core, in addition to completing core curriculum requirements:

POS 110	American Political Process	(3 crs)
INS 111	World Community	(3 crs)
SSC 327	Research Methods	(3 crs)
SSC 415	Statistical Analysis	(3 crs)
SSC 488	Senior Thesis	(3 crs)
SSC 489	Senior Seminar	(3 crs)
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		(18 crs)

In addition to completing the core curriculum and social science core requirements (including senior thesis and seminar and the comprehensive oral examination in SSC 488, 489), all political science majors must complete the following courses:

POS 211	Comparative Politics	(3 crs)
POS 212	Global Politics	(3 crs)
POS 346 or 348	Ancient or Modern Political Thought	(3 crs)
	Five (5) Approved POS Electives	(15 crs)
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		(24 crs)

One course must be taken from each of the following areas:

American Politics: POS 241, POS 242, POS 329, POS 330, POS 340, POS 305, POS 306, POS 473.

International Relations: POS 228, POS 311, POS 316, POS 327, POS 333, POS 334, POS 341.

Political Theory: POS 250, POS 311, POS 346.

Requirements for Political Science Minor

Minors in political science must complete POS 110, INS 111 and five upper-division courses (numbered 200 or above).

Special Note on Double Majors:

In addition to complying with University rules regarding double majors (see p. 16 of this catalog), students completing a double major between criminal justice and political science must write two senior theses.

Special Note on Elective:

The department's contact person must approve the political science elective. The following courses from other disciplines may also satisfy the requirement: CRJ 327 (Comparative Systems of Justice and Social Control), HIS 228 (Latin America in the 20th Century), HIS 250 (Revolution and Ideology), HIS 316 (Rise of the United States as a World Power), HIS 331 (Modern Russia), PHI 347 (Medieval Political Thought), PHI 349 (Contemporary Political Thought), RST 310 (Catholicism and Modernity) and WST 355.

Course Descriptions

POS 110 American Political Process (3 crs)

Operations of the American government and their consequences for the population. Policies on management of the economy, defense and foreign policy, poverty, race relations. Roles of the Presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, courts. Nature of elite and mass political ideas and opinions.

POS 211 Comparative Politics (3 crs)

An introduction to comparative politics as an approach and as a body of knowledge. Several aspects of various selected foreign systems will be compared (such as governments, political parties, interest groups, political culture, etc.).

POS 212 Global Politics (3 crs)

This course serves as an introduction to the study of global politics. Different approaches of studying the relations between countries; the forces that motivate countries (nationalism, ideology, etc.); and the instruments available to them (power, international law, etc.) will be discussed. The politics of global issues such as human rights, the environment, population growth and free trade will also be considered. It is recommended that this course be taken prior to other 300-level international relation courses.

POS 228 Latin America in the 20th Century (3 crs)

An examination of Latin America from 1880 to the present. The focus will be on the problems that Latin American countries have encountered in their struggle for economic and political development. Social and cultural aspects of the region will also be examined. Several countries will be selected for in-depth analysis.

POS 241 Public Policy (3 crs)

This course will explore the policy making process in the United States. It will examine how the agendas of policy makers are set, how the policy is formulated and how it is implemented. It will also question who benefits from the policy making process. Topical issues of national policy will be used to illustrate the process. Prerequisite: POS 110.

POS 242 State and Local Government (3 crs)

This course will examine the structure and functions of government at the state and local level. It will compare and contrast the various types of governments that exist across the United States. It will also examine the intergovernmental relationships between the localities, the states and the national government. Prerequisite: POS 110.

POS 305 The American Presidency (3 crs)

This course will examine the highest political office in the United States of America. Is the President the most powerful person in the world, or is he relatively powerless, depending on other branches of the government to voluntarily do as he wishes? How does a President affect policy? What type of individual makes a good President? The course will focus on six major areas of concern: 1) Presidential Selection; 2) Presidential Power; 3) Presidential Accountability; 4) Presidential Decision-Making; 5) Presidential Character; and 6) Presidential Leadership. Prerequisite: POS 110.

POS 306 The American Congress (3 crs)

This course will examine the development and contemporary workings of the US Congress. It will dissect Congress, looking at its component parts (party leadership, committees, staff), and its internal decision-making process. It will explore Congressional relations with other actors in the policy-making process (interest groups, constituents, the President, executive agencies). It will examine how the structure of the institution, and the incentives provided to its members, greatly impact on how government affects our daily lives. Prerequisite: POS 110.

POS 311 War & Peace: Philosophical & Political Issues (3 crs)

An examination of various issues related to war and peace. The focus will be on three general issues: the causes of war; theories of war-avoidance; and various moral questions (i.e., just war, non-violent strategies, etc.).

POS 329 Constitutional Law (3 crs)

Examines the evolution of American national government through the development and interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. Judicial review, separation of powers, commerce power, contracts, taxing, the power to make war and due process are among the topics studied. Prerequisite: POS 110.

POS 330 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (3 crs)

A companion course to Constitutional Law (POS 329), this course analysis Bill of Rights guarantees of individual freedom, due process and equal protection interpretations, as well as modern policies flowing from civil rights legislation in areas affecting employment, education and welfare benefits.

POS 333 Global Political Economy (3 crs)

This course focuses on the intersection between politics and economics. Different schools of thought (liberalism, marxism, mercantilism) will be examined in detail. Additional attention is given to free trade and its critics, the global political economy of the environment, food, the newly industrialized countries and North-South relations. Recommended prerequisite: POS 212.

POS 334 International Organization (3 crs)

The historical development of international organizations, their organizational structure and the inherent political processes will be examined. The impact of international organizations on global issues such as conflict, economics, human rights, global resources, population will also be considered. Special attention is given to the United Nations. Recommended prerequisite: POS 212.

POLITICAL SCIENCE - Recommended Course Sequence								
	Freshman		Sophomore		Junior		Senior	
FALL	FYS 101	1	RST 106/107	3	PHI 105	3	PHI/RST 305	3
	MOL Core	3	POS 212	3	POS Electives	6	Electives	6
	POS 110	3	POS Elective	3	FAS 20x	2	SSC 415/488	6
	ENG 105/110	3	SSC Core	3	POS 346/348	3		
	MAT Core	3	Elective	3				
	HIS 110	3						
	Semester total	16		15		14		15
SPRING	MOL Core	3	SCI Core	3	SCI Core	3	POS Theory Elective	3
	HIS 120	3	RST Core	3	PHI 205	3	SSC 489	3
	INS 111	3	Electives	6	LIT 250	3	Electives	9
	LIT 120	3	POS Elective	3	SSC 327	3		
	POS 211	3	FAS 101	1	POS Elective	3		
		Semester total	15		16		15	
	Total Credits	31		31		29		30 121



POS 340 Issues in American Politics (3 crs)

Analysis of specific topics, depending on student interest and current importance. Prerequisite: POS 110.

POS 341 Global Issues (3 crs)

This is a special topics course dealing with one or more current topics, e.g., hunger, Third World development, international environment politics, U.S.-Latin American relations. Prerequisite: POS 212.

POS 346 Ancient Political Philosophy (3 crs)

Selections from, e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon, Thucydides and Aristophanes, will be examined in the course. Special emphasis will be placed upon the relationship between politics and philosophy.

POS 348 Modern Political Philosophy (3 crs)

Selections from modern political thinkers, e.g., Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Tocqueville, Rousseau, Nietzsche, will be examined in the course. Special emphasis will be placed upon the development of the modern idea of rights, the relationship between politics and philosophy and the role and responsibilities of government in the modern world.

POS 350 Environmental Law and Policy (3 crs)

This course provides an understanding of the political and social dimensions of environmental policy and law in the United States and internationally. Specific subjects of study include the policy process, how various interest groups influence the structure and content of legislation and the types of enforcement used to induce compliance. The course is a forum for in-depth analysis of important environmental movements, legislation and issues including the Clean Water Act, global warming and preservation of the rainforests.

POS 473 Internship (variable credit)

A field experience course in which the student is involved actively in the community under the direction of the Social Science Department. Enrollment requires the approval of the department; a member meets periodically with the student during the internship to examine the relationships between the theoretical concepts found in the assigned readings and the field experience. The number of credits is negotiable.