



Political Science Major and Minor

www.PoliSci.Pitt.edu

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A major in political science is designed to help students understand the complexity of political developments in the United States and throughout the world. The major also provides students with a broad education that will help them to prepare for a wide variety of careers in various levels of government service, law, education, journalism, business, and the nonprofit sector. Those interested in government service careers may wish to complement their study of political science with courses in public service offered through the College of General Studies and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

The political science department offers courses that meet the international foreign cultures, philosophy, social science, and quantitative requirements of the core curriculum of the School of Arts and Sciences, as well as requirements for the wide range of certificate programs sponsored by the University Center for International Studies (African Studies, Asian Studies, European Union Studies, Global Studies, Latin American Studies, Russian and East European Studies, West European Studies, Global Service Center).

Required courses for the Political Science major

The political science department offers many courses in four fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. The core courses provide students with a survey in each of these fields and with the methods employed in the contemporary study of politics. The field courses, at 1000-level, provide students with advanced coursework in each of these areas of specialization, and are numbered to match the introductory courses (12xx American Politics, 13xx Comparative Politics, 15xx International Relations, 16xx Political Theory). The combination of core and field courses provides students with a comprehensive overview of political science as a discipline while permitting students to concentrate in a particular field. The major requires the completion of 33 credits distributed as follows.

Core courses

PS 0200 American Politics
PS 0300 Comparative Politics
PS 0500 International Relations
PS 0600 Political Theory
PS 0700 Research Methods in Political Science

Primary Field

Minimum of three 1000's level PS courses within one subfield (i.e., 12xx, 13xx, 15xx, or 16xx).

Breadth Requirement

Minimum of three 1000's level PS courses outside of the student's primary field.

Analytical Requirement

At least one analysis course (129x, 139x, 159x, or 169x) or one political methodology course (17xx). If satisfied using an analysis course in the primary field, it also counts toward the Primary Field requirement. If satisfied using a political methodology course, it also counts toward the Breadth requirement.

Capstone seminar

The University of Pittsburgh requires students to complete one writing-intensive course in their major. The Capstone Seminar, which is ideally taken in the primary field, fulfills the university-wide requirement of an intensive writing course (W-course) in the major and allows students to undertake advanced work under the direction of faculty in a smaller seminar setting.

Honors major requirements

Departmental honors are conferred upon students who maintain an overall GPA of 3.5 and achieve a GPA of 3.7 or better in political science.

Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation. In addition, a student must earn a grade of at least C- for a course to satisfy a PS requirement.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

No course to be counted toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

BPhil in Political Science

Outstanding and motivated students seeking an even more challenging academic experience, especially those who are considering graduate school, must consult with an advisor about the option of a BPhil in Political Science. The BPhil degree, which is offered through the University Honors College (UHC), requires a plan of cognate fieldwork and a thesis approved by the department and UHC. For more information on the BPhil, see www.HonorsCollege.Pitt.edu/BPhil.

Date of Adoption

Students declaring the PS major after August 26, 2019, use this version of the major. Students who declare the PS major prior to that date should consult with the PS advisors for information about the requirements of the prior PS major.

Advising

Questions about courses, departmental requirements, and extracurricular opportunities should be addressed to the undergraduate advisors.

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Internship

A wide range of internships in the public and private sector are available. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor to ensure receipt of academic credit. Internships are taken for S/NC and do not fulfill major requirements.

Independent Study

Students who have completed a field course may explore a particular subject in greater depth through a tutorial with a faculty member.

Checklist for the BA in Political Science

All the following core courses

_____ PS 0200 American Politics
_____ PS 0300 Comparative Politics
_____ PS 0500 International Relations
_____ PS 0600 Political Theory
_____ PS 0700 Research Methods

Six upper-level courses (these must include a capstone seminar AND either an analysis OR methodology course)

Primary Field: Three courses in the same field (12xx, 13xx, 15xx, or 16xx)

_____ PS 1 _____
_____ PS 1 _____
_____ PS 1 _____

Breadth Requirement: Three courses in fields other than the Primary Field

_____ PS 1 _____
_____ PS 1 _____
_____ PS 1 _____

One Primary Field or Breadth Requirement must be an Analysis OR upper-level Methodology course (17xx)

_____ PS 129x _____
_____ PS 139x _____
_____ PS 159x _____
_____ PS 169x _____
_____ PS 17xx _____

One Primary Field (recommended) OR Breadth Requirement must be a Capstone seminar

_____ PS 1 _____

Checklist for the BPhil in Political Science

_____ All of the requirements for the BA in Political Science

At least four courses in cognate disciplines, approved by the student's advisor

Subject	Course No.	
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

_____ Completion and defense of an original paper of high quality, at least 25 pages in length, approved by the student's advisor and UHC.

Checklist for the Political Science minor

Students may complete a minor in Political Science, which consists of a sequence of five courses in one of the four substantive fields.

The core course in one field

_____ PS 0 _____

Four upper-level courses in the same field

_____ PS 1 _____
_____ PS 1 _____
_____ PS 1 _____
_____ PS 1 _____

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.

Potential PS Courses

The following lists provide a sample of course options. Offerings vary by term. Students should follow the number codes to select appropriate courses.

American Politics

PS 1201 Constitution and Civil Liberties
PS 1202 American Constitutional Law
PS 1203 Women in Politics
PS 1205 Race, Gender and Politics
PS 1211 Legislative Process
PS 1212 American Presidency
PS 1216 Modern Civil Rights
PS 1220 Sports and American Politics

PS 1221 Latina/o/x Politics
PS 1232 Political Attitudes and Public Opinion
PS 1234 Electoral Behavior and Democratic Process
PS 1240 Politics of Diversity
PS 1251 Urban Government and Politics
PS 1252 State Government
PS 1261 American Public Policy
PS 1262 Health Policy in the US
PS 1264 American Politics through Film
PS 1275 Religion and Politics
PS 1281 Capstone Seminar in American Politics

Comparative Politics

PS 1309 Comparative Regionalism
PS 1311 Western European Government and Politics
PS 1316 Asian Politics
PS 1317 Politics of the European Union
PS 1321 Latin American Politics
PS 1324 US-Latin American Relations
PS 1327 Revolution
PS 1332 Gov't and Politics in Contemporary China
PS 1333 Government and Politics of Japan
PS 1340 Democratization
PS 1341 Gov't and Politics of the USSR & Russian Fed.
PS 1351 Government and Politics of the Middle East
PS 1352 Introduction to African Politics
PS 1367 Environmental Politics
PS 1373 Comparative Political Economy
PS 1374 Politics of Global Inequality
PS 1378 Challenges to Democracy and Its Institutions
PS 1381 Capstone Seminar in Comparative Politics

International Relations

PS 1501 Theory of International Relations
PS 1502 Int'l Law and Problems of World Order
PS 1503 International Organizations
PS 1504 Nationalism
PS 1508 International Terrorism
PS 1511 American Foreign Policy
PS 1512 Politics of Migration
PS 1513 Foreign Policies—Changing World
PS 1514 Political Strategy and International Relations
PS 1516 Transnational Policy Analysis
PS 1517 US Foreign Policy Toward the Middle East
PS 1521 Eastern Europe in World Politics
PS 1533 Political Violence and Revolution
PS 1534 Civil Wars
PS 1536 Human Security
PS 1537 Peacemaking and Peacekeeping
PS 1550 Gender and Global Politics
PS 1581 Capstone Seminar in International Relations

Political Theory

PS 1602 Early Modern Political Thought in Context
PS 1603 Contemporary Political Thought
PS 1607 American Political Thought
PS 1612 Marxism
PS 1614 Theories of Justice
PS 1619 Democratic Theory
PS 1621 History of Feminist Political Thought
PS 1622 Outsider Politics: Anarchist, Queer, Punk Feminist Theories
PS 1675 Politics of Human Rights
PS 1681 Capstone Seminar in Political Theory
PS 1692 Myth Propaganda and the State
PS 1693 Political Theory and the Future

Additional Offerings

PS 1702 Coding and Computation for Social Science
PS 1710 Strategy and Games of Politics
PS 1900 Internship
PS 1901 Independent Study
PS 1902 Directed Reading
PS 1903 Directed Research
PS 1910 Institute of Politics