

# Political Science (Bachelor of Arts )

## Major Requirements

Effective for students entering the university Autumn 2026 or after. Students who entered the university before Autumn 2026 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 on the [College of Arts and Sciences website](#).

Prior to graduation, a student must have credit for one of the following courses: **Political Science 1100, 1165, 1166, 1200, 1300, 1900, 2110, 2120, 2150, 2300, 2367, and/or 2400.**

*Requirements for the undergraduate major in Political Science:*

- 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.**
- At least **24 of the 33 hours of course work must be numbered at the 3000 level or higher.** 6 of the 24 hours can be courses taken in other departments that are approved as part of the Political Science major program (page 11).
- **A minimum of 21 credit hours must be earned at The Ohio State University.** This limits to 12 hours of course work that can be earned through study at another domestic or foreign institution or through Ohio State-sponsored off-campus programs; THIS 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.
- **Major programs must include at least 1 course from each of the 4 traditional subfields** in Political Science: 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.
- **Major programs can include a 4-course focus,** which could be in one of the traditional subfields (5 total courses) and/or in one of the seven specializations (see page 2-8) An individualized focus may be created in consultation with an advisor.
- **Major must fulfill the Embedded Literacies requirement by completing one course in each of three categories:** Data Analysis, Advanced Writing, and Technology (page 9-10).
- **A grade of "C-" or better is necessary 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.
- 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.
- **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 (page 11).** Students should request prior approval from an advisor in the department before scheduling these courses as part of their major programs.



# Subfields

## AMERICAN POLITICS

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

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
2110	American Government Culture and Behavior	4130	Law and Politics
2120	Follow the Science: The Politics of Health	4131	American Supreme Court
2145	Native American Politics	4132H	Supreme Court Decision Making
2150	Voters and Elections	4135	American Constitutional Law
2367	Contemporary Issues in American Politics	4136	Civil Liberties
3115	Introduction to the Policy Process	4137	The Politics of Legal Decision Making
3147	Intersectionality and Identity Politics	4138	Women and the Law
3160	Political Polarization & the Culture War	4139	Gun Politics
3170	Political Psychology	4140	Black Politics
3905	Political Manipulation	4143	Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
3910	Identity Politics	4150	American Political Parties
3950	Careers in Political Science	4152	Campaign Politics
4110	The American Presidency	4160	Public Opinion
4115	Bureaucracy and Public Policy	4164	Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4120	The United States Congress	4165	Media and American Politics
4123	Political Crises and Reform	4170	Gender and Politics
4125	American State Politics	4175	Women, Government and Public Policy
4127	Governing Urban America	4920	Politics in Film and Television

## COMPARATIVE POLITICS

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

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
3220	Politics of the Developing World	4236	Southeast Asian Politics
3225	Post-Conflict Reconstruction	4240	Latin American Politics
3240	Political Violence	4242	Incomplete Democracies
3245	Radicalization, Deradicalization, Countering Violent Extremism	4245H	Democratic Erosion
3275	Politics of Sports	4249	Domestic Politics and International Conflict
3280	Politics of Markets	4250	African Politics
3290	Comparative Public Policy	4250H	Honors African Politics
3596	Nationalism and Ethnicity	4282	Politics of Income Inequality
4200	Politics of Modern Democracies	4285	The Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
4212	From Dictatorship to Democracy in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece	4597.03	Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World
4218	Russian Politics	4940	The Politics of Immigration

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

*The subfield of International Relations studies relationships between states.*

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
2300	American Foreign Policy	4320	Strategies for War and Peace
3310	Defense Policy and National Security	4322	Psychology of War and Peace
3380	Political Analysis of International Economic Relations	4327	Politics of the Middle East
3910	Identity Politics	4330	Global Governance
4300	Theories of International Relations	4331	The United Nations System
4305	International Theory	4332	Politics of Globalization
4310	Security Policy	4335	International Environmental Politics
4315	International Security and Causes of War	4381	Comparative International Political Economy
4318	The Politics of International Terrorism	4385	Quantitative Studies of International Conflict

## POLITICAL THEORY

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

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

# Specializations

## 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.*

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
2367	Contemporary Issues in American Politics	4135	American Constitutional Law
3115	Introduction to the Policy Process	4136	Civil Liberties
3160	Political Polarization & the Culture War	4137	Politics of Legal Decision Making
3280	Politics of Markets	4138	Women and the Law
3420	Political Theories of Democracy	4139	Gun Politics
3450	Ethics and Public Policy	4150	American Political Parties
3500	Political Games	4152	Campaign Politics
4110	The American Presidency	4160	Public Opinion
4115	Bureaucracy and Public Policy	4164	Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4120	U.S. Congress	4170	Gender and Politics
4123	Political Crisis and Reform	4212	From Dictatorship to Democracy in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece
4125	American State Politics	4218	Russian Politics
4127	Governing Urban America	4240	Latin American Politics
4130	Law and Politics	4242	Incomplete Democracies
4131	American Supreme Court	4245H	Democratic Erosion
4132H	Supreme Court Decision Making	4285	Comparative Politics of the Welfare State

## 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.*

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
2110	American Government Culture and Behavior	3910	Identity Politics
2145	Native American Politics	4138	Women and the Law
2150	Voters and Elections	4140	Black Politics
2367	Contemporary Issues in American Politics	4143	Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
2400	Introduction to Political Theory	4150	American Political Parties
3147	Intersectionality and Identity Politics	4160	Public Opinion
3160	Political Polarization & the Culture War	4164	Political Participation and Voting Behavior
3170	Political Psychology	4165	Mass Media and American Politics
3240	Political Violence	4170	Gender and Politics
3245	Radicalization, Deradicalization, Countering Violent Extremism	4175	Women, Government, and Public Policy
3430	Political Theories of Freedom	4282	The Politics of Income Inequality
3440	Political Theories of Justice	4455	Human Rights
3460	Global Justice	4465	Feminist Political Theory
3549	Survey Research in Political Science	4597	.03 Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World
3596	Nationalism and Ethnicity	4940	The Politics of Immigration
3905	Political Manipulation		

## 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.*

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
3001	Economy, Polity, and Community	4242	Incomplete Democracies
3002	Tradition, Progress, and Utopia	4245H	Democratic Erosion
3220	Politics of the Developing World	4250	African Politics
3225	Post-Conflict Reconstruction	4282	The Politics of Income Inequality
3240	Political Violence	4285	Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
3275	Politics of Sports	4327	Politics in the Middle East
3280	Politics of Markets	4330	Global Governance
3290	Comparative Public Policy	4331	United Nations System
3380	Political Analysis of International Economic Relations	4332	Politics of Globalization
3450	Ethics and Public Policy	4335	International Environmental Politics
3460	Global Justice	4381	Comparative International Political Economy
3500	Political Games	4940	The Politics of Immigration
4240	Latin American Politics		

## 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.*

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

## 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.*

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
2145	Native American Politics	4139	Gun Politics
2400	Introduction to Political Theory	4140	Black Politics
3220	Politics of the Developing World	4143	Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
3280	Politics of Markets	4170	Gender and Politics
3380	Political Analysis of International Economic Relations	4282	The Politics of Income Inequality
3420	Political Theories of Democracy	4285	Comparative Politics of the Welfare State
3430	Political Theories of Freedom	4381	Comparative International Political Economy
3440	Political Theories of Justice	4455	Human Rights
3450	Ethics and Public Policy	4465	Feminist Political Theory
3460	Global Justice	4597.03	Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World
4130	Law and Politics	4940	The Politics of Immigration
4132H	Supreme Court Decision Making	5411	Justice, Sin, and Virtue: Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
4135	American Constitutional Law	5412	Life, Liberty, and Property: Early Modern Political Thought
4136	Civil Liberties	5413	Democracy, Equality, & Revolution: 19th Century Political Thought
4137	Politics of Legal Decision Making	5414	Liberalism, Totalitarianism, and Empire: 20th Century Political Thought
4138	Women and the Law		

## 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.*

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
2400	Introduction to Political Theory	4138	Women and the Law
3115	Introduction to the Policy Process	4140	Black Politics
3420	Political Theories of Democracy	4143	Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics
3430	Political Theories of Freedom	4150	American Political Parties
3440	Political Theories of Justice	4152	Campaign Politics
3450	Ethics and Public Policy	4160	Public Opinion
3460	Global Justice	4164	Political Participation and Voting Behavior
3500	Political Games	4165	Mass Media and American Politics
3912	Political Leadership	4170	Gender and Politics
4110	American Presidency	4175	Women, Government, and Public Policy
4123	Political Crisis and Reform	4190	Political Decision-Making and Public Policy
4130	Law and Politics	4335	International Environmental Politics
4135	American Constitutional Law	4455	Human Rights
4136	Civil Liberties	4465	Feminist Political Theory

## 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.*

Course #	Course Title	Course #	Course Title
3115	Introduction to the Policy Process	4553	Game Theory for Political Scientists
3290	Comparative Public Policy	4780	Thesis Research Colloquium
3380	Political Analysis of International Economic Relations	4781	Data Analysis in Political Science I
3450	Ethics and Public Policy	4782	Data Analysis in Political Science II
3500	Political Games	4784	Complexity Science and the Study of Politics
3549	Survey Research in Political Science	5411	Justice, Sin, and Virtue: Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
3780	Data Literacy & Visualization	5412	Life, Liberty, and Property: Early Modern Political Thought
3905	Political Manipulation	5413	Democracy, Equality, & Revolution: 19th Century Political Thought
4160	Public Opinion	5414	Liberalism, Totalitarianism, and Empire: 20th Century Political Thought
4285	Comparative Politics of the Welfare State		

# 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

Course #	Course name
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:

Course #	Course name
INTSTDS 3400 OR ECON 3400	The Analysis and Display of Data
PHILOS 1520	Probability, Data, and Decision Making

## ADVANCED WRITING

Course #	Course name
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 4782	Data Analysis in Political Science II
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

Course #	Course name
POLITSC 2120	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:*

Course #	Course name
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

*The following courses from other departments may be included in the Political Science major program:*

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course name</b>
AFAMST 3083 or HISTORY 3083	Civil Rights and Black Power Movement
AFAMST 4250	African Politics
AFAMST 4504	Black Politics
AFAMST 4610	African Americans and the Law
COMM 3404	Media Law and Ethics
COMM 4814	Political Communication
COMM 4820	Public Opinion and Communication
COMPSTD 4871	Religion and American Politics
ECON 4300	Government Finance in the American Economy
ECON 4508	Comparative Economic Systems
ECON 4600	International Economic Relations
ECON 5410	Econometrics I
ECON 5420	Econometrics II
ECON 5650	International Commodity Flows: Theory and Policy
GEOG 3601	Global Politics and the Modern Geopolitical Imagination
HISTORY 3001	American Political History to 1877
HISTORY 3002	American Political History Since 1877
HISTORY 3003	American Presidential Elections
HISTORY 3005	U.S. Constitution and American Society to 1877
HISTORY 3006	U.S. Constitution and American Society since 1877
HISTORY 3014	Gilded Age to Progressive Era, 1877 – 1920
HISTORY 3016	Contemporary U.S. since 1963
HISTORY 3017	The Sixties
HISTORY 3041	American Labor History
INTSTDS 3850	Introduction to Globalization
INTSTDS 4535	International Economic Development
INTSTDS 4560	Cooperation and Conflict in the Global Economy
INTSTDS 4700	Terror and Terrorism
INTSTDS 4701	Development and Control of Weapons of Mass Destruction
INTSTDS 4803	Intervening for Peace
PHILOS 5400	Advanced Political and Social Philosophy
PHILOS 5410	Advanced Philosophy of Law
PUBAFRS 3000	Public Policy Analysis
PUBAFRS 4020	Contemporary Issues in Governance: Washington DC
PUBAFRS 4021	Research Paper in Public Affairs: Washington DC
WGSST 4465	Feminist Political Theory
WGSST 4513	Women, Government, and Public Policy
WGSST 4597	Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World