



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 [New GE Requirements | College of Arts and Sciences](#)

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 10.**
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 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 10.**
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 or above.**

* Consult with an Honors advisor prior to enrolling

Questions? Charles Smith.3280@osu.edu is the 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	4136	Civil Liberties
3115	Introduction to the Policy Process	4137	Politics of Legal Decision Making
3160	Political Polarization & the Culture War	4138	Women and the Law
3280	Politics of Markets	4139	Gun Politics
3420	Political Theories of Democracy	4150	American Political Parties
3450	Ethics and Public Policy	4152	Campaign Politics
3500	Political Games	4160	Public Opinion
4110	The American Presidency	4164	Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4115	Bureaucracy and Public Policy	4170	Gender and Politics
4120	U.S. Congress	4212	From Dictatorship to Democracy in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece
4123	Political Crisis and Reform	4218	Russian Politics
4125	American State Politics	4240	Latin American Politics
4127	Governing Urban America	4242	Incomplete Democracies
4130	Law and Politics	4245H	Democratic Erosion
4131	American Supreme Court	4285	Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
4132H	Supreme Court Decision Making		
4135	American Constitutional Law		

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.

2110	American Government Culture and Behavior
2145	Native American Politics
2150	Voters and Elections
2367	Contemporary Issues in American Politics
2400	Introduction to Political Theory
3147	Intersectionality and Identity Politics

- 3160 Political Polarization & the Culture War
- 3170 Political Psychology
- 3240 Political Violence
- 3245 Radicalization, Deradicalization, Countering Violent Extremism
- 3430 Political Theories of Freedom
- 3440 Political Theories of Justice
- 3460 Global Justice
- 3549 Survey Research in Political Science
- 3596 Nationalism and Ethnicity
- 3905 Political Manipulation
- 3910 Identity Politics
- 4138 Women and the Law
- 4140 Black Politics
- 4143 Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
- 4150 American Political Parties
- 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
- 4282 The Politics of Income Inequality
- 4455 Human Rights
- 4465 Feminist Political Theory
- 4597 .03 Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World
- 4940 The Politics of Immigration

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.

- 3001 Economy, Polity, and Community
- 3002 Tradition, Progress, and Utopia
- 3220 Politics of the Developing World
- 3225 Post-Conflict Reconstruction
- 3240 Political Violence
- 3275 Politics of Sports
- 3280 Politics of Markets
- 3290 Comparative Public Policy
- 3380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
- 3450 Ethics and Public Policy
- 3460 Global Justice
- 3500 Political Games
- 4240 Latin American Politics

- 4242 Incomplete Democracies
- 4245H Democratic Erosion
- 4250 African Politics
- 4282 The Politics of Income Inequality
- 4285 Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
- 4327 Politics in the Middle East
- 4330 Global Governance
- 4331 United Nations System
- 4332 Politics of Globalization
- 4335 International Environmental Politics
- 4381 Comparative International Political Economy
- 4940 The Politics of Immigration

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.

- 2300 American Foreign Policy
- 3160 Political Polarization & the Culture War
- 3170 Political Psychology
- 3225 Post-Conflict Reconstruction
- 3240 Political Violence
- 3245 Radicalization, Deradicalization, Countering Violent Extremism
- 3380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
- 3460 Global Justice
- 4210 Politics of European Integration
- 4242 Incomplete Democracies
- 4245H Democratic Erosion
- 4249 Domestic Politics of International Conflict
- 4300 Theories of International Relations
- 4305 International Theory
- 4310 Security Policy
- 4315 International Security and the Causes of War
- 4318 The Politics of International Terrorism
- 4320 Strategies for War and Peace
- 4322 Psychology of War and Peace
- 4327 Politics in the Middle East
- 4330 Global Governance
- 4331 United Nations System
- 4332 Politics of Globalization
- 4335 International Environmental Politics
- 4381 Comparative International Political Economy
- 4455 Human Rights

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.

2145 Native American Politics
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.

2400 Introduction to Political Theory
3115 Introduction to the Policy Process
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
3912 Political Leadership
4110 American Presidency
4123 Political Crisis and Reform
4130 Law and Politics
4135 American Constitutional Law
4136 Civil Liberties
4138 Women and the Law
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
4190 Political Decision-Making and Public Policy
4335 International Environmental Politics
4455 Human Rights
4465 Feminist Political Theory

7. Political Analysis

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
- 4285 Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
- 4553 Game Theory for Political Scientists
- 4780 Thesis Research Colloquium
- 4781 Data Analysis in Political Science I
- 4782 Data Analysis in Political Science II
- 4784 Complexity Science and the Study of Politics
- 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

8. American Politics

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

- 2110 American Government Culture and Behavior
- 2120 Follow the Science: The Politics of Health
- 2145 Native American Politics
- 2150 Voters and Elections
- 2367 Contemporary Issues in American Politics
- 3115 Introduction to the Policy Process
- 3147 Intersectionality and Identity Politics
- 3160 Political Polarization & the Culture War
- 3170 Political Psychology
- 3905 Political Manipulation
- 3910 Identity Politics
- 3950 Careers in Political Science
- 4110 The American Presidency
- 4115 Bureaucracy and Public Policy
- 4120 The United States Congress
- 4123 Political Crises and Reform
- 4125 American State 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 Media and American Politics
- 4170 Gender and Politics
- 4175 Women, Government and Public Policy
- 4920 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
- 3275 Politics of Sports
- 3280 Politics of Markets
- 3290 Comparative Public Policy
- 3596 Nationalism and Ethnicity
- 4200 Politics of Modern Democracies
- 4212 From Dictatorship to Democracy in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece
- 4218 Russian Politics
- 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
- 4282 Politics of Income Inequality
- 4285 The Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
- 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
- 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
- 4322 Psychology of War and Peace

- 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

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 – Honors 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 Political Science 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 2120 – Follow the Science: The Politics of Health
- 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 – Honors Supreme Court Decision Making
- POLITSC 4139 – Gun Politics
- POLITSC 4139E – Honors Embedded Gun Politics
- POLITSC 4152 - Campaign Politics
- POLITSC 4160 - Public Opinion
- POLITSC 4285 - Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
- POLITSC 4245H – Honors Democratic Erosion
- POLITSC 4331 - The United Nations System
- POLITSC 4335 - International Environmental Politics
- POLITSC 5411 – Justice, Sin, and Virtue: Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
- 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 2121 – Follow the Science: The Politics of Health
- POLITSC 3450 - Ethics and Public Policy
- POLITSC 3549 – Survey Research in Political Science
- POLITSC 4127 – Governing Urban America
- POLITSC 4127H – Honors Governing Urban America
- POLITSC 4152 - Campaign Politics
- POLITSC 4335 - International Environmental Politics
- POLITSC 5414 - Liberalism, Totalitarianism, and Empire: 20th Century Political Thought

The following courses fulfill this requirement but are not included in the Political Science major

- 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

- 3083 Civil Rights and Black Power Movement (cross-listed as HISTORY 3083)
- 4250 African Politics
- 4504 Black Politics
- 4610 African Americans and the Law

Communication

- 3404 Media Law and Ethics
- 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 (cross-listed as AFAMAST 3083)
- 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