

Department of Political Science

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Field Description

Our lives, our communities, and our world are to a considerable degree shaped by political events. Political science provides students with an understanding of the multifaceted ideas, structures, and processes of politics in the United States and abroad. Courses are designed to accomplish three principal objectives: to help the student acquire and establish habits of critical and creative thinking about public issues; to enlarge and broaden the students understanding of significant data, major ideas, and activities regarding politics; and to prepare students for careers in law, government, journalism, and education.

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The Major

In order to officially become a major in Political Science, students **must come in person to the Political Science Department (VC 5-280) to fill out our major declaration form and have it approved by the chair.**

The Political Science major is unusually flexible. Students are required to take American Government ([POL 1101](#)), a capstone seminar ([POL 4900](#)), plus seven other political science courses, representing at least four of the six subfields outlined below. At least two electives must be at the 3000-level.

In addition to our field-specific courses, students can also receive elective credit for Special Topics courses ([POL 3999](#)), Independent Study projects ([POL 5000](#)), Research Practicums ([POL 5030-5031](#)), or [Honors Thesis projects](#) ([POL 6001H](#), [POL 6002H](#)).

Important Advisory Regarding Capstones: At least one of the two required 3000-level courses in Political Science must be completed BEFORE taking the capstone [POL 4900](#). (If necessary, students are permitted to take the second 3000-level course during the same semester as the capstone, but must consult with the department to do so.) Political Science does NOT offer capstone courses in winter sessions.

Program Learning Goals

Upon Completion of a Major in Political Science, students will be able to:

Political Science Concepts

1. Gain a broad exposure to central issues of political science, which include:
 - the ethical problems attendant to the exercise of power;
 - the history of important political ideas, such as "liberty," "justice," "community," and "equality";
 - the impact of historical, economic, and social forces on the operation of politics;
 - the functioning and distinctive features of the US political system;
 - the diversity of political systems found among nations and the significance of these differences;
 - the interaction among international actors and the causes of war and peace.
2. Employ a key concept, theory, or method of political science.

Critical Thinking Skills

1. Articulate a thesis regarding a political question.
2. Consider alternative perspectives regarding a political question.
3. Evaluate evidence regarding a political question.

Research Skills

1. Gather appropriate evidence pertinent to a political question, including:
 - primary evidence (quantitative data, court cases, interviews, etc.);
 - secondary evidence (political science literature).

Written and Oral Expression

1. Craft a well-structured written or oral argument regarding a political question.

Civic Engagement

1. Develop a greater sense of civic duty to participate in public affairs.

Major Course Requirements

Base Course	
POL 1101	American Government: Practices and Values
Required Course	
POL 4900	Political Science Capstone Seminar
Electives	21 credits
Students are to select 21 credits from among all the courses offered by the department, with at least one course from four of the six areas listed below. At least two electives must be at the 3000-level. Students can also receive elective credit for Special Topics courses (POL 3999), Independent Study projects (POL 5000), Research Practicum (POL 5030-5031), or honors thesis projects (POL 6001H , POL 6002H).	
American Government and Political Institutions	
POL 2001	The United States in an Age of Globalization
POL 3008	Religion and Politics in the United States (HIS 3008 , REL 3008)
POL 3101	Political Psychology (PSY 3101)
POL 3102	American Conservatism: Origins, Development, and Contemporary Controversies (HIS 3102)
POL 3310	Public Opinion
POL 3311	Political Parties and Elections
POL 3312	Congress and the Legislative Process
POL 3313	Constitutional Law

POL 3314	Civil Liberties
POL 3316	The Presidency
POL 3319	Social Movements and U.S. Politics
POL 3340	Political Socialization
POL 3417	Case Studies in American Government
<i>Comparative Politics</i>	
POL 2260	Introduction to Comparative Government
POL 3086	Modern Middle East and North Africa (HIS 3086)
POL 3104	Politics of the Third World
POL 3361	Comparative Politics in Selected Areas of the World
POL 3362	European Political Systems
POL 3364	Latin American and Caribbean Political Systems
POL 3365	Asian Political Systems
POL 3366	African Political Systems
POL 3367	Comparative Revolutions
POL 3368	Communist Political Systems
POL 3369	Identity Politics in Comparative Perspective
POL 3842	Making of Modern India (AAS 3842), (HIS 3842)
<i>International Politics</i>	
POL 2240	Introduction to International Relations
POL 3341	International Relations in the Middle East
POL 3342	American Foreign Policy
POL 3343	International Relations in Selected Areas of the World
POL 3344	The United Nations in World Politics
POL 3345	Contemporary International Conflict
POL 3346	The Rise of Asia in World Affairs (AAS 3346), (HIS 3346)
POL 3347	Seminar on Political Globalization

<i>Political Theory and Methodology</i>	
POL 2280	The Great Political Debates: The Individual and Society
POL 2332	American Political Thought
POL 3000	Research Skills in Political Science (formerly <i>POL 3323 Political and Administrative Research</i>)
POL 3062	Political Sociology (SOC 3062)
POL 3201	Topics in Politics and Literature (ENG 3201)
POL 3333	Political Behavior
POL 3334	American Radicalism
POL 3335	Early Political Theory
POL 3336	Modern Political Theory
POL 3337	Contemporary Political Ideologies
POL 3456	American Intellectual History
POL 3500	Political Analysis
<i>Public Policy</i>	
POL 2353	Public Policy
POL 3001	Women: Politics and Policy
POL 3005	Social Welfare Policy (HIS 3005)
POL 3103	Political Economy
POL 3315	Government and the American Economy
POL 3317	The Politics of Energy and the Environment
POL 3318	Immigration and Integration in the United States
POL 5452	Field Work in Government and Politics
<i>Urban Politics</i>	
POL 3220	State and Local Government
POL 3321	Urban Politics
POL 3323	Politics and Government of New York City

POL 3422	Urban Public Policy
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Honors Thesis in Political Science

The Honors Thesis is a two-semester sequence ([POL 6001H](#), [POL 6002H](#)) that offers students of superior academic achievement the opportunity to work individually with a professor on a major research project in Political Science. This project involves in-depth and original research of an empirical and/or theoretical question in the field. The degree "with honors" is conferred upon acceptances of the honors project by the Committee on Undergraduate Honors. the six credits earned from completing a thesis will be accepted as part of the 24 credit major.

Prerequisites:

- 3.5 GPA in Political Science and also a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Complete a minimum of four courses in Political Science, including at least two at the 3000-level or above
- Submit an [application and prospectus](#) that has been approved by the prospective faculty mentor, the Chair of Political Science (Dr. David Jones), and the Chair of the Committee of Undergraduate Honors (Dr. Frank Heiland). The deadline for the prospectus is April 1 for a student who wishes to begin the thesis in the Fall semester, and November 1 for a student who wishes to begin the thesis in the Spring semester.
- Students do NOT have to be enrolled in the Honors Program to write an honors thesis.

For more information, please visit the [Honors Thesis in Political Science](#) website

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The Minor

A minor in political science will help students to flourish in the political environment in which their future economic and social activities will be carried on. To suit the special educational needs and objectives of individual students, appropriate substitution of designated courses may be made after consultation with the departmental advisor. Students may minor by taking 6 credits of 3000-level courses plus [POL 4900](#) Political Science Capstone Seminar. In order to officially become a minor in Political Science, students must submit a minor declaration form to the Registrar's Office.

Important Advisory Regarding Capstones: At least one of the two required 3000-level courses in Political Science must be completed BEFORE taking the capstone [POL 4900](#). (If necessary, students are permitted to take the second 3000-level course during the same semester as the capstone, but must consult with the department to do so.) Political Science does NOT offer capstone courses in winter sessions.

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Courses in Political Science

Important Note: A number of the courses listed below are not offered every semester. Please consult [CUNYfirst](#) for the information on what courses are currently being offered.

POL 1101	American Government: Practices and Values	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 2001	The United States in an Age of Globalization	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 2240	Introduction to International Relations	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 2260	Introduction to Comparative Government	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 2280	The Great Political Debates: The Individual and Society	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 2332	American Political Thought	3 hours; 3 credits

POL 2353	Public Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3000	Research Skills in Political Science (formerly <i>POL 3323 Political and Administrative Research</i>)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3001	Women: Politics and Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3005	Social Welfare Policy (HIS 3005)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3008	Religion And Politics In The United States (HIS 3008), REL 3008)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3062	Political Sociology (SOC 3062)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3086	The Modern Middle East and North Africa (HIS 3086)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3101	Political Psychology (PSY 3101)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3102	American Conservatism: Origins, Development, And Contemporary Controversies (HIS 3102)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3103	Political Economy	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3104	The Politics of the Third World	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3201	Topics in Politics and Literature (ENG 3201)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3220	State and Local Government	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3310	Public Opinion	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3311	Political Parties and Elections	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3312	Congress and the Legislative Process	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3313	Constitutional Law	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3314	Civil Liberties	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3315	Government and the American Economy	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3316	The Presidency	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3317	The Politics of Energy and the Environment	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3318	Immigration and Integration in the United States	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3319	Social Movements and U.S. Politics	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3321	Urban Politics	3 hours; 3 credit
POL 3323	Politics and Government of New York City	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3333	Political Behavior	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3334	American Radicalism	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3335	Early Political Theory	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3336	Modern Political Theory	3 hours; 3 credits

POL 3337	Contemporary Political Ideologies	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3340	Political Socialization	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3341	International Relations in the Middle East	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3342	American Foreign Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3343	International Relations in Selected Areas of the World	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3344	The United Nations in World Politics	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3345	Contemporary International Conflict	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3346	The Rise of Asia in World Affairs (AAS 3846), HIS 3846)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3347	Seminar on Political Globalization	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3361	Comparative Politics in Selected Areas of the World	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3362	European Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3364	Latin American and Caribbean Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3365	Asian Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3366	African Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3367	Comparative Revolutions	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3368	Communist Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3369	Identity Politics in Comparative Perspective	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3417	Case Studies in American Government	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3422	Urban Public Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3456	American Intellectual History	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3500	Political Analysis	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3842	The Making of Modern India (AAS 3842 , HIS 3842)	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 3999	Special Topics in Political Science	1-3 hours; 1-3 credits
POL 4900	Political Science Capstone Seminar	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 5000	Independent Study in Political Science I	Hours and credits to be arranged
POL 5001	Independent Study in Political Science II	Hours and credits to be arranged
POL 5002	Independent Study in Political Science III	Hours and credits to be arranged
POL 5030-5031	Research Practicum in Political Science I and II	Variable (3 to 9 hours; 1 to 3 credits per semester)
POL 5452	Field Work in Government and Politics	3 hours; 3 credits
POL 6001H	Political Science Honors I	3 hours; 3 credits per semester

POL 6002H	Political Science Honors II	3 hours; 3 credits per semester
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