Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)

Major Requirements

Effective for students entering the university Autumn 2022 or after. Students who entered the university before Autumn 2022 should talk with a Political Science advisor.

A Political Science major must meet the basic course and credit hour requirements set down by the College of Arts and Sciences for the Bachelor of Arts degree. More information on the BA curriculum is available at [BA (new) GE AU22.pdf](live asmainsite pantheonsite io)

Prior to declaring a major in Political Science, a student must have credit for one of the following courses: Political Science 1100, 1165, 1200, 1300, 2150, 2300, or 2400.

Requirements for the undergraduate major in Political Science:

1. An undergraduate major in Political Science consists of a coherent program of courses amounting to a minimum of 33 hours of course work numbered at the 2000 level or higher.
2. At least 24 of the 33 hours of course work must be numbered at the 3000 level or higher. These 24 hours do not include course work taken in other departments that are approved as part of the Political Science major program.
3. A minimum of 21 credit hours must be earned at The Ohio State University. This limits to 12 hours the course work that can be earned through study at another domestic or foreign institution or through Ohio State-sponsored off-campus programs, and ensures that more than half of a student’s major is taken from Ohio State instructors. At least 15 of the 21 Ohio State credit hours must be numbered at the 3000 level or higher.
4. Major programs must include at least 1 course from each of the 4 traditional subfields in Political Science. The subfields are American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. PS 3780 (Data Literacy and Data Visualization) or PS 4781 (Data Analysis in Political Science I) may be counted toward any one of the fields in satisfying this requirement.
5. Major programs must include a 4-course focus, which can be in one of the traditional subfields or in one of the seven specializations (see below). An individualized focus may be created in consultation with an advisor.
6. Majors must fulfill the Embedded Literacies requirement by completing one course in each of three categories: Data Analysis, Advanced Writing, and Technology. See page 11.
7. A grade of “C-” or better is necessary in order for a course to count as part of a major program. A student must earn a Cumulative Point-Hour Ratio of 2.0 or higher in all courses included on the major.
8. A maximum combined total of 6 credit hours in the major can be included from the following categories: independent study; internships; and relevant research, problems and topics courses.
9. As many as 6 credit hours of the 33 required for the major program may be courses with subject matter related to Political Science in other departments. See page 12 for a current list of acceptable courses; students should request prior approval from an advisor in the department before scheduling these courses as part of their major programs.
Honors in Political Science

As part of an Honors Contract leading to the B.A. with Honors in the Arts and Sciences, students may major or minor in political science. Departmental expectations for these students are as follows.

Honors Major Program:
1. An undergraduate Honors major in Political Science is a coherent program of courses amounting to a minimum of 33 hours of course work in 2000-level honors courses and other Political Science courses numbered 3000 and above.
2. At least twelve hours of credit must be in Political Science Honors or Honors Embedded courses at the 3000- level or higher, 4999H, 5000-level theory courses*, or 7000-level graduate seminars* (*Consult with an Honors advisor before enrolling)
3. At least 24 of the 33 hours of course work must be numbered at the 3000 level or higher. These 24 hours do not include course work taken in other departments that are approved as part of the Political Science major program.
4. A minimum of 21 credit hours must be earned at The Ohio State University. This limits to 12 hours the course work that can be earned through study at another domestic or foreign institution or through Ohio State-sponsored off-campus programs, and ensures that more than half of a student's major is taken from Ohio State instructors. At least 15 of the 21 Ohio State credit hours must be numbered at the 3000 level or higher.
5. Major programs must include at least 1 course from each of the 4 traditional subfields in Political Science. The subfields are American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. PS 3780 (Data Literacy and Data Visualization) or PS 4781 (Data Analysis in Political Science I) may be counted toward any one of the fields in satisfying this requirement.
6. Major programs must include a 4-course focus, which can be in one of the traditional subfields or in one of the seven specializations (see below). An individualized focus may be created in consultation with an advisor.
7. Majors must fulfill the Embedded Literacies requirement by completing one course in each of three categories: Data Analysis, Advanced Writing, and Technology. See page 11.
8. A grade of “C-“ or better is necessary in order for a course to count as part of a major program. A student must earn a Cumulative Point-Hour Ratio of 2.0 or higher in all courses included on the major.
9. A maximum combined total of six credit hours in the major can be included from the following categories: independent study; internships; and undergraduate research courses.
10. As many as six credit hours of the 33 required for the major program may be courses with subject matter related to Political Science in other departments. See page 12 for a current list of acceptable courses; students should request prior approval from an advisor in the department before scheduling these courses as part of their major programs.
11. In order to graduate with Honors, a student's cumulative point-hour ratio must be at the minimum set by the Honors Office (currently 3.4); the student's major point-hour ratio must be a 3.5.

Questions? Talk with an Honors advisor in the Department of Political Science. You can make an appointment by calling Arts and Sciences Advising Services at (614) 292-6961.
Specializations

1. Democracy and Law

What is democracy? What makes democracy possible? How can the performance of democratic institutions be improved? This course of study focuses on the workings of democratic institutions: how they are designed, how they influence political outcomes, and how they perform in different social and historical contexts. Students will learn how institutions shape individual behavior, how political, economic, and social institutions work together, and how political values and ideals are given concrete legal form.

2367 Contemporary Issues in American Politics
3115 Introduction to the Policy Process
3160 Political Polarization & the Culture War
3280 Politics of Markets
3420 Political Theories of Democracy
3450 Ethics and Public Policy
3500 Political Games
4110 The American Presidency
4115 Bureaucracy and Public Policy
4120 U.S. Congress
4123 Political Crisis and Reform
4126 Ohio Politics
4127 Governing Urban America
4130 Law and Politics
4131 American Supreme Court
4132H Supreme Court Decision Making
4135 American Constitutional Law
4136 Civil Liberties
4137 Politics of Legal Decision Making
4138 Women and the Law
4139 Gun Politics
4150 American Political Parties
4152 Campaign Politics
4160 Public Opinion
4164 Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4190 Political Decision-Making and Public Policy
4192 Policy Analysis
4212 From Dictatorship to Democracy in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece
4218 Russian Politics
4240 Latin American Politics
4241 Special Topics in Latin American Politics
4242 Incomplete Democracies
4245H Democratic Erosion
4270 Canadian Political System
4285 Comparative Politics of the Welfare State

2. Political Identities and Allegiances

How does who you are – your gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and nationality – matter in politics? This course of study examines how individual and group identities are created and how they shape political decisions ranging from how to vote to whether to join a revolution. By studying a variety of political and legal issues, students will develop critical thinking, writing and speaking skills, and will learn how to gather and synthesize information, develop hypotheses, and draw inferences about the causes and consequences of political behavior.

2150 Voters and Elections
2367 Contemporary Issues in American Politics
2400 Introduction to Political Theory
3160 Political Polarization & the Culture War
3170 Political Psychology
3245 Radicalization, Deradicalization, Countering Violent Extremism
3430 Political Theories of Freedom
3. Political Economy and Development

How do political institutions promote or hinder economic development in a globalizing world? This course of study is designed to build the skills necessary to understand the political dimensions of economic policy. Students will learn how to analyze the complex relationships between state and economy both domestically and internationally, and to assess competing theories about the causes and consequences of globalization. They will also gain a theoretical and historical understanding of the development of domestic and international political and economic institutions.
4. Cooperation, Conflict and Violence

Political order is precarious: nationalism, ideological extremism, ethnic divisions, resource scarcity and national security concerns all have the potential to fuel conflict and even war. This course of study addresses the origins of violent conflict and the sources of cooperation and stability at both the domestic and international levels. Students will acquire the critical and analytical tools that are needed to promote peaceful conflict resolution, stable and inclusive political institutions, and more effective global governance and diplomacy.
5. Inequality and Justice

How does the experience of inequality and injustice motivate and frustrate political action? This course of study focuses on the values that structure political life and the ways in which those values are shaped by and embodied in political institutions. Students will learn how political ideals such as democracy, freedom, justice, and human rights have been defined in different ideological traditions and different historical contexts, and how these ideals inform individuals’ understandings of what their interests are.

2400 Introduction to Political Theory
3220 Politics of the Developing World
3280 Politics of Markets
3380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
3420 Political Theories of Democracy
3430 Political Theories of Freedom
3440 Political Theories of Justice
3450 Ethics and Public Policy
3460 Global Justice
4130 Law and Politics
4132H Supreme Court Decision Making
4135 American Constitutional Law
4136 Civil Liberties
4137 Politics of Legal Decision Making
4138 Women and the Law
4139 Gun Politics
4140 Black Politics
4143 Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
4170 Gender and Politics
4282 The Politics of Income Inequality
4285 Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
4381 Comparative International Political Economy
4455 Human Rights
4465 Feminist Political Theory
4597.03 Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World
4940 The Politics of Immigration
5411 Justice, Sin, and Virtue: Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
5412 Life, Liberty, and Property: Early Modern Political Thought
5413 Democracy, Equality, & Revolution: 19th Century Political Thought
5414 Liberalism, Totalitarianism, and Empire: 20th Century Political Thought

6. Political Leadership and Reform

How can political actors and ordinary citizens make a difference in the world? This course of study is designed to build the skills that are necessary to organize and lead successful campaigns for political change. Through comparative, historical, policy, and case-study analyses, students will learn how to organize political campaigns and movements, how to build coalitions with like-minded allies, and how to translate ideals into effective policies.
What tools do we need to understand political life? All social-scientific inquiry appeals to concepts, values and empirical claims about the world that are contestable in principle, and often contested in fact. This course of study is designed to build the analytical, conceptual, and methodological skills that are necessary to critically evaluate such claims and to apply them intelligently to the study of political life.

3115 Introduction to the Policy Process
3290 Comparative Public Policy
3380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
3450 Ethics and Public Policy
3500 Political Games
3549 Survey Research in Political Science
3780 Data Literacy & Visualization
3905 Political Manipulation
4160 Public Opinion
8. American Politics

The subfield of American Politics studies political behavior and institutions in the United States.

2150 Voters and Elections
2367 Contemporary Issues in American Politics
2367H Honors Contemporary Issues in American Politics
3115 Introduction to the Policy Process
3160 Political Polarization & the Culture War
3170 Political Psychology
3905 Political Manipulation
4110 The American Presidency
4115 Bureaucracy and Public Policy
4120 The United States Congress
4123 Political Crises and Reform
4125 American State Politics
4126 Ohio Politics
4127 Governing Urban America
4130 Law and Politics
4131 American Supreme Court
4132H Supreme Court Decision Making
4135 American Constitutional Law
4136 Civil Liberties
4137 The Politics of Legal Decision Making
4138 Women and the Law
4139 Gun Politics
4140 Black Politics
4143 Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
4150 American Political Parties
4152 Campaign Politics
4160 Public Opinion
4164 Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4165 Mass Media and American Politics
4170 Gender and Politics
4175 Women, Government and Public Policy
4920 Politics in Film and Television
4920H Honors Politics in Film and Television
9. Comparative Politics

The subfield of Comparative Politics studies political behavior and institutions beyond the United States.

3220 Politics of the Developing World
3225 Post-Conflict Reconstruction
3240 Political Violence
3245 Radicalization, Deradicalization, Countering Violent Extremism
3596 Nationalism and Ethnicity
3596H Honors Nationalism and Ethnicity
4210 Politics of European Integration
3280 Politics of Markets
3290 Comparative Public Policy
3596 Nationalism and Ethnicity
4200 Politics of Modern Democracies
4210 Politics of European Integration
4212 From Dictatorship to Democracy in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece
4214 Northern European Politics
4216 East European Politics
4218 Russian Politics
4219 European Political Development
4236 Southeast Asian Politics
4240 Latin American Politics
4242 Incomplete Democracies
4245H Democratic Erosion
4249 Domestic Politics and International Conflict
4250 African Politics
4250H Honors African Politics
4270 The Canadian Political System
4282 Politics of Income Inequality
4285 The Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
4597.02 Political Problems of the Contemporary World
4597.02H Honors Political Problems of the Contemporary World
4597.03 Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World
4940 The Politics of Immigration

10. International Relations

The subfield of International Relations studies relationships between states.

2300 American Foreign Policy
2300H Honors American Foreign Policy
3310 Defense Policy and National Security
3380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
3910 Identity Politics
4300 Theories of International Relations
4305 International Theory
4310  Security Policy
4315  International Security and Causes of War
4318  The Politics of International Terrorism
4320  Strategies for War and Peace
4326  Russian Foreign Policy
4327  Politics of the Middle East
4330  Global Governance
4331  The United Nations System
4332  Politics of Globalization
4335  International Environmental Politics
4381  Comparative International Political Economy
4385  Quantitative Studies of International Conflict
4597 .01 International Conflict and Cooperation
4597 .01H Honors International Conflict and Cooperation

11. Political Theory

The subfield of Political Theory studies the concepts and values that inform political life.

2400  Introduction to Political Theory
2400H Honors Introduction to Political Theory
3001  Economy, Polity, and Community
3002  Tradition, Progress, Utopia
3420  Political Theories of Democracy
3430  Political Theories of Freedom
3440  Political Theories of Justice
3450  Ethics and Public Policy
3460  Global Justice
3500  Political Games
4455  Human Rights
4460  American Political Ideas
4465  Feminist Political Theory
4553  Game Theory for Political Scientists
5000  Quantum Mind and Social Science
5411  Justice, Sin, and Virtue: Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
5412  Life, Liberty, and Property: Early Modern Political Thought
5413  Democracy, Equality, & Revolution: 19th Century Political Thought
5414  Liberalism, Totalitarianism, and Empire: 20th Century Political Thought
Embedded Literacies

Political Science Majors are required to complete ONE course in EACH of the following categories: Data Analysis, Advanced Writing, and Technology.

**Data Analysis** requirement for Political Science BA degree:

Complete one of the following courses:
- POLITSC 3780 - Data Literacy and Data Visualization
- POLITSC 3780H - Data Literacy and Data Visualization
- POLITSC 3785 - Data Science for the Social and Behavioral Sciences
- POLITSC 4781 - Data Analysis in Political Science I
- POLITSC 4782 - Data Analysis in Political Science II

The following courses fulfill this requirement but are not included in the World Politics major
- INTSTDS 3400 OR ECON 3400 - The Analysis and Display of Data
- PHILOS 1520 - Probability, Data, and Decision Making

**Advanced Writing** requirement for Political Science BA degree:

Complete one of the following courses:
- POLITSC 3170 - Political Psychology
- POLITSC 3115 - Introduction to the Policy Process
- POLITSC 3220 - Politics of the Developing World
- POLITSC 3280 - Politics of Markets
- POLITSC 3310H - Honors Defense Policy and National Security
- POLITSC 3905 - Political Manipulation
- POLITSC 4120 - US Congress
- POLITSC 4132H - Supreme Court Decision Making
- POLITSC 4152 - Campaign Politics
- POLITSC 4160 - Public Opinion
- POLITSC 4250 - African Politics
- POLITSC 4285 - Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
- POLITSC 4245H - Democratic Erosion
- POLITSC 4331 - The United Nations System
- POLITSC 4335 - International Environmental Politics
- POLITSC 5412 - Life, Liberty, and Property: Early Modern Political Thought
- POLITSC 5413 - Democracy, Equality & Revolution: 19th Century Political Thought
- POLITSC 5414 - Liberalism, Totalitarianism, and Empire: 20th Century Political Thought
- INTSTDS 3850 - Introduction to Globalization

**Technology** requirement for Political Science BA degree:

Complete one of the following courses:
- POLITSC 3170 - Political Psychology
- POLITSC 3450 - Ethics and Public Policy
- POLITSC 3905 - Political Manipulation
- POLITSC 4152 - Campaign Politics
- POLITSC 4335 - International Environmental Politics
- POLITSC 5414 - Liberalism, Totalitarianism, and Empire: 20th Century Political Thought
- COMM 3440 - Mass Communication and Society
- COMM 3450 - Media and Citizenship
- COMM 3554 - Social Implications of Communication Technology
- COMM 3558 - Social Media
Courses from other Departments that may be included in the Political Science major program:

African American and African Studies
4250 African Politics
4504 Black Politics
4610 African Americans and the Law

Communication
3404 Media Law and Ethics
3440 Mass Communication and Society
3450 Media and Citizenship
3554 Social Implications of Communication Technology
3558 Social Media
4814 Political Communication
4820 Public Opinion and Communication

Comparative Studies
4871 Religion and American Politics

Economics
4300 Government Finance in the American Economy
4508 Comparative Economic Systems
4600 International Economic Relations
5410 Econometrics I
5420 Econometrics II
5650 International Commodity Flows: Theory and Policy

Geography
3601 Global Politics and the Modern Geopolitical Imagination

History
3001 American Political History to 1877
3002 American Political History Since 1877
3003 American Presidential Elections
3005 U.S. Constitution and American Society to 1877
3006 U.S. Constitution and American Society since 1877
3014 Gilded Age to Progressive Era, 1877 - 1920
3016 Contemporary U.S. since 1963
3017 The Sixties
3041 American Labor History
3083 Civil Rights and Black Power Movement

International Studies
3850 Introduction to Globalization
4535 International Economic Development
4560 Cooperation and Conflict in the Global Economy
4700 Terror and Terrorism
4701 Development and Control of Weapons of Mass Destruction
4803 Intervening for Peace

Philosophy
5400 Advanced Political and Social Philosophy
5410 Advanced Philosophy of Law

Public Affairs
3000 Public Policy Analysis
4020 Contemporary Issues in Governance: Washington DC
4021 Research Paper in Public Affairs: Washington DC

Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
4465 Feminist Political Theory
4513 Women, Government, and Public Policy
4597 Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World