

Definition

Political Science is the study of the acquisition and use of public power and authority. Politics and government affect everyone’s life and impinge on activities in many fields.

Staff

To access faculty and staff, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit extension.

Program Advisement:

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Faculty:

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Adjunct Faculty:

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V.M.

Derek Carver 2458

Dr. Ellen Coleman 2125

Amaka Donn 2397

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Program Description

Introductory courses are offered for the general student interested in learning about American Government and different political cultures in the world. In-depth courses are offered for majors (bachelor’s degree) in Political Science.

The Political Science major is especially desirable for students who might work for civil government at any level, be commissioned as military officers, or who intend to become lawyers. A minor in Political Science is useful in such fields as economics, journalism, and language, or for those who hope to become executives in law enforcement or in many types of businesses.

Career Options

- Administrator
- Attorney
- Budget Analyst
- Campaign Aide
- City Planner
- Elected Official
- Foreign Service Officer

- Foreign Trade Specialist
 - Government Worker
 - Legislative Aide
 - Lobbyist
 - Military Officer
 - Occupational Analyst
 - Personnel Manager
 - Political Economist
 - Political Scientist
 - Public Information Officer
 - Public Opinion Surveyor
 - Public Relations Specialist
- (Most of these careers require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Certificate Program

Certificate not applicable.

Associate Degree

An associate degree with a major in Political Science is not available. Political Science courses can be included in the 18 units necessary for an associate degree with a major in Liberal Arts and Sciences. (See Graduation/Associate Degree Requirements.)

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at the following Web site: www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of “A,” “B,” “C” or “P”. Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See “Pass/No Pass Option” in the catalog for full explanation.

Political Science Courses

POLS 101 AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

Analysis of the national government of the United States and of the government of California, the structure and interaction of legislative, executive, and judicial branches and the processes of government in the contemporary world. Treatment of American institutions as documented in the Constitution of the United States. (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 103 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of POLS 101, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course compares and analyzes major political systems within developing industrialized states, communist and post-communist systems, and liberal democracies. Focus is on various political institutions such as presidential and parliamentary systems, federalism and unitary systems, and written constitutions and unwritten constitutions. The course examines various electoral, party, legislative, and judicial systems. Emphasis is placed on states that use different political and economic systems such as democracy, republicanism, communism, authoritarianism, capitalism, and socialism within the global arena. Finally, the course explores the status of comparative politics in the coming decade. (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 120 *INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

4 units

3 hours weekly

18 hours of supervised conference time.

Advisory: Completion of POLS 101, POLS 103 and COMM 101, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course will examine the development and impact of international organizations. Particular emphasis will be placed upon an understanding of the United Nations. The concept of diplomacy will be examined through lecture and simulation. Students will prepare for participation in Model United Nations (MUN) conferences. Each semester, students will represent different countries, such as Poland, Qatar, Algeria, Brazil and Vietnam, as well as various non-governmental organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, at various MUN conferences. Students are required to attend and participate in MUN conferences. Furthermore, students will examine current issues of debate within the United Nations and other international organizations which will vary from semester to semester. Subsequent enrollment will provide students an opportunity for additional skill and competency development within the subject matter. Students will be required to participate in a minimum of 18 hours of supervised on or off-campus Model United Nations Conferences. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

POLS 199 *OCCUPATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

1-8 units

hours vary

Prerequisite: To participate in work experience, students must have a job or internship which is either paid or voluntary and have the approval of the supervisor and instructor supervising work experience in the specific subject area. PRIOR TO ENROLLING, students must attend a scheduled orientation or meet individually with the supervising instructor for an individual orientation. Occupational Work Experience Education

is supervised employment designed to provide students a realistic learning experience through work. The ultimate goal is to teach students those skills and attitudes that will equip them to function and adapt as an employee in a variety of situations and jobs. Occupational Work Experience Education is supervised employment extending classroom-based occupational learning at an on-the-job learning station related to the students' educational major or occupational goal. Credit may be accrued at the rate of one to eight units per semester. For the satisfactory completion of all types of Cooperative Work Experience Education (WE 197 and WE 199), students may earn up to a total of sixteen semester credit hours. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

POLS 200 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of POLS 101, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course analyzes selected political thinkers from Plato to the present. Some of the political themes covered in the course are liberty, justice, authority, rights, legitimacy and citizenship. The various themes are examined and discussed in the context of politics and government. Emphasis is placed on how various political philosophers argue their views, whom they are addressing and how they can be interpreted. (CSU, AVC)

POLS 201 CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of POLS 101 and 103, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course examines and evaluates contemporary international relations and addresses the current problems, issues, and trends within the global arena. Focus is on concepts of sovereignty, security, power, diplomacy, war, terrorism and globalization. There is a review of the development of the post-World War

II political system and the challenges presented to the international system during and after the Cold War. Recent and current global issues, problems, and challenges are examined in addition to a focused overview of regional concerns. Regions that might be examined include the Middle East, Central America, and Africa; other regional conflicts will be examined within the context of the international political and economic system. Moreover, the course examines various international and regional organizations that act as an infrastructure in the attempt to bring international and regional stability and order in the contemporary world. Finally, the course explores the status of contemporary international relations in the coming decade. (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 202 ETHNIC POLITICS IN AMERICA

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099.

This course offers an examination and evaluation of the political power and powerlessness of America's diverse ethnic communities. This American experience of these groups will be examined along with the political realities and dynamics of each group's role within the American governmental and political system. The ethnic groups to be reviewed include American Native peoples, Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians. Moreover, new migrations from the Indian subcontinent as well as Muslim and Arab countries will be examined and evaluated within the context of the American political process. The changing demographic nature of America will provide the backdrop for explaining the new political forces and electoral consequences emerging as the result of the new American ethnic diversity. The power, powerlessness, and role of America's ethnic groups will be examined at the national, state, and local levels. (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 203 THE JUDICIAL PROCESS

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of *POLS 101*

Advisory: Completion of *ENGL 101*, and
Eligibility for College Level Reading.

The course examines and evaluates both the United States and California judicial systems. Topics include the nature of law and jurisprudence, the origins of Anglo-American law, the organization of both the federal and California judicial systems, judicial appointment and removal, attorneys lawsuits and public issues, the jury system, judicial decision-making and judicial reform. The course is primarily for transfer students but is valuable for those seeking terminal vocational career objectives such as those found in administration of justice fields. This course is valuable for transfer students, political science majors, those seeking to fulfill general education pattern requirements and associate in arts degree candidates. (CSU, UC, AVC)