

Political Science

Department of Political Science

College of Arts and Sciences
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Overview

In political science, students have a wide variety of backgrounds, interests, and career aspirations. As our range of possible concentrations in the department suggests, students interested in law school, public affairs, government service, graduate school, or international studies obtain a solid background with the courses offered. Of course, the core or basic concentration allows students the most flexibility in designing a curriculum to meet individual needs. Many political science majors go on to obtain advanced degrees in law or political science. Some students build upon their internship experiences to pursue careers in politics or government.

About our Degrees

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in two political science courses.

Acceptance Information

Deadlines: Rolling
Number of accepted majors/year: 125

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

In political science, students have a wide variety of backgrounds, interests, and career aspirations. As our range of possible concentrations in the department suggests, students interested in law school, public affairs, government service, graduate school, or international studies can obtain a solid background with the courses we offer. Of course, the core or basic concentration allows students the most flexibility in designing a curriculum to meet individual needs.

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

Suggested Introductory Courses

- [PSC 101](#) Introduction to American Politics

Courses Outside Political Science that Could Improve Employment Opportunities

- Computer science
- Economics
- English (especially writing skills)
- Statistics

The typical class size for:

Freshman/introductory courses is: 250
Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 75
Upper level/advanced courses is: 50

Political Science

In the Department of Political Science, what do teaching assistants (TA's) do?

Advanced graduate students teach some undergraduate courses; other graduate students assist in grading examinations and papers.

About our Faculty

The department has a faculty of 16 full-time members, all of whom have PhDs and teach both undergraduate and graduate courses. University honors awarded for excellence in teaching to several members of the faculty demonstrates the high quality of teaching. Our faculty is professionally active, nationally recognized, and very accessible. They have authored or co-authored twenty-two books, edited another twenty-one books, and authored or co-authored more than 160 research articles and nearly 100 chapters in edited collections. The faculty have published with many leading university presses, and their work has appeared in the leading professional journals. One faculty member is a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, two are UB Distinguished Professors, and several have won awards for their teaching and research. Several have had grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), and one served as the political science program director at NSF. Two faculty members have served as American Political Science Association congressional fellows. Several have served on the editorial boards of major scholarly journals, and within the governing bodies of regional and subfield organizations in the discipline.

See a list of our [Undergraduate Faculty](#).

Acceptance Information

Students should apply for admission to the major in political science no later than the beginning of their junior year. To become eligible, students must have completed two political science courses with a minimum GPA of 2.0, and have a minimum UB GPA of 2.0. Applicants should bring a copy of their current UB DARS report directly to the Department of Political Science. Prospective majors are encouraged to complete the department's required courses: [PSC 101](#) during their first semester, and [PSC 200](#) or [PSC 393](#) or [PSC 408](#) during their second semester.

Transfer Policy

Credit for political science courses completed with a passing grade at other colleges or universities may be granted in instances where comparable courses exist within the department at UB. The department gives transfer credit for a maximum of five political science courses. Where applicable, transfer courses may be used to meet specific departmental requirements.

Academic Requirements

Please note that a minimum GPA of 2.0 in both the major and overall is required for graduation.

Extracurricular Activities

Undergraduate Political Science Club

This club sponsors weekly meetings and participates in department social affairs. It also organizes special events, trips to Washington D.C., and faculty/student lunches. Members elect officers and control their own funds. For more information, call (716) 645-2251.

Model European Union Simulation

Each year since 1993, the Department of Political Science has sent a delegation to participate in a simulation of decision-making in the European Union. To facilitate this, UB is a member of a consortium of New York State and European universities. Approximately 150 American students and 100 European students participate in these three- to four-day meetings, which are held either at the University at Buffalo, SUNY/Brockport, or in Luxembourg. Professor D. Munroe Eagles is the faculty advisor for this simulation; interested students are encouraged to contact him.

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Undergraduate Research and Practical Experience

Political Science

Washington Semester Program

Undergraduate students with a GPA of 3.0 higher can spend either a fall or a spring semester in Washington D.C., participating in a full-time internship with a political institution, agency, or group. Students in this program earn up to 15 credit hours, up to 6 of which can be applied to the major as upper division Political Science credits.

New York State Senate and Assembly Internship

Undergraduate students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible to intern for a semester in the office of a state senator or member of the Assembly in Albany. Participants earn up to 15 credit hours, up to 6 of which can be applied to the major as upper division Political Science credits.

Community Internship

Undergraduates with a GPA of 3.0 or better can work with a government office or agency located in Western New York. An academic component, usually a paper is required and is arranged in consultation with a sponsoring faculty member on a case by case basis. Students typically earn 3 credit hours.

Undergraduate Research

Students are invited to approach faculty members to explore mutual research interests.

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

In order to graduate with honors in Political Science at UB, a Political Science major must satisfy two requirements. He or she must have: (1.) received a grade of B or better in one of the following courses: [PSC 490](#) Honors Seminar, [PSC 492](#) Pre-Law Honors Seminar, [PSC 495](#) Senior Seminar, [PSC 497](#) Honors Thesis, or (with the permission of the instructor) any graduate seminar, and (2.) have a GPA of over 3.25.

Political Science majors receiving a grade of at least B in the above courses and graduating with a GPA of at least 3.25 but less than 3.50 will be designated as graduating with Honors.

Political Science majors receiving a grade of at least B in the above courses and graduating with a GPA of at least 3.50 but less than 3.75 will be designated as graduating with High Honors.

Political Science majors receiving a grade of at least B in the above courses and graduating with a GPA of over 3.75 will be designated as graduating with Highest Honors.

Those honor graduates completing a thesis will be so designated, as in High Honors (with thesis).

Career Information and Further Study

Many of our graduates go on to law school or get advanced degrees in Public Policy (MPP), Public Administration (MPA) or Political Science (MA/PhD). Many go into public service.

Skills gained in this program include:

- Interpreting public policy to the public and explaining the mechanics of government and intergovernmental relations.
- Directing individuals to government agencies.
- Providing insight into the overall political environment to promote public causes.
- Organizing or participating in community action, and collecting funds to support the action.
- Analyzing bureaucratic budgets, policy-making processes, congressional behavior, pressure-group activities, international relations, or local power struggles.
- Dealing effectively with individuals or groups to obtain information and using surveys and interview techniques for research.
- Using mathematical methods: simulation, statistics, and electronic data processing to analyze data.
- Writing clear and concise reports.
- Predicting the impact specific political changes will have on the quality of life.
- Supplying historical perspective with information on past experiences in order to fairly consider issues, such as minority relations, foreign policy, environmental protection, or urban development.
- Recommending measures, such as resource allocation, long-range economic planning, or the organization of community to address social problems.
- Advising businesses on bureaucratic systems.

Transferable Skills:

- Organizing large projects by harnessing the talent of diverse groups of people and allocating responsibilities accordingly.
- Teaching, instructing, and consulting various people and organizations on complex issues and theories.
- Conducting research and market analyses to develop strategies and plans of action.

Political Science

Career Choices

There are a variety of occupations that political science majors can enter. The following list is non-exhaustive and some of the occupations may require additional training or education.

- Archivist (political history)
- Campaign manager
- Case worker
- City manager
- Community relations
- Diplomat
- Editor
- Educator
- Equal opportunity representative
- Foreign correspondent
- Foreign service officer
- Government worker
- Journalist
- Importer/exporter
- Industrial relations
- Labor relations specialist
- Legislative assistant
- Librarian
- Lobbyist
- Management analyst
- Market research analyst
- Military officer
- News writer
- Paralegal
- Parole/probation officer
- Police officer
- Political consultant
- Politician
- Polling/marketing researcher
- Public relations director
- Research assistant
- Writer

What percentage of graduates goes on to find related employment?

65%

Work settings include:

Federal, state, county, and local governments; private business; independent advertising; manufacturing companies; consulting firms; public agencies; not-for-profit organizations; political parties; law firms; insurance companies; regional planning organizations; colleges & universities; legislative offices; research organizations; labor relations firms; libraries; public or private school districts; community organizations; departments of public assistance; social service agencies; welfare agencies; housing agencies; state parole boards; county probation offices; magazines; newspapers; publishers; television stations or networks; large corporations; public utilities; public relations firms; public interest organizations; travel agencies; hotels; importing or exporting firms; philanthropic organizations; scouting organizations; and urban renewal organizations.

Salary Information

Salaries can vary greatly for different occupations, geographic areas, and organizations and companies. According to Payscale.com, political science majors who do not go onto graduate study make, on average, \$39,900 starting salary and \$80,100 by mid-career.

Career Hints

Employers are seeking candidates with experience and those who have developed their skills from that experience. Internships, part-time work, summer employment, and/or further education can enhance a graduate's employability in their chosen career area.

Political science majors can increase their skills by running for political office, getting involved in special interest groups, joining student government, and/or securing an internship with a political leader, law firm, or other governmental office.

What percentage of graduates goes on to graduate school?

40%

Political Science

Degree Options

General Concentration. For those majors with general interests in politics and government. This program allows majors the most flexibility in choosing courses to match individual interests from the five fields of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, methods of inquiry, and political philosophy. The intent behind the core requirements is to give every student the breadth to understand political issues, theories, and concepts, along with the needed skills for interpreting and doing political research.

Public Law Concentration. Specifically for students who plan to attend law school. Students who complete the core concentration in political science are not precluded from applying to law school; however, the public law concentration represents the department's best collective recommendations for a structured undergraduate plan.

American Politics and Public Affairs Concentration. Prepares students for careers in public service or political organizations, and provides a solid background for the more than 15 million employment opportunities in local, state, or federal government. An internship is considered a useful part of this option.

International Politics Concentration. Students planning careers in the international field are encouraged to pursue this concentration.

Comparative Politics Concentration. Students planning careers in the comparative field are encouraged to pursue this concentration.

Advanced Concentration. Students with excellent undergraduate records are likely to be successful applicants to graduate school; however, the department recommends this particular concentration to provide the best preparation for the top graduate programs in political science. A foundation in the areas of research design, mathematics, formal modeling, and statistics make the transition to a graduate program much easier. In addition, upper division courses that enable students to execute independent research projects and write research essays are highly recommended.

Double majors must satisfy all of the requirements of two departments.

Joint majors combine the programs in two departments, subject to the specific requirements in each. A student pursuing political science as a joint major is restricted to the core concentration, and must complete eight courses in political science, including [PSC 101](#), one from the following list; [PSC 100](#), [PSC 102](#), [PSC 103](#) or [PSC 104](#), one methods of inquiry course, four courses at the 300-level or above (three must be courses other than [PSC 496](#), [PSC 497](#), or [PSC 499](#)), and at least one course in comparative politics, international relations, or political philosophy.

Minors in political science must complete 7 courses:

[PSC 101](#)

One from the following list: [PSC 100](#), [PSC 102](#), [PSC 103](#) or [PSC 104](#)

One methods course: [PSC 200](#), [PSC 393](#) or [PSC 408](#)

Three upper-division courses, one of which must be in international relations, comparative politics, or political philosophy; and one additional political science courses in any field or at any level.

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA, Minor

Concentrations: Advanced, American Politics and Public Affairs, Comparative, General, International, and Public Law

Graduate: MA, MA/JD, PhD, PhD/JD

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Political Science](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

Political Science - B.A.

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in the prerequisite courses.

Political Science

Advising Note

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall and in the major required for graduation.
Minimum GPA of 3.0 overall and in the major is required for all internships.

Prerequisite Courses

Any two political science courses.

Required Courses

Twelve PSC courses, distributed as follows:

[PSC 101](#) Introduction to American Politics

A second required course, choose from one of the following: [PSC 100](#), [PSC 102](#), [PSC 103](#) or [PSC 104](#).

Seven 300/400-level PSC courses, up to two of which may be from: [PSC 496](#) Washington Semester Internship, [PSC 496](#) Community Internship Program, [PSC 496](#) New York State Senate and Assembly Internship, [PSC 497](#) Honors Thesis, [PSC 499](#) Independent Study
One methods of inquiry course: [PSC 200](#) Empirical Political Science, [PSC 393](#) Game Theory and Politics, or [PSC 408](#) Basic Statistics for Social Science. Acceptable substitutions: [SOC 294](#), [ECO 480](#), [PSY 207](#), [STA 119](#), [SSC 225](#), [MGQ 301](#), and [GEO 410](#).

At least one course in any three of the following four fields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, public law.

Note: Some concentrations have additional required courses.

Summary

Total required credit hours for the major: 36

See [Baccalaureate Degree Requirements](#) for general education and remaining university requirements.

Recommended Sequence of Program Requirements

FIRST YEAR

Spring One methods of inquiry course

Fall or Spring [PSC 101](#), and additional required 100 level course

SECOND YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course

Spring Two 300/400-level PSC courses

THIRD YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level PSC courses

Spring One 300/400-level PSC course

FOURTH YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course, one PSC elective at any level

Spring One PSC elective at any level

Concentrations

PUBLIC LAW

FIRST YEAR

Fall or Spring [PSC 101](#), and additional required 100 level course

Spring One methods of inquiry course

SECOND YEAR

Fall One 200-level PSC course from the public law list

Spring One 300/400-level PSC course from the public law list

THIRD YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course from the public law list

Spring One 300/400-level PSC course from the public law list, one 300/400-level PSC course

FOURTH YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course from the public law list, one PSC elective at any level

Spring Two 300/400-level PSC courses

AMERICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Political Science

FIRST YEAR

Spring One methods of inquiry course
Fall or Spring [PSC 101](#) and additional required 100 level course

SECOND YEAR

Fall One 200/300/400-level course in the American politics field
Spring One 300/400-level PSC course in the American politics field

THIRD YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course in the American politics field, one 300/400-level PSC course
Spring One 300/400-level PSC course in the American politics field

FOURTH YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level PSC courses
Spring One 300/400-level PSC elective, one 200/300/400-level PSC elective

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

FIRST YEAR

Spring One methods of inquiry course
Fall or Spring [PSC 101](#)

SECOND YEAR

Fall [PSC 102](#)
Spring Two 300/400-level PSC courses in the international field

THIRD YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level PSC courses in the international field
Spring One 300/400-level PSC course in the international field

FOURTH YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course, one PSC elective at any level
Spring One 300/400-level PSC course

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

FIRST YEAR

Spring One methods of inquiry course
Fall or Spring [PSC 101](#)

SECOND YEAR

Fall [PSC 103](#)
Spring Two 300/400-level PSC courses in the comparative field

THIRD YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level PSC courses in the comparative field
Spring One 300/400-level PSC course in the comparative field

FOURTH YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course, one PSC elective at any level
Spring One 300/400-level PSC course

ADVANCED

FIRST YEAR

Spring [PSC 200](#) or [PSC 408](#)
Fall or Spring [PSC 101](#)

SECOND YEAR

Fall [PSC 393](#)
Spring [PSC 200](#) or [PSC 408](#); one 300/400-level PSC course

THIRD YEAR

Fall One 300/400-level PSC course
Spring Two 300/400-level PSC courses

FOURTH YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level PSC courses
Spring One PSC elective at any level

Political Science

Electives and Course Groupings

Public Law List

- [PSC 215](#) Law and the Political Process
- [PSC 225](#) Equality and Justice in the United States
- [PSC 301](#) Cases in Civil Liberties
- [PSC 302](#) Protecting Civil Liberties
- [PSC 303](#) Constitutional Law
- [PSC 305](#) Judicial Politics
- [PSC 401](#) Advanced Civil Liberties
- [PSC 430](#) Human Rights
- [PSC 470](#) Legal Political Theory
- [PSC 492](#) Pre-law Honors Seminar

Political Science - Minor

Required Courses

[PSC 101](#) Introduction to American Politics and one course from the following list: [PSC 100](#), [PSC 102](#), [PSC 103](#) or [PSC 104](#).
One methods of inquiry course: [PSC 200](#) Empirical Political Science, [PSC 393](#) Game Theory and Politics, or [PSC 408](#) Basic Statistics for Social Science. Acceptable substitutes: [SOC 294](#), [ECO 480](#), [PSY 207](#), [STA 119](#), [SSC 225](#), [MGQ 301](#), and [GEO 410](#).
Three 300/400-level PSC courses; at least one must be in comparative politics, international relations, or public law.
One additional political science courses in any field at any level.

Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor: 21

PSC 101: Introduction to American Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area.

This course is a limited enrollment (impacted) course. Students who have previously attempted the course and received a grade other than W may not register for this course during the fall or spring semester.

Explores the theory and practice of the American political system; the three government branches, federalism, political parties, groups in the electoral and governmental process, public policy making, and contemporary political problems. This course is a controlled enrollment (impacted) course. Students who have previously attempted the course and received a grade other than W may repeat the course in the summer or only in the fall or spring semester with a petition to the College of Arts and Sciences Deans' Office.

PSC 102: Introduction to International Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Introduces contemporary and historical international relations; also

examines nationalism, imperialism, power diplomacy, and ideological conflict.

PSC 103: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Introduces foreign political systems; explores significant political similarities and differences among countries.

PSC 104: Introduction to Political Philosophy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Philosophy specialty area

Studies recurring themes in political thought, such as justice and equality, using the works of major political philosophers.

PSC 118: Just and Unjust War

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Political Science

International specialty area

Examines the ethical restraints on the use of force.

PSC 180: Introduction to Political Behavior

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Introduces the study of political behavior in the United States: public opinion, political participation and voting behavior.

PSC 215: Law and the Political Process

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

This course provides an introduction to the American legal system. A primary focus is the connection between law and politics. To that end, it examines the nature of judging and judicial decision-making, the organization of the state and federal legal systems, judicial selection, the power and role of the Supreme Court, and the relationship between the courts and the other two branches of government.

PSC 222: Politics and Society

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Introduces students to classic and contemporary issues and readings in political sociology, centering on the relationship of social and political forces. Draws empirical illustrations and cases from American and other "advanced industrial" societies.

PSC 224: Politics and Technology

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Acquaint students with basic knowledge on how to study the social, political, economic and communicative phenomena occurring within and around the Internet.

PSC 225: Equality and Justice in the United States

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Philosophy specialty area

Examines the conflict between the American people's commitment to equality, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, and its correspondence with economic and racial realities.

PSC 227: Politics and Geography

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

This course introduces students to the interdependence of political life and its geographic context. The interrelationship of politics and geography is explored at the international, national, and local levels.

PSC 229: East Asian Political Economy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Explores institutions that operate within and among China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea; also considers the political, social, and economic settings in which international business is transacted in East Asia.

PSC 293: Race and the Law

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

American specialty area

Explores that part of U.S. law that has dealt with the human and civil rights of African Americans (and by implication other racial ethnic groups in U.S. society: Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, etc.)

PSC 301: Cases in Civil Liberties

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

This course focuses on the opinions of the Supreme Court interpreting the two great clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment: The clauses that prohibit states from denying persons life, liberty or property without due process of law and that compel states to provide the equal protection of the law. The due process and equal protection clauses have given rise to some of the most profound constitutional issues in all of our history. The due process cases touch upon such subjects as economic liberty, and the right to privacy as it relates to abortion, sexual orientation and the right to control the time and manner of one's death. The equal protection cases deal with racial, gender and age discrimination.

PSC 302: Protecting Civil Liberties

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Focuses on Supreme Court decisions addressing First Amendment rights and the constitutional rights of criminal suspects. Topics to receive treatment include the freedoms of speech, press, religion; separation of church and state; searches and seizures, confessions, the right to counsel, and cruel and unusual

Political Science

punishment.

PSC 303: Constitutional Law

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Surveys Supreme Court decisions on separation of powers and federalism. Receiving special attention are presidential, congressional, and judicial power, as well as the federal government's power relative to that of the states.

PSC 304: Legislative Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Studies legislative process in the United States; including organization, internal dynamics, and functioning of legislative bodies; and their relations with the executive and judicial branches and with groups in society.

PSC 305: Judicial Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

This course examines the distinguishing characteristics of the legal process. It treats the adversarial system, the nature of law, the character of legal reasoning, the system of precedent, law school education, judicial policy-making, and the limits and nature of judicial power. It seeks to examine the unique characteristics of the judicial process, contrast those characteristics with those found in the legislative and executive processes, and explores how the process of judicial decision-making influences what courts do and the power they wield.

PSC 306: The American Presidency

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Explores the presidency's role in the politics and policy process of the United States, including growth, scope, and limits of presidential power.

PSC 307: Political Parties

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Analyzes structures, functions, and roles of political parties in American government and politics, as well as internal dynamics and citizen identification with parties and politics.

PSC 308: Organizational Theory in Political Institutions

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Considers basic theories about organizations, their structure, and their behavior (both the organization and its members). Applies these theories to a number of institutions in American politics.

PSC 309: American Federalism

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Examines political relationships and policy outcomes associated with the changing nature of the federal system and intergovernmental relations over the past fifty years.

PSC 310: Public Administration

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Explores structures and functions of public bureaucracies, including civil servants' behavior and political control of administrative behavior.

PSC 311: State Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Reviews significant political institutions, processes, and problems in the fifty states.

PSC 312: Urban Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Considers social and historical patterns underlying the organization of power in American municipalities, and the means by which power is brought to bear upon the problems of the city.

PSC 313: Elections and Voting Behavior

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Examines individual and contextual influences on voting behavior in

Political Science

the United States.

PSC 314: Public Policy Making

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Examines dynamics of the policy process in the United States, including agenda-setting, formulation, and implementation. Case studies in substantive policy areas illustrate these processes.

PSC 315: American Political Economy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Considers the relationship between the political system and the economic system, including the nature of American capitalism, government regulation of the economy, the role of economic factors in the political system, and selected economic problems.

PSC 316: Politics of Political Choice

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Considers choices made in the political arena. Also examines the scientific study of politics, including the development and appropriateness of theories and models to political behavior.

PSC 317: Environmental Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Present ecological crisis; adaptations which society must make in its political system to deal with resulting problems.

PSC 319: Media in American Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Reviews the historical context of the mass media in American politics, legal issues surrounding freedom of speech and press, the production of news, the media's role in campaigns and elections, the media as a political institution that interacts with the three branches of government, citizen response to news coverage of politics, and the cultural impact of daily media fare.

PSC 320: Public Opinion

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

American, Comparative specialty areas

Examines both micro and macro American political opinion. The course examines influences on the development and change of political attitudes toward and beliefs about political institutions, processes, issues and leaders and the impact of public opinion on representative government.

PSC 324: Politics of Housing

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Development of housing policy in the U.S.; growth of federal housing programs since the National Housing Act of 1937; role played by local governments and the housing industry in making use of such programs; achievements of programs in public housing, urban renewal, model cities, and housing subsidies.

PSC 326: War and International Security

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Examines the general determinants of war and conflict around the world and over time. The course discusses the impact of power, economics, international organizations, and nuclear weapons on the likelihood of international war.

PSC 327: The Cold War and After

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Reassesses the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union, from the Bolshevik revolution until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

PSC 328: Intl Political Economy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Explores American foreign economic relations; American trade, aid, and investment relations; and the American role in the international economic system.

PSC 329: US-Latin American Relations

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Political Science

Intergovernmental relations in the Western Hemisphere: relations between Latin American nations and the U.S.

PSC 330: International Relations Problems

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Examines selected questions regarding international conflict and cooperation.

PSC 332: International Organizations

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Examines the United Nations, specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental organizations in peacekeeping, economic development, and social welfare; also studies regional integration.

PSC 333: International Relations Theory

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Introduces international relations theory, including the nature of the international system, alliances, nuclear strategy, negotiation, and decision making within governments.

PSC 335: American Foreign Policy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Examines American foreign policy, particularly since World War II.

PSC 336: Russian Foreign Policy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Studies continuity and change in Russian foreign policy, forces motivating Russian behavior in world affairs, and selected problems of Russian foreign policy.

PSC 337: Chinese Foreign Policy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Study of the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China. The

historical background and specific issues such as China and the U.S., China and the Third World, and China and Russia are examined.

PSC 338: Comparative Foreign Policy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Reviews theoretical approaches in explaining foreign policy making, with selected case studies.

PSC 339: International Law

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Examines the existing body of international law and the functions that international law performs.

PSC 340: Politics in Western Europe

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Considers governmental institutions and political processes in major Western European nations.

PSC 341: Political Regime Change

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Explores both violent and peaceful transitions within political systems; examines theories and selected cases.

PSC 342: Politics of Developing Nations

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Comparatively analyzes political institutions, processes, and behavior in developing nations.

PSC 344: Presidential Campaigns

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Investigates the fundamental characteristics and regularities in American political campaigns and how they affect elections and,

Political Science

thereby, popular control of government. Focuses to a great degree on presidential election campaigns, but also examines campaigns for Congress and state offices, as well as campaigning in primary elections.

PSC 345: Canadian Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Explores the politics and government of America's largest trading partner and neighbor to the north. Gives primary attention to Canadian politics and institutions, but also makes some comparisons with the United States.

PSC 346: Individuals and World Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Surveys international politics from the individual decision maker's vantage point.

PSC 350: Politics of Post-Soviet States

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Introduces political processes and institutions of government in the former U.S.S.R and its successor states from 1917 to present.

PSC 351: Politics of Eastern European Nations

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Examines countries of Eastern Europe, excluding the former states of the Soviet Union

PSC 355: Asian Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Explores contemporary political development in Asian countries, emphasizing Chinese and Japanese politics.

PSC 370: African Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Examines political change south of the Sahara in the post-independence period; analyzes historical, geographical, economic, and social factors of the pre-independence period. Also considers traditional social patterns, colonialism, nationalism, the military's role, Africa in world politics, and transformation in southern Africa.

PSC 371: Middle Eastern Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Introduces students to the politics of the Middle East with regard to political issues currently facing the region.

PSC 372: Latin American Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Explores political development patterns resulting from structural aspects of Latin American societies; also studies social stratification, political and governmental structures, and patterns of dependency; considers case studies of selected Latin American countries.

PSC 373: International Futures

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Introduces students to a range of ways by which analysts have tried to think about and study the future.

PSC 376: Money in Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Investigates how political campaigns have been funded and explores the impact of campaign financing on election outcomes and on the behavior of elected officials in making public policy decisions.

PSC 378: Politics of Gender

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Investigates the connections between American politics, sex, and gender. Includes discussions of the women's movement, feminist theory, the Equal Rights Amendment, women voters and candidates, and the politics of abortion.

Political Science

PSC 379: Racial and Ethnic Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

American specialty area

Examines the importance of race and ethnicity to American politics including topics such as: historical inequalities, immigration, public opinion, racial gerrymandering, party identification and voting behavior in national and local elections.

PSC 380: Classical and Medieval Political Philosophy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Philosophy specialty area

Examines major contributions to political philosophy from Plato and Aristotle to Machiavelli.

PSC 382: Machiavelli to Marx Political Philosophy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Philosophy specialty area

Studies political philosophy from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century.

PSC 383: Twentieth-Century Political Philosophy

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Philosophy specialty area

Studies the treatment of selected major problems of political philosophy by contemporary thinkers.

PSC 384: American Political Principles

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Philosophy specialty area

This course examines the fundamental American political principles. These include the individual freedoms of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and the equality of individuals before the law. These also include the promotion of the public interest in providing for domestic tranquility, the general welfare, and the common defense through the rule of law formulated and enforced by a limited government based on the democratic consent of the governed through free, fair, and frequent elections.

PSC 391: Special Topics in International Relations

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

International specialty area

Content varies by semester.

PSC 392: Political Analysis Lab

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Empirical specialty area

Introduction to some basic techniques of data collection and analysis in political science; survey research; small group experiments.

PSC 393: Game Theory and Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Methods specialty area

Introduces game theoretic and related models in political science, while emphasizing these models' application to international politics.

PSC 395: Empirical Democratic Theory

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Empirical specialty area

This class focuses on key questions related to the empirical study of democratic governments, or aspects thereof.

PSC 401: Advanced Civil Liberties

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Provides advanced instruction in civil liberties law and can focus on any area of civil liberties. Students will read the decisions of various federal and state courts - not just the U.S. Supreme Court - as well as statutes and other source of law with which they are not familiar. The course has two prerequisites: [PSC 301](#) and [PSC 302](#).

PSC 406: Supreme Court Seminar

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

American specialty area

Enables a select number of upper-class political science and legal studies majors who plan to go to law school to delve deeply into an important issue relating to the supreme court. Provides an opportunity for students to develop legal research and library skills by writing a paper on a subject related to the seminar's main focus.

PSC 408: Basic Statistics for Social Science

Credits: 3

Political Science

Type: LEC

Methods specialty area

Introduces statistics and their applications in political science.

PSC 412: Comparative Political Institutions

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Focuses on institutions and their relationship to political behaviors by elites and masses, as well as their connection to policy outcomes. Examines how institutions such as presidential systems, parliamentary systems, executive powers, electoral rules, and legislative structures such as committees influence political actors' strategies. Executive-legislative relations and their effects on policy will occupy a central role. Examines states both in the developed and developing world.

PSC 413: Comparative Political Economy

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Introduces comparative political economy, and the comparative politics of domestic economic policies. Topics include market reforms in developed, developing, and postsocialist countries, varieties of welfare capitalism, varieties of democratic institutions and their effects on economic policies, and more. Some background in economics is helpful.

PSC 418: The International System

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

International specialty area

Considers the international system's evolution from the late 19th century to the present. Uses diplomatic history and contemporary international affairs as a "laboratory" for testing various theories about international politics.

PSC 419: International Crisis Seminar

Credits: 3

Type: SEM

International specialty area

An advanced topic intended for juniors and seniors who have a strong interest in the field of international relations. Provides an opportunity for students to develop research and library skills by writing a paper on a subject related to the seminar's main focus.

PSC 420: Comparing Political Parties

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Examines internal organization, functions, and impact of political

parties from a comparative perspective.

PSC 421: Comparative Bureaucracies

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Explores classic theories of bureaucracy from Marx to Weber, and the theory and practice of bureaucracy in various sociocultural settings.

PSC 430: Human Rights

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Examines the development, primarily since World War II, of international systems for the promotion and protection of human rights.

PSC 436: Citizen Participation

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Considers individual political behavior patterns in selected countries, and explores differences and similarities across nations in voting behavior and public opinion.

PSC 438: Civil-Military Relations

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Comparative specialty area

Examines the armed forces' involvement in political affairs, civilian control of the military, causes and effects of military seizures of control, and the importance of coercion within the political process.

PSC 470: Legal Political Theory

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Political Philosophy area

Considers the structure of laws in general, the question of sanctions, and the relation of justice to law.

PSC 490: Honors Seminar

Credits: 3

Type: SEM

Examination of the political science discipline. Focus will be on the range of contemporary practice and on unresolved controversies.

Political Science

Students will submit proposals for the senior year honors thesis.

Requires permission of instructor.

PSC 492: Pre-Law Honors Seminar

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

American specialty area

Enables upper-class political science and legal studies majors who plan to go to law school to delve deeply into an important issue in the American legal system. It provides an opportunity for students to read cases and secondary literature on the selected topic, and develop legal research and library skills by writing a paper on a subject related to the seminar's main topic.

PSC 495: Senior Seminar

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

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PSC 496: Political Science Internship

Credits: 1-16
Semester(s): Fall, Spring
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Community Internship Program - Involves service with state legislators from the area, city or county government, or various public agencies. Work includes policy research, drafting legislation, field investigations, program evaluations, and contacts with other organizations. Washington Semester Internship Program - Involves a semester placement in Washington under the direction of a SUNY Brockport Program Officer. Participation includes an internship, a research seminar, and a research paper. NYS Legislative Internship Program - Involves semester placement in the Albany office of a state senate or assembly member; requires forty-plus-hour weeks as legislative assistants under a professional staff member's guidance. Also requires special readings, weekly seminar, short reports, and a major research paper, under the direction of SUNY faculty-in-residence.

PSC 497: Honors Thesis

Credits: 3
Type: TUT

Involves supervised independent study leading to the submission of an honors thesis. Requires permission of instructor.

PSC 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-3
Type: TUT