Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Major Requirements

Effective for students entering the university June 1, 2012 or after [students who entered the university before June 2012 should talk with a political science advisor and consult the transition policies from quarters to semesters]

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 from Arts and Sciences in Denney Hall.

Prior to declaring a major in Political Science, a student must have credit for one of the following courses: Political Science 1100, 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. a. 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.

   b. 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.

3. Major programs must include at least 1 course from each of four traditional subfields in Political Science. The subfields are American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. PS 4781 (Data Analysis in Political Science I) may be counted toward any one of the fields in satisfying this requirement.

4. Major programs must include a 4-course focus, which can be in one of the seven specializations (see p. 3) or one of the four traditional subfields. An individualized focus may be created in consultation with an advisor or faculty member.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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. There is no official list of acceptable courses; students should request prior approval from an advisor in the department before scheduling such courses as part of their major programs.

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

Effective for students entering the university June 1, 2012 or after [students who entered the university before June 2012 should talk with a political science advisor and consult the transition policies from quarters to semesters].

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 courses at the 3000- level or higher.

3. a. 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.

   b. A minimum of 21 credit hours must be taken at The Ohio State University; this limits to twelve hours course work transferred from other universities; taken in other cities or countries through study at a foreign or domestic institution; or other Ohio-State sponsored, off-campus programs; and it ensures that more than half of a student’s major is taken from Ohio State instructors. At least fifteen of these 21 credit hours must be numbered at the 3000 level or higher.

4. Major programs must include at least one course from each of four traditional subfields in Political Science. The fields are American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory.

5. Major programs must include a 4-course focus, which can be in one of the seven specializations (see p. 3) or one of the four traditional subfields. An individualized focus may be created in consultation with an adviser or faculty member.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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. There is no official list of acceptable courses; students should request prior approval from an adviser in the department before scheduling such courses as part of their major programs.

9. 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.
Political Science 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.

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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
3170 Political Psychology
3549 Survey Research in Political Science
3910 Identity Politics
4138 Women and the Law
4140 Black Politics
4145 Asian American Politics
4150 American Political Parties
4160 Public Opinion
4162 Religion and American Politics
4164 Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4165 Mass Media and American Politics
4170 Gender and Politics
4175 Women, Government, and Public Policy
4262 New Religious Politics
4282 The Politics of Income Inequality
4460 American Political Ideas
4465 Feminist Political Theory
4597 .02 Political Problems of the Contemporary World
4597 .03 Gender and Democracy in the Contemporary World
4940 The Politics of Immigration
5124 Urban Politics
5140 Ethnic Politics in American Cities
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.

3220 Politics of the Developing World
3460 Global Justice
4230 Chinese Political System
4231 China: State & Society
4232 Contemporary Politics of South Asia
4236 Southeast Asian Politics
4240 Latin American Politics
4241 Special Topics in Latin American Politics
4242 Incomplete Democracies
4250 African Politics
4280 State and Economy
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 Globalization
4335 International Environmental Politics
4380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
4381 Comparative International Political Economy
4597.02 Political Problems of the Contemporary World
4940 The Politics of Immigration
4225H Democracy in Muslim Majority Countries
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
3460 Global Justice
4249 Domestic Politics of International Conflict
4300 Theories of International Relations
4310 Security Policy
4305 International Theory
4315 International Security and the Causes of War
4318 The Politics of International Terrorism
4320 Strategies for War and Peace
4326 Russian Foreign Policy
4327 Politics in the Middle East
4330 Global Governance
4331 United Nations System
4332 Globalization
4335 International Environmental Politics
4380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
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.
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
3100 American Politics and Policy Making
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
3912 Political Leadership
4130 Law and Politics
4135 American Constitutional Law
4136 Civil Liberties
4138 Women and the Law
4150 American Political Parties
4152 Campaign Politics
4160 Public Opinion
4164 Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4165 Mass Media and American Politics
4190 Political Decision-Making and Public Policy
4192 Policy Analysis
4335 International Environmental Politics
4420H Debating Democracy
4450H Politics and Ethics
4455 Human Rights
4460 American Political Ideas
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.

3549  Survey Research in Political Science
3780  Data Literacy & Visualization
3905  Political Manipulation
4460  American Political Ideas
4553  Game Theory for Political Scientists
4780  Political Science Research Colloquium
4781  Data Analysis in Political Science I
4782  Data Analysis in Political Science II
5411  Ancient and Medieval Political Thought
5412  Early Modern Political Thought
5413  Modern Political Thought
5414  Topics in Contemporary Political Thought

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