

Political Science

Courses in political science help students develop an understanding of the political systems of the United States and other nations, both their formal structures and the informal forces which shape governmental decisions. These courses also analyze the role of the U. S. government in international relations and foreign policy, compare our method of government with those of other major nations, and study the development of political thought. The Political Science and History major is recommended for students preparing for government service, secondary teaching, graduate study in political science, and law school.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY –

36 hours of Political Science and History courses, 12 hours of which must be at the 300 level, including the following:

			<i>Hours</i>
PSC	150	American Government (National)	3
PSC	261	Comparative Government	
3 PSC	320W	Political and Social Philosophy	3
HIS	113W	Survey of Europe to 1660	3
HIS	114W	Survey of Europe Since 1660	3
HIS	250W	History of the U.S. to 1865	3
HIS	251W	History of the U.S. Since 1865	3
<i>Plus at least 12 hours from the following, at least six of which must be at the 300 level:</i>			12
PSC	250	American Government (State and Local)	3
PSC	263	International Relations	3
Any PSC Special Topics Course at the 200 level			3
PSC	301	The Presidency	3
PSC	310	The American Congress	3
PSC	315W	Constitutional Law	3
PSC	316W	Civil Liberties	3
PSC	362W	American Foreign Policy	3
Any PSC Special Topics Course at the 300 level			3
<i>Plus at least one three-hour History course at the 300 level</i>			3
TOTAL:			36 hours

Students interested in graduate school study are encouraged to take MAT 260 Statistics.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR – 20 hours in the area with at least six hours at the 300 level or above. MAT 260, Statistics, or MAT 310W, Probability and Statistics, may be counted toward requirements for a minor.

Political Science Courses

PSC 150 American Government (National) 3 hours

Focuses on the structure and operation of the government of the United States. Emphasis is on the creation and ratification of the Constitution, federalism, separation of powers and the operation of the three branches, and political parties and elections. Ideally, a student would take this course before taking 200 and 300 level Political Science courses.

PSC 250 American Government (State and Local) 3 hours

(Offered in alternate years)

Study of the structure and function of states, municipalities, and other units of local government. Special attention is given to Illinois state government and the Illinois state constitution.

PSC 261 Comparative Government 3 hours

Comparative study of the government institutions and practices of selected foreign nations.

PSC 263 International Relations 3 hours

(Offered in alternate years)

Study of the political, economic, and psychological factors which contribute to the present-day international situation.

PSC 301 The Presidency 3 hours

Prerequisite: PSC 150. (Offered in alternate years)

Study of the executive branch of government focusing primarily on the Presidency, including: Constitutional and historical developments; presidential elections and political parties; decision making; appointments; interactions between the President, Congress, and the courts; foreign policy and national defense.

PSC 310W The American Congress 3 hours

Prerequisite: ENG 101W and ENG 102W. (Offered in alternate years)

Study of the structure and organization of the American Congress. Special attention is given to legislative rules and procedures, campaigns and elections, and the role of leadership in the House and Senate. This course is primarily a research course. Students are required to produce an original research paper of 15-20 pages.

PSC 315W Constitutional Law 3 hours

Prerequisite: PSC 150 or consent of instructor. (Offered in alternate years)

Significant cases and trends in the interpretation of the Constitution and the role of the judiciary in this process. Focuses on separation of powers and federalism. Instruction is by the case method.

PSC 316W Civil Liberties**3 hours**

Prerequisite: PSC 150 or consent of instructor. (Offered in alternate years)

Study of key amendments to the Constitution, especially amendments 1-10 and 14. The course focuses on such issues as freedom of speech, religion, and the press; freedom from unreasonable search and seizure; and the right to privacy. Instruction is by the case method.

PSC 320W Political and Social Philosophy**3 hours**

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Political Science major or consent of instructor. (Offered in alternate years)

Study of the nature of man centering on his political, social and/or moral existence. (Cross-listed as PHI 320W)

PSC 362W American Foreign Policy**3 hours**

(Offered in alternate years)

The diplomatic history of American foreign policy from 1898 to the present. A consideration of the relations between present problems and traditional policies and of the institutions and forces involved in the decision making process in this area. (Cross-listed as HIS 362W)