

Program Description

Political Science is the study of the use of public power and authority. Politics and government affect life and impinge on many fields. Introductory courses are offered for those interested in learning about the American Government and different political systems. In-depth courses are offered for Political Science majors. The major is especially desirable for students who might work for the government, be commissioned as military officers, or intend to become lawyers. A minor in Political Science is useful in economics, journalism, and language, or for those who hope to become executives in law enforcement or in many types of businesses.

Staff *Please dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4 digit extension.*

Division:

Nate Dillon, Dean	x.6275
Casey Farris, Administrative Assistant	x.6482
Bettie Negrete, Clerical Assistant III	x.6482
Alberto Mendoza, Department Chair	x.2151

Faculty:

John Vento	x.6494
Frederick M. Hemker	x.6051

Adjunct Faculty:

	V.M.
Derek Carver	2458
Dr. Ellen Coleman	2125
Amaka Donn	2397
Gass, Zachary	2485
Steven Jaworowski	2435
Samuel John	2190
Larry Ramirez	2365
Dr. Donald Ranish	2951

Career Options

Administrator	Lobbyist
Attorney	Military Officer
Budget Analyst	Occupational Analyst
Campaign Aide	Personnel Manager
City Planner	Political Economist
Elected Official	Political Scientist
Foreign Service Officer	Public Information Officer
Foreign Trade Specialist	Public Opinion Surveyor
Government Worker	Public Relations Specialist
Legislative Aide	

(Careers may require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Program Learning Outcomes

Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer

1. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the methods of inquiry used by professional political scientists.
2. Students will be able to critically analyze and synthesize the works of political scientists in the various subfields of the discipline.
3. Students will develop an understanding of the political science major and the career options in the field.

Program Learning Outcomes

Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy and Society for Transfer

1. Students will develop communication skills and demonstrate the ability to effectively write and speak to persuade a diversity of audiences. The development of communication skills will also include demonstration of the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate for ideas, to communicate for a variety of purposes, to read and comprehend a diversity of texts, and to think critically. Additionally, students will demonstrate the ability to develop awareness of society and its historical roots, as well as to appreciate diversity and to be sensitive to the impact of race, sex, and class on the American experience. Through this program, students will demonstrate the ability to organize information, to engage in argumentation to support a position, to evaluate and cite sources, to explain the historical development of American institutions in law and society, to demonstrate facility with numbers, and to conduct research.
2. Students will have an understanding of law, public policy, and ethics in contemporary society, including an introduction to the legal field.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and explain the ideas and institutions that make up the American political system, including the legal field, to describe the evolution of civil liberties and rights in the United States and apply this knowledge to current events and legal issues, and to recognize the role of public opinion, interest groups, ethics and political parties regarding the electoral process, law, and public policy in society.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the field of law and the various classifications of the law, including being able to distinguish among the various parts of a contract.

Associate Degrees

Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer

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. Political science is concerned with the objectives and ends of politics and the way in which political society should be organized in order to realize those objectives and ends. Courses in political science enable students to study and understand how political and governmental institutions make and implement decisions and the effects those decisions have on individual, group, and societal behavior. A political science major generally transfers to a baccalaureate institution to complete a B.A. Degree. Political science graduates with B.A. Degrees are qualified for a variety of positions in government and non-governmental institutions; graduates are prepared to enter graduate studies in various disciplines, including political science, law, journalism and business. Teaching at the community college level is an option providing that an M.A. and/or a Ph.D. Degree is obtained. Possession of the Ph.D. could lead to research and teaching at the university level.

The Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T in Political Science) degree meets the requirements of SB 1440 for Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT). These degrees are intended to make it easier for students to transfer to California State University campuses, but do not exclude admittance to other colleges or universities.

To earn an Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T in Political Science) degree a student must complete the following:

- (1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
 - (A) The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements.
 - (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

- (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0. ADTs also require that students must earn a “C” or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis. A “P” (Pass) grade is also an acceptable grade for courses in the major if the course is taken on a Pass/No Pass basis.

Required Courses (3 units): units
 POLS 101, American Political Institutions 3

Required Electives A (Select 9-10 units): units
 POLS 103, Comparative Government 3
 POLS 200, Introduction to Political Theory 3
 POLS 201, Contemporary International Relations 3
 MATH 115, Statistics 4
 MATH 116, Introduction to Statistics Using R 4

Required Electives B (Select 6-7 units): units
 ANTH 102, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology 3
 ECON 101, Principles of Macroeconomics 3
 ECON 102, Principles of Microeconomics 3
 POLS 202, Ethnic Politics in America 3
 POLS 203, The Judicial Process 3
 SOC 110, Ethnic Relations 3
 SOC 112, American Social Issues: Problems & Challenges 3

Some courses required for the major may also satisfy general education requirements. Consult with a counselor for additional information.

Except in cases of a prerequisite requirement, it is not required to take courses in exactly this sequence; they are recommended in this order to facilitate success.

Recommended Pathway	
Fall, First Semester	units
POLS 101, American Political Institutions (CSU GE D)	3
CSU GE D (recommended HIST 107 <i>or</i> 108 <i>or</i> 110 <i>or</i> 111)	3
CSU GE A1	3
CSU GE B4	4
CSU GE C1 or C2	3
Total 16	

Spring, Second Semester

Required Elective A	3
Required Elective B	3
CSU GE A2	3
CSU GE B1/B3	3-4
CSU GE C1	3
Total 15-16	

Fall, Third Semester

Required Elective A	3
CSU GE A3	3
CSU GE B2 (add B3 if needed)	3-4
CSU GE C2	3
*Electives	3
Total 15-16	

Spring, Fourth Semester

Required Elective B	3
CSU GE E	3
CSU GE F	3
*CSU Transferable Elective	3
Total 12	

Degree Total 60

*Electives should be taken from other courses within the major or foreign language.

Note: If you are following an IGETC GE pattern, please see a counselor.

Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer

The coursework required to earn an AD-T in Law, Public Policy, and Society has been identified as good preparation for law school upon completion of a bachelor’s degree. This interdisciplinary area of emphasis emphasizes the development of communication skills, introduces students to the legal field, and prepares students for further study in a variety of majors. Students who opt to pursue this course of study are encouraged to engage in further exploration of one or more specific majors as they select electives for degree completion. Transfer & Career Opportunities

This Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer (AD-T) Degree is intended to meet the lower division requirements for similar majors for all CSU campuses. Students planning to transfer to institutions other than the CSU are encouraged to consult ASSIST.org and an AVC counselor for program planning and course selection. Most common career opportunities with a baccalaureate degree include: law school, legal aid worker, social worker, and community advocate.

The Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer (AD-T) Degree degree also provides a solid preparation appropriate for a variety of scientific disciplines. The Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer degree (AD-T in Law, Public Policy, and Society) provides students with a major that fulfills the general requirements of the California State University for transfer, and students with the Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system.

The Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer (AD-T) Degree meets the requirements of SB 1440 for Associate Degrees for Transfer (AD-T). These degrees are intended to make it easier for students to transfer to California State University campuses, but do not exclude admittance to other colleges or universities.

To earn an Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer (AD-T) Degree a student must complete the following:

- (1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
- (A) The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education – Breadth Requirements.
- (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

- (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0. ADTs also require that students must earn a “C” or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis. A “P” (Pass) grade is also an acceptable grade for courses in the major if the course is taken on a Pass/No Pass basis.

Required Core Courses (25 units): **units**

POLS 203, The Judicial Process <i>or</i>	
AJ102, Criminal Law <i>or</i>	
BUS 201, Business Law	3
PHIL 105, Ethics: Moral Issues in Contemporary Society	3
ENGL 101, English Composition	3
COMM 101, Introduction to Public Speaking <i>or</i>	
COMM 109, Small Group Communication <i>or</i>	
COMM 115, Introduction to Argumentation and Debate	3
COMM 110, Persuasion <i>or</i>	
COMM 115, Introduction to Argumentation and Debate <i>or</i>	
ENGL 103, Critical Thinking and Research <i>or</i>	
PHIL 110, Introduction to Logic	3
MATH 115, Statistics <i>or</i>	
MATH 116, Introduction to Statistics Using R	4
HIST 107, U.S. History, 1607-1877 <i>or</i>	
HIST 108, U.S History, 1865	3
POLS 101, American Political Institutions	3

Required Elective Courses (Select 6 units from two of the areas listed below.)

Area 1	units
AJ 101, Introduction to Administration of Justice	3
AJ 102, Criminal Law	3
AJ 103, Criminal Evidence	3
AJ 201, Police in Society	3
AJ 204, Juvenile Procedures	3
AJ 206, Criminology	3
Area 2	
BUS 201, Business Law	3
Area 3:	
ECON 101, Principles of Macroeconomics <i>or</i>	
ECON 102, Principles of Microeconomics	3

Area 4:	units
POLS 103, Comparative government <i>or</i>	
POLS 200, Introduction to Political Theory <i>or</i>	
POLS 201, Contemporary International Relations	3

Area 5:	
SOC112, American Social Issues: Problems and Challenges	3

Area 6:	
ANTH 102, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology <i>or</i>	
COMM 219, Introduction to Intercultural Communication <i>or</i>	
GEOG 105, Cultural Geography <i>or</i>	
SOC 110, Ethnic Relations <i>or</i>	
SOC 116, Sociology of Gender, and Sexuality	3

Area 7:	
HD 101, College and Life Management <i>or</i>	
HD 102, Soldiers to Scholars	3

Area 8:	
Internship/Fieldwork (1-8 units)	
POLS 199, Occupational Work Experience	1-8

Recommended Pathway

First Semester	units
POLS 101, American Political Institutions (CSU GE D)	3
PHIL 105, Ethics: Moral Issues in Contemporary Society (CSU GE C2)	3
ENGL 101, College Composition (CSU GE A2)	3
CSU GE C1	3
CSU GE E	3
	Total 15

Second Semester	
(POLS 203, The Judicial Process <i>or</i> AJ 102, Criminal Law <i>or</i> BUS 201, Business Law) <i>or</i>	
AJ 102 Criminal Law (CSU GE Area D)	3
MATH 115, Statistics <i>or</i> MATH 116, Introduction to Statistics using R (CSU GE B4)	4
HIST 107, U.S. History 1607-1877 <i>or</i> HIST 108, History from 1865 (CSU Area C2)	3
COMM 115, Introduction to Argumentation and Debate <i>or</i>	
COMM 110, Persuasion <i>or</i> ENGL 103, Critical Thinking and Research <i>or</i> PHIL 110, Introduction to Logic (CSU GE Area A3)	3
CSU Elective	3
	Total 16

Third Semester	
COMM 101, Introduction to Public Speaking (CSU GE A1) <i>or</i>	
COMM 115, Introduction to Argumentation and Debate <i>or</i>	
COMM 109, Small Group Communication	3
Electives List A	3
CSU Elective	3
CSU GE F	3
CSU GE B1	3
	Total 15

Fourth Semester	
Electives List A	3
CSU GE B2 (add B3 if needed)	4
CSU Elective	3
CSU Elective	3
CSU Elective	1
	Total 14
	Degree Total 60

*Electives should be taken from other courses within the major, foreign language or recommended course as noted.

Note: If you are following an IGETC GE pattern, please see a counselor.

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 www.assist.org.

Prerequisite Completion

All prerequisite courses 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

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. (C-ID: POLS 110) (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 103 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of POLS 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. (C-ID: POLS 130) (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 120 *INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

4 units

6 hours weekly [3 lecture, 3 lab]

Advisory: Completion of POLS 101, POLS 103 and COMM 101, and eligibility for ENGL 101 or placement by multiple measures.

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)

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 student's 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.

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. (C-ID: POLS 120) (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 201 CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of POLS 101 or POLS 103

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. (C-ID: POLS 140) (CSU, UC, AVC)

POLS 202 ETHNIC POLITICS IN AMERICA

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101 or placement by multiple measures.

Prerequisite: Completion of POLS 101.

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

Advisory: Completion of ENGL 101

Prerequisite: Completion of POLS 101.

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)