

POLITICAL SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Political Science Major Program

Political science is the study of politics and political systems at the local, national, and international levels. It concerns not only the institutions of government but also the analysis of such phenomena as political behavior, political values, political change and stability, parties, pressure groups, bureaucracies, administrative behavior, justice, national security, and international affairs.

The Program

The Department of Political Science offers three majors: International Relations (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/political-science/international-relations-ab/>), Political Science (p. 1), and Political Science—Public Service (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/political-science/political-science-public-service-ab/>).

- The International Relations major explores problems of security, development, ethnic conflict, human rights, health, and the environment at a global level.
- The Political Science major aims to provide the student with a broad understanding of political concepts, political institutions, political behavior, and political processes.
- The Political Science—Public Service major is for students who desire opportunities for practical hands-on experience in their major. It differs in particular from the political science major in its internship requirement and its focus on the American political system.

Major Advisors

Contact the Department of Political Science (<https://ps.ucdavis.edu/>).

Internships & Career Alternatives

Both the proximity of UC Davis to the state capitol and the programs offered by the UC Washington Center afford exceptional internship possibilities in local, state, and national government offices, providing students with actual experience in politics and government service while still attending school. A student who majors in political science acquires research and analytic skills relevant to many professional fields. Consequently, the majors offered in political science are valuable not only in providing students with a better understanding of politics and political systems, but also as a first step toward careers in teaching, law, management, government, urban planning, journalism, politics, administration, or for graduate studies in numerous fields.

American History & Institutions

This University requirement may be satisfied by passing any one of the following Political Science (POL) courses:¹

Code	Title	Units
POL 001	American National Government	4
POL 005	Contemporary Problems of the American Political System	4
POL 100	Local Government & Politics	4

POL 102	Urban Public Policy	4
POL 104	California State Government & Politics	4
POL 105	The Legislative Process	4
POL 106	The Presidency	4
POL 108	Policy Making in the Public Sector	4
POL 109	Public Policy & the Governmental Process	4
POL 113	American Political Thought	4
POL 130	Recent U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 131	Analysis of U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 160	American Political Parties	4
POL 163	Group Politics	4

¹ See also under American History & Institutions requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/>).

Graduate Study

The Department of Political Science offers a program of graduate study and research leading to a Ph.D. degree or an M.A./J.D. joint degree. The M.A./J.D. joint degree is done only in conjunction with UC Davis School of Law. Information concerning admission to these programs and requirements for completion are available in the Graduate Program Coordinator's office.

Graduate Advisor

Contact the Department of Political Science (<https://ps.ucdavis.edu/>).

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
Political Science		
POL 051	Scientific Study of Politics (required)	4
Choose three: ¹		12
POL 001	American National Government	
or POL 001Y	American National Government	
POL 002	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POL 003	International Relations	
POL 004	Basic Concepts in Political Theory	
Choose one: ¹		
POL 001	American National Government	
or POL 001Y	American National Government	
POL 002	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POL 003	International Relations	
POL 004	Basic Concepts in Political Theory	
POL 005	Contemporary Problems of the American Political System	
POL 007	Contemporary Issues in Law & Politics	
POL 011A	America Decides: Who Will Win This Year's Election?	
POL 011B	Citizen Lawmaking: Direct Democracy, Public Policy & Political Representation in America	
POL 011C	Politics & Film	
POL 011D	Political Persuasion	
POL 012A	Politics & Sports	
POL 012B	Climate Change & Politics	

Choose one:	4
POL/CMN/SOC/ PSC 012Y	Data Visualization in the Social Sciences
STA 013 or STA 013Y	Elementary Statistics
STA 032	Gateway to Statistical Data Science
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal	24
Depth Subject Matter	
Four courses in one of the fields of concentration listed below. (p. 2)	16
Three courses in another field of concentration listed below. (p. 2)	12
Two courses in another field of concentration listed below. (p. 2)	8
Two other upper division courses in Political Science. ²	8-9
<i>Fields of Concentration</i>	
American Politics (p. 2)	
Comparative Politics (p. 2)	
International Relations (p. 3)	
Political Theory (p. 3)	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal	44-45
Total Units	68-69

¹ No overlap permitted between sections.

² Only 5 units of POL 192A & POL 192B may be counted toward the depth subject matter; POL 198 & POL 199 may not be counted.

Fields of Concentration

American Politics

Courses with POL 001 or POL 001Y recommended:

Code	Title	Units
POL 100	Local Government & Politics	4
POL 102	Urban Public Policy	4
POL 104	California State Government & Politics	4
POL 105	The Legislative Process	4
POL 106	The Presidency	4
POL 107	Environmental Politics & Administration	4
POL 108	Policy Making in the Public Sector	4
POL 109	Public Policy & the Governmental Process	4
POL 150	Judicial Politics & Constitutional Interpretation	4
POL 151	Constitutional Politics of the First Amendment & the Right to Privacy.	4
POL 152	The Constitutional Politics of the Equality	4
POL 153	The Constitutional Politics of the Justice System	4
POL 154	Legal Philosophy	4
POL 155	Judicial Process & Behavior	4
POL 160	American Political Parties	4
POL 161	Ballots, Bucks, & Maps: The Rules of the Electoral Game in American Politics	4
POL 162	Elections & Voting Behavior	4
POL 163	Group Politics	4

POL 164	Public Opinion	4
POL 165	Mass Media & Politics	4
POL 166	Women in Politics	4
POL 168	Chicano Politics	4
POL 170	Political Psychology	4
POL 171	The Politics of Energy	4
POL 172	American Political Development	4
POL 174	Government & the Economy	4
POL 175	Science, Technology, & Policy	4
POL 176	Racial Politics	4
POL 180	Bureaucracy in Modern Society	4
POL 183	Administrative Behavior	4
POL 187	Administrative Theory	4
POL 195	Special Studies in American Politics	4
POL 196A	Seminar in American Politics	4

Comparative Politics

Courses with POL 002 recommended:

Code	Title	Units
POL 126	Ethnic Self-Determination & International Conflict	4
POL 140A	Comparative Political Institutions: Electoral Systems	4
POL 140B	Comparative Political Institutions: Parties	4
POL 140C	Comparative Political Institutions: Legislatures	4
POL 140D	When Institutions Fail	4
POL 140E	Policy-Making Processes	4
POL 142A	Comparative Development: Political Development in Modernizing Societies	4
POL 142B	Comparative Development: Politics & Inequality	4
POL 142C	Comparative Political Development: Democracy & Democratization	4
POL 143A	Latin American Politics	4
POL 143B	Mexican Politics	4
POL 144A	Politics of Post-Communist Countries: East European Politics	4
POL 144B	Politics of Post-Communist Countries: Russia	4
POL 146A	Politics of Africa: Issues in Contemporary African Politics	4
POL 146B	Politics of Africa: Development in Africa	4
POL 147A	West European Politics	4
POL 147B	West European Politics: British Politics	4
POL 147C	West European Politics: French Politics	4
POL 147D	West European Politics: German Politics	4
POL 148A	Government & Politics of East Asia: China	4
POL 148B	Government & Politics in East Asia: Japan	4
POL 148C	Government & Politics in East Asia: Southeast Asia	4
POL 179	Special Studies in Comparative Politics	4
POL 196B	Seminar in Comparative Politics	4

International Relations

Courses with POL 003 recommended:

Code	Title	Units
POL 120	Theories of International Politics	4
POL 121	Scientific Study of War	4
POL 122	International Law	4
POL 123	The Politics of Interdependence	4
POL 124	The Politics of Global Inequality	4
POL 126	Ethnic Self-Determination & International Conflict	4
POL 129	Special Studies in International Politics	4
POL 130	Recent U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 131	Analysis of U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 132	National Security Policy	4
POL 134	Africa & U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 135	International Politics of the Middle East	4
POL 136	The Arab-Israeli Conflict	4
POL 137	International Relations in Western Europe	4
POL 139	Special Studies in Foreign Policy	4
POL 190	International Relations	4
POL 196C	Seminar in International Relations	4

Political Theory

Courses with POL 004 recommended:

Code	Title	Units
POL 110	The Strategy of Politics	4
POL 112	Contemporary Democratic Theory	4
POL 113	American Political Thought	4
POL 114	Quantitative Analysis of Political Data	4
POL 115	Medieval Political Thought	4
POL 116	Foundations of Political Thought	4
POL 117	Topics in the History of Political Thought	4
POL 118A	History of Political Theory: Ancient	4
POL 118B	History of Political Theory: Early Modern	4
POL 118C	History of Political Theory: Late Modern	4
POL 119	Contemporary Political Thought	4
POL 187	Administrative Theory	4
POL 196D	Seminar in Political Theory	4