MAJOR PROGRAMS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The department of Political Science offers four undergraduate majors: Political Science B.S.; Political Science B.S. with teaching certification (7-12); Political Science B.A.; and Economics B.A. The programs in political science offer the student an understanding of the basic issues in government and politics from the local to the global level, as well as an acquaintance with the methods by which we study the subject. A political science major prepares the student for careers in government service, teaching, law, business, the mass media, international affairs, and organizations advocating public policy. The study of political science may also be of value to many students interested in informed participation in the public life of their society.

Students planning to major in political science may wish to specialize in one or more of the following areas:

American Politics

PSC 312 — Media, Polls, and American Politics
PSC 314 — Urban Politics
PSC 315 — Issues in U.S. Government
PSC 316 — U.S. Security Policy
PSC 319 — Congress and Presidency
PSC 320 — Gender and Politics
PSC 321 — The U.S. Legal System
PSC 322 — U.S. Political Parties & Elections
PSC 325 — U.S. Politics and Economic Policy
PSC 326 — Race and Ethnicity in American Politics
PSC 328 — State and Local Government
PSC 329 — Political Participation
PSC 350 — Public Administration
PSC 351 — Analysis of Public Policy
PSC 353 — Congress and Public Policy
PSC 356 — Politics and Administration in Connecticut
PSC 357 — Administrative Law
PSC 360 — Presidential Politics
PSC 417 — Constitutional Law

Comparative Politics

PSC 300 — Governments of Russia I
PSC 301 — Governments of Russia II
PSC 304 — Politics of Japan and Asian-Pacific Rimlands
PSC 305 — Political Economy of Development
PSC 306 — Politics in Asian Communist and Postcommunist States
PSC 307 — Middle East Politics
PSC 308 — Latin America Politics
PSC 309 — Politics in India and Pakistan
PSC 310 — Comparative Public Policy
PSC 311 — European Politics
PSC 318 — African Politics and Culture in 21st Century
PSC 320 — Gender and Politics
PSC 333 — Latin American Security
PSC 334 — World Public Opinion
PSC 409 — Ethnic Groups and Ethnic Conflict: An International Perspective

International Relations

PSC 316 — U.S. Security Policy
PSC 317 — U.S.-Latin American Relations
PSC 331 — International Organizations
PSC 333 — Latin American Security
PSC 334 — World Public Opinion
PSC 335 — Global Politics
PSC 336 — The U.S. in World Affairs
PSC 337 — International Law
PSC 338 — Contemporary World Politics
PSC 339 — Foreign Policy Analysis
PSC 409 — Ethnic Groups and Ethnic Conflict: An International Perspective
PSC 435 — On War

Political Thought

PSC 340 — Political Thought I: Classical and Medieval Eras
PSC 342 — Political Thought II: Modern Era
PSC 344 — Political Thought III: Contemporary Era
PSC 346 — Marxism
PSC 348 — Western Political Thought
The department offers the following:

Political Science, B.A.
Political Science, B.S.
Political Science 7-12, B.S.
Minor in Political Science
Minor in Urban Affairs
POLITICAL SCIENCE 7-12, B.S.

This program has a separate admission process. Please consult the admission requirements for this program on the College of Education page for more information.

Overall GPA of 2.7 Required
120 Overall Credits Required

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS

Liberal Education Program

Students must complete a comprehensive three-tiered Liberal Education Program (LEP). View all requirements of the tiers on the Liberal Education Program.

While the choice of courses that fulfill the requirements is generally left up to students, courses in the major and/or cognate may also satisfy LEP requirements. These shared courses are recommended below to fulfill both areas, although the course credits are only counted once towards the 120 credits required for graduation.

Tier 2 – American Experience (select one):
HIS 110 – United States History I
HIS 111 - United States History II

Tier 2 – Mind and Body:
SHE 203 – School Health

Tier 2 - Social Structure, Conflict, and Consensus:
EDU 200 - Teachers, Schools, and Society

Tier 2 - Time and Place (select one):
HIS 100 - Western Civilization I
HIS 101 - Western Civilization 2

Tier 3 - Capstone:
HIS 496 - Student Teaching Seminar - History

Writing Requirements (“W-Courses”)

Three W-courses are required. These may not be taken until after a student has passed ENG 112 — Writing Arguments. W-courses may count toward LEP, major, or cognate requirements, as well as free electives. Course sections that meet this requirement are designated by section numbers ending in “W”.

Transfer students who enter with 60 to 89 credits are required to pass two W-courses, while transfer students who enter with 90 credits or more must pass one W-course.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

57 Credits Required

Political Science Requirements
30 Credits Required

Requirements:
Students who take any of the following 4 toward an LEP requirement, will replace the course in the major with a PSC course at the 200-level or higher, or a course approved by the department.

PSC 200 — Political Change and Conflict
PSC 240 — Introduction to Political Thought
PSC 260 — U.S. Government
PSC 270 — International Relations

PSC 365 - Research Methods in Political Science
PSC 475 - Capstone Seminar

An additional 12 credits of PSC at the 300 level or higher, or other subjects as approved by the political science department

Education Requirements
27 Credits Required

Requirements:
EDU 316 - Child Development and Psychology for Educators
EDU 413 – Secondary Education
EDU 471 – Supporting English Learners for School Success (formerly IDS 471)
HIS 490 – Social Science (Secondary School)
HIS 494 – Student Teaching (History)
    HIS 496
    - Student Teaching Seminar - History
RDG 470 – Literacy in the Content Areas (formerly IDS 470)
SED 482 – Teaching Exceptional Students in the Secondary Education Classroom

COGNATE REQUIREMENTS

24 Credits Required

Requirements:
EDU 200 - Teachers, Schools, and Society
HIS 100 - Western Civilization I
    or HIS 101 - Western Civilization II
HIS 110 – United States History I
    or HIS 111 - United States History II
SHE 203 – School Health
Select one non-western HIS course

- HIS 145 - History of Africa
- HIS 242 - Imperial Russian and Soviet History, 1800-1991
- HIS 243 - Traditional & Modern East Asia
- HIS 244 - Traditional & Modern East Asia
- HIS 246 - African Politics & Culture
- HIS 247 - Early Modern France
- HIS 280 - Modern Iraq
- HIS 291 - Hispanic Caribbean
- HIS 300 - The Vietnam War Era
- HIS 342 - 20th Century China

Additional 9 credits of HIS (excluding HIS 112)

FREE ELECTIVES

Students must take remaining credits to reach Overall Credits Required (listed above).
POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.A.

120 Overall Credits Required

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS

Liberal Education Program

Students must complete a comprehensive three-tiered Liberal Education Program (LEP). View all requirements of the tiers on the Liberal Education Program.

While the choice of courses that fulfill the requirements is generally left up to students, courses in the major and/or cognate may also satisfy LEP requirements. These shared courses are recommended below to fulfill both areas, although the course credits are only counted once towards the 120 credits required for graduation.

Tier 3 - Capstone (select one):
PSC 475 - Capstone Seminar

Writing Requirements ("W-Courses")

Three W-courses are required. These may not be taken until after a student has passed ENG 112 — Writing Arguments. W-courses may count toward LEP, major, or cognate requirements, as well as free electives. Course sections that meet this requirement are designated by section numbers ending in "W".

Transfer students who enter with 60 to 89 credits are required to pass two W-courses, while transfer students who enter with 90 credits or more must pass one W-course.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

36 Credits Required

Requirements:
Students who take any of the following 4 toward an LEP requirement, will replace the course in the major with a PSC course at the 200-level or higher, or a course approved by the department.

PSC 200 — Political Change and Conflict
PSC 240 — Introduction to Political Thought
PSC 260 — U.S. Government
PSC 270 — International Relations
PSC 365 - Research Methods in Political Science
PSC 475 - Capstone Seminar
An additional 18 credits of PSC at the 300 level with at least 3 credits in each of the following subfields:
American Politics
Comparative Politics
International Relations
Political Thought

COGNATE REQUIREMENTS

No cognates are required for this program.

FREE ELECTIVES

Remaining credits to reach Overall Credits Required (listed above).
POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.S.

120 Overall Credits Required

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS

Liberal Education Program

Students must complete a comprehensive three-tiered Liberal Education Program (LEP). View all requirements of the tiers on the Liberal Education Program.

While the choice of courses that fulfill the requirements is generally left up to students, courses in the major and/or cognate may also satisfy LEP requirements. These shared courses are recommended below to fulfill both areas, although the course credits are only counted once towards the 120 credits required for graduation.

Tier 3 - Capstone (select one):
- HON 495 - Departmental Honors
- PSC 475 - Capstone Seminar

Writing Requirements (“W-Courses”)

Three W-courses are required. These may not be taken until after a student has passed ENG 112 — Writing Arguments. W-courses may count toward LEP, major, or cognate requirements, as well as free electives. Course sections that meet this requirement are designated by section numbers ending in “W”.

Transfer students who enter with 60 to 89 credits are required to pass two W-courses, while transfer students who enter with 90 credits or more must pass one W-course.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

36 Credits Required

Requirements:
Students who take any of the following 4 courses toward an LEP requirement, will replace the course in the major with a PSC course at the 200-level or higher, or a course approved by the department.
- PSC 200 — Political Change and Conflict
- PSC 240 — Introduction to Political Thought
- PSC 260 — U.S. Government
- PSC 270 — International Relations
- PSC 365 - Research Methods in Political Science
- PSC 367 - Quantitative Analysis of Political Data
- HON 495 - Departmental Honors
or PSC 475 - Capstone Seminar
PSC 496 - Campaign Management Internship
 or PSC 497 - Political Science Internship (6 credits required)

Select an additional 9 credits of PSC at the 300 level or higher, or other subjects as approved by the political science department. No more than 3 credits of PSC 497 may be applied to this requirement.

COGNATE REQUIREMENTS

No cognates are required for this program.

FREE ELECTIVES

Remaining credits to reach Overall Credits Required (listed above).
COURSES

PSC 150 - Thinking about Politics
Development of the critical thinking skills necessary for academic, professional, and personal success in life. Students will critically read classic approaches to the major dimensions of political conflict and consensus. They will also evaluate the arguments of modern incarnations of the classic debates in terms of the validity of their assumptions and the quality of their evidence. In evaluating evidence, the focus will be on developing competency in information literacy. By the end of the semester students will be able to identify their own political assumptions. The course will encourage civic engagement by empowering students to make well-reasoned and supported arguments.
Last Offered: Fall 2018
3 credits

PSC 200 - Political Change and Conflict
Analysis of conflicts among political, social, and economic groups within nations and the responses of governments through consensus, cooperation, or violence to maintain order or expand rights and opportunities.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 214 - American Tongues: Everyday Politics of Speaking
Investigates the ways that language practice constructs, maintains, and complicates ideas about social cohesion with an emphasis on inequality. Stresses intersections of race, class, and gender.
Last Offered: Fall 2018
3 credits

PSC 220 - Grassroots Democracy: City and States
Investigates state and local governments as well as community politics. Special focus on social capital and coalition politics in state governments, city halls, and community organizations.
Prerequisite(s): Critical Thinking.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 230 - War
Examination of war as part of human existence. Topics discussed include the causes of war, the ethics of war, the effects of war on participants (soldiers and civilians), and the impact of war on societies.
Prerequisite(s): INQ, LEP Critical Thinking.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 240 - Introduction to Political Thought
Introduction to normative political theories, that is, theories about the normal foundations of politics. Most political science addresses questions about how the world works. Instead, answers to questions about how the world ought to work are emphasized. Political philosophy is therefore a component of the realm of philosophical inquiry known as “ethics.” Explores different ethical theories in the class, but the focus is on applying them specifically to political problems.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 260 - U.S. Government
Examination of American national government, its philosophy, political, legislative, executive, judicial and administrative processes, and the policies that govern us.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits
PSC 270 - International Relations
An examination of the characteristics of the international system and of the factors which determine the political relations between states and other actors. Develops an understanding of world political issues.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 301 - Russian Politics and Government
A survey of the historical background leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union, basic institutional structure of Russian politics, present political, economic, and social order, and Russia's current place in the world.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 304 - Japan and Other Developed Countries in Asia
A comparative analysis of politics, economics, and social issues of developed countries in Asia, with a focus on Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

PSC 305 - Political Economy of Development
Introduction to theories of political economy as applied to developing countries and regions. Case studies of development issues in various regions are examined.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

PSC 307 - Middle East Politics
A survey of the Arab and non-Arab governments and politics of the region. Particular emphasis on the problems of the political culture, development, modernization, identity, and integration as they present themselves in the area.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2019
3 credits

PSC 308 - Latin American Politics
Comparative examination of the contemporary political process. Topics include the nature of political change, the role of the military, and the roles of political parties, and government institutions in the democratization process. Studies of selected countries are used to illustrate cases of national political development.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 310 - Comparative Public Policy
A comparison of the process of making, implementing, and evaluating public policy in different kinds of nation-states, with a focus on substantive issues such as health policy, education, human rights, taxation, and transportation.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

PSC 311 - European Politics
Analysis of governmental institutions, processes, and political behavior in the larger democracies of Western Europe and the European Union. Includes some basic comparisons between European and American politics.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits
PSC 312 - Media and American Politics
Exploration of the impact of the mass media on American political attitudes, including their influence on how public officials govern and their role in political campaigns.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 314 - Urban Politics
The governmental structure and the nature of policy making in urban settings. Emphasis is how urban political issues are dealt with in a federal system and a market society.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 315 - Issues in U.S. Government
Survey of the chief activities of U.S. national government, including the promotion and regulation of business, labor, agriculture, education, civil rights, and welfare.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2016
3 credits

PSC 316 - U.S. Security Policy
Analysis of the formulation and implementation of American security policy. The role of each of the governmental components concerned with security affairs are emphasized.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or PSC 270 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2019
3 credits

PSC 317 - U.S.-Latin American Relations
Analysis of U.S. relations with Latin America focusing on trade, immigration, drug control, and military affairs.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 270 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 321 - The U.S. Legal System
Survey of the principles and nature of U.S. criminal and civil law and the court procedures and personnel used to apply it.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

PSC 322 - U.S. Political Parties and Elections
Study of contemporary political parties and the functions of voting and elections in the United States.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 326 - Race and Ethnicity in American Politics
An examination of the roles of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans in comparison with Whites in the U.S. political system. Issues about political participation, voting behavior, affirmative action, and public policy are examined.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 328 - State and Local Government
Examination of the types of interrelations and policy-making powers of state and local governments.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

PSC 329 - Political Participation
Examination of how and why citizens participate in politics through organized groups. Investigates participation in political parties, interest groups, and social movements.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits
PSC 331 - International Organizations
Examination of international and regional organizations whose major functions are conflict resolution and economic and political cooperation. This course focuses on the United Nations and the European Community.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 270 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

PSC 333 - Latin American Security
Analysis of Latin American major security issues, including revolution, guerrilla warfare, and transnational crime.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 200 or PSC 270 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

PSC 335 - Global Politics
Analysis of globalization and its impact on political institutions and transnational policies.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 270 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2019
3 credits

PSC 336 - The U.S. in World Affairs
Analysis of U.S. foreign relations with the regions of the world focusing on policy makers, political institutions, and strategic decision-making.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 270 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 338 - Contemporary World Politics
Analysis of the major causes and consequences of contemporary world conflicts and possible conflict resolution strategies.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 270 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2017
3 credits

PSC 340 - Political Thought I: Classical and Medieval Eras
An examination of the problems of political philosophy in the contexts of the city-state, the Roman Empire, and the Medieval Christian order, as seen through the writings of major theorists from Plato to Marsilius.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 240 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2019
3 credits

PSC 342 - Political Thought II: Modern Era
An examination of the problems of political philosophy in the context of the nation-state and the modern scientific world view as seen through the writings of major theorists from Machiavelli to Marx.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 240 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

PSC 344 - Political Thought III: Contemporary Era
An examination of the major philosophic and scientific approaches to politics in the 20th century through analysis of writers from Marx to Marcuse.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 240 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 346 - Marxism
Historical analysis of political and economic thought of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, and their successors; and Marxism’s impact on the 20th and 21st centuries.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 240 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits
PSC 348 - Western Political Thought
Examination of the major western political theories from ancient to modern times.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 240 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

PSC 350 - Public Leadership
Addresses leadership in the public interest in the context of government and non-profit organizations. Examines leadership traits and skills, vision setting, conflict management, and ethics in leadership.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

PSC 351 - Public Policy Analysis
An introduction to policy analysis and the policy process. Techniques for the systematic examination and explanation of the formation of public policy, its substance, and its impact and consequences.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Summer 2020
3 credits

PSC 353 - Congress and Public Policy
An examination of the interactions of Congress with presidents, government agencies, the courts, interest groups, and the media in the policy-making process.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2018
3 credits

PSC 356 - Politics and Administration in Connecticut
The political and administrative structures of Connecticut government and policy-making, the electoral process, the role of the governor, the legislative process, bureaucracy and administration, and public policy.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2019
3 credits

PSC 360 - Presidential Politics
Examination of the modern presidency focusing on elections, policy decision-making, media relations, and presidential power.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 365 - Research Methods in Political Science
Exploration of recent methodological developments in the field of political science. Systematic political analysis and approaches to the study of politics are emphasized.
Prerequisite(s): 9 PSC credits or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 367 - Quantitative Analysis of Political Data
Examination of quantitative techniques used as tools for the study of politics, survey research techniques, scaling, and data processing.
Prerequisite(s): 9 PSC credits or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits
PSC 381 - Campaign Management
Development of the skills and knowledge needed to manage and run state and local political campaigns. The course will link theory to actual campaign practice by having each student participate in a concurrent campaign internship at the state or local level.
Corequisite(s): PSC 496 and departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2020
3 credits

PSC 398 - Special Topics in Political Science
Examination of current issues in political science.
Prerequisite(s): 6 PSC credits or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Summer 2020
3 credits

PSC 417 - Constitutional Law
Study of the interpretation of the Constitution through the examination of Supreme Court decisions.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 260 or departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 435 - Modern War
Examination of modern warfare. Particular emphasis is placed on the causes of war, tactics and strategy, and how wars end.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 270 and 6 credits of PSC.
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 475 - Capstone Seminar
Demonstration of knowledge accumulated over the course of the major, including research writing skills and the ability to evaluate either statistical data or qualitative evidence.
Prerequisite(s): PSC 244 or PSC 365; Political Science major and senior status; 6 of 8 Tier 2 complete (Honors Coll.: 15 cr. HON or 45 cr. total), and prior or concurrent completion of all Tier 1 (Honors Coll.: T1MC and T1QR only).
Last Offered: Spring 2021
3 credits

PSC 496 - Campaign Management Internship
Through an internship in a state or local political campaign, students will develop the skills needed to manage and run campaigns. Students must be enrolled concurrently in the campaign management course to participate in this internship.
Corequisite(s): PSC 381 and departmental permission.
Last Offered: not yet offered
3 to 6 credits

PSC 497 - Political Science Internship
A supervised internship in political institutions at the local, state, national, or international level providing practical training in public administration, and permitting the application of social science methods to appropriate topics. Periodic seminars required.
Prerequisite(s): Junior status and departmental permission.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 to 15 credits

PSC 498 - Advanced Special Topics in Political Science
Advanced study of current issues in political science.
Prerequisite(s): Junior status and 9 credits in PSC.
Last Offered: Spring 2017
3 credits

PSC 499 - Independent Study
No Description Available
Prerequisite(s): Departmental permission.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 to 6 credits