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, 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 four traditional subfields in Political Science. The subfields are American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. PS 3780 (Data Literacy and Data Visualization) 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 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.
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 6 credit hours in the major can be included from the following categories: independent study; internships; and relevant research, problems and topics courses.
8. 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.
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
3420  Political Theories of Democracy
3450  Ethics and Public Policy
4110  The American Presidency
4115  Bureaucracy and Public Policy
4120  U.S. Congress
4125  American State Politics
4126  Ohio Politics
4127  City Politics
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
4150  American Political Parties
4152  Campaign Politics
4190  Political Decision-Making and Public Policy
4192  Policy Analysis
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
4232  Contemporary Politics of South Asia
4236  SE Asian Politics
4240  Latin American Politics
4241  Special Topics in Latin American Politics
4242  Incomplete Democracies
4270  Canadian Political System
4280  State and Economy
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
3170  Political Psychology
3549  Survey Research in Political Science
3910  Identity Politics
4138  Women and the Law
4140  Black Politics
4150  American Political Parties
4160  Public Opinion
4164  Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4165  Mass Media and American Politics
4175  Women, Government, and Public Policy
4282  The Politics of Income Inequality
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
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
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
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  
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  
4280  State and Economy  
4282  The Politics of Income Inequality  
4285  Comparative Politics of the Welfare State  
4380  Political Analysis of International Economic Relations  
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  Ancient and Medieval Political Thought  
5412  Early Modern Political Thought  
5413  Modern Political Thought  
5414  Topics in Contemporary 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
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
4455 Human Rights
4465 Feminist Political Theory
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
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
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
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
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
4150  American Political Parties
4152  Campaign Politics
4160  Public Opinion
4164  Political Participation and Voting Behavior
4165  Mass Media and American 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
3596  Nationalism and Ethnicity
3596H Honors Nationalism and Ethnicity
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
4241  Special Topics in Latin American Politics
4242  Incomplete Democracies
4249  Domestic Politics and International Conflict
4250  African Politics
4250H Honors African Politics
4270  The Canadian Political System
4280  State and Economy
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
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
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
4327 Politics of the Middle East
4330 Global Governance
4331 The United Nations System
4332 Globalization
4335 International Environmental Politics
4380 Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
4380H Honors Political Analysis of International Economic Relations
4381 Comparative International Political Economy
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
3420  Political Theories of Democracy
3430  Political Theories of Freedom
3440  Political Theories of Justice
3450  Ethics and Public Policy
3460  Global Justice
4455  Human Rights
4460  American Political Ideas
4465  Feminist Political Theory
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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