

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

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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.)

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.

Certificate Program

Certificate not applicable.

Associate Degree

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.

Required Courses: **units**
 *POLS 101, American Political Institutions 3

Required Electives A: **units**
 Select 9-10 units from the following:
 *POLS 103, Comparative Government 3
 *POLS 200, Introduction to Political Theory 3
 *POLS 201, Contemporary International Relations 3
 *MATH 115, Statistics 4

Required Electives B: **units**
 Select 6-7 units from the following or any course from above not already used:
 *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

*Courses denoted with an asterisk will fulfill the completion requirements for both the major and general education.

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 Plan of Study

First Semester **units**
 POLS 101, American Political Institutions (CSU GE D) 3
 CSU GE American Institution Requirement (CSU GE D) 3
 CSU GE Course requirement Area A1 3
 Course from GE requirement Area B4 4
 Course from GE requirement Area C 3
Total 16

Second Semester **units**
 Required Elective A 3
 Required Elective B 3
 CSU GE Course requirement Area A2 3
 CSU GE Course requirement Area B1 3-4
 CSU GE Course requirement Area C1 3
Total 15-16

Third Semester **units**
 Required Elective A 3
 CSU GE Course requirement Area A3 3
 CSU GE Course requirement Area B2 3-4
 CSU GE Course requirement Area C2 3
 *Elective 3
Total 15-16

Fourth Semester **units**
 Required Elective A 3
 Required Elective B 3
 CSU GE Course requirement Area E 3
 *CSU Transferable Elective 3
Total 12

CSU GE or IGETC Pattern 37-39
CSU Transferable Elective Units to reach Degree Total 60

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

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/ENGL 101SL.

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, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL.*

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**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/ENGL 101SL.*

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 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/ENGL 101SL.*

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

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

Prerequisite: *Completion of POLS 101.*

Advisory: *Eligibility for ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL.*

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/ENGL 101SL, 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)