Twin Cities Campus

Political Science B.A.

Political Science Department

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2022
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 36
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Political science examines who gets what, when, and how from government. Political scientists study voters, politicians, interest groups, political parties, social movements, institutions, states, and public policies at all levels, from local communities to the global community. The discipline covers four thematic areas: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. Political scientists employ multiple tools to learn about politics, including historical methods, case studies, and statistical, archival, and critical analyses. Political science majors develop an array of skills acquired through coursework, research opportunities with individual faculty, and internships that open multiple career opportunities in public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Students of American Politics seek to understand the way that collective governance happens in the United States. The American Politics subfield is divided into two areas: Political Behavior is the study of public opinion and electoral behavior of voting age adults, and Political Institutions is the study of the formal and informal structures of governance in the United States. Students will learn how research projects are designed and, in some courses, how to collect, examine, and present data.

In Comparative Politics, we seek to identify factors that explain political outcomes across time and space, with an eye to patterns that transcend historical and geographic particularities. Although Comparative Politics is sometimes thought to refer to the study of politics outside the United States, comparativists reject the idea that American politics are not amenable to comparative analysis. Comparative Politics courses will make you a more informed and discerning citizen in our interconnected world.

In International Relations, we study how the countries of the world do and don't get along. We address fundamental questions of war and peace, conflict and cooperation, trade, migration, and finance. Taking courses in International Relations helps students better understand how the world works. Students will be expected to write policy memos, conduct independent research, take part in simulations and debates, and devise policy solutions to complicated challenges.

Political Theory analyzes the meaning and significance of fundamental political concepts. Starting from foundational concerns as the nature of politics, humans, power and justice, theorists explore how these basic starting assumptions organize the norms, practices, and institutions of political and social order. Students who study Political Theory become more adept at critical thinking, careful reading and clear writing, and recognizing and constructing arguments. These skills are basic for the critical, lifelong role that all of us play as members of political community.

Taking classes across the subfields enables students to become more informed citizens and to pursue a wide variety of careers. Political science majors learn skills including oral and written communication, analytical and critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and digital competencies.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

It is strongly recommended that students complete one POL 1xxx course prior to admission to the major. See "Preparatory Courses" under program requirements for suggested courses.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

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Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

CLA BA degrees require 18 upper division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the political science BA is POL.

Students may earn a BA or a minor in political science, but not both.

At least 15 upper-division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

All students must complete a capstone in at least one CLA major. The requirements for double majors completing the capstone in a different CLA major will be clearly stated. Students must also complete all major requirements in both majors to allow the additional capstone to be waived. Students completing an additional degree must complete the Capstone in each degree area.

Foundation Courses

It is strongly recommended, but not required, that majors complete lower division POL coursework.
Take 0 - 9 credit(s) from the following:

- POL 1026 - U.S. Foreign Policy (3.0 cr)
- POL 1054 - Politics Around the World [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 1201 - Political Ideas [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 19xx - Freshman Seminar
- POL 1001 - American Democracy in a Changing World [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
  or POL 1001H *{Inactive}*[SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 1019 - Indigenous Peoples in Global Perspective [GP] (3.0 cr)
  or AMIN 1002 - Indigenous Peoples in Global Perspective [GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 1025 - Global Politics [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
  or POL 1025H *{Inactive}*[SOCS, GP] (4.0 cr)

Electives

Take at least one course from three of the four subfields: political theory, comparative government, international relations, and American government.
Take 24 or more credit(s) from the following:

Political Theory

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

- POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3251W - Power, Virtue, and Vice: Ancient and Early Modern Political Theory [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3252W - Revolution, Democracy, and Empire: Modern Political Thought [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3265 - Ideas and Protest in French Postwar Thought [AH, CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3272 - Colonial Encounters [AH, CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3282 - Black Political Thought: Conceptions of Freedom [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4210 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4255 - Comparative Real Time Political Analysis: Marxist versus Liberal Perspectives [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4267 - Imperialism and Modern Political Thought [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)

Comparative Government

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

- POL 3409 - Introduction to Authoritarian Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 3410 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 3423 - Politics of Disruption: Violence and Its Alternatives [GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3431 - Politics of India [GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3451W - Politics and Society in the New Europe [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
- POL 3464 - The Politics of Economic Inequality [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3477 - Political Economy of Development [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3479 - Latin American Politics [GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3481H - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
- POL 3489W - Citizens, Consumers, and Corporations [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4410 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4463 - The Cuban Revolution Through the Words of Cuban Revolutionaries [GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4474W - Russian Politics: From Soviet Empire to Post-Soviet State [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4481 - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
- POL 4487 - The Struggle for Democratization and Citizenship (3.0 cr)

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- POL 4497W - Patronage & Corruption [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4403W - Constitutions, Democracy, and Rights: Comparative Perspectives [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
  or POL 5403 - Constitutions, Democracy, and Rights: Comparative Perspectives (3.0 cr)
- POL 4465 - Democracy and Dictatorship in Southeast Asia [GP] (3.0 cr)
  or POL 5465 - Democracy and Dictatorship in Southeast Asia [GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
  or AFRO 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4492 - Law and (In)Justice in Latin America (3.0 cr)
  or POL 5492 - Law and (In)Justice in Latin America (3.0 cr)

•American Government

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

- AMIN 4501 - Law, Sovereignty, and Treaty Rights (3.0 cr)
- POL 3306 - Presidential Leadership and American Democracy (3.0 cr)
- POL 3308 - Congressional Politics and Institutions [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3309 - U.S. Supreme Court Decision-Making, Process, and Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 3310 - Topics in American Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 3311 - Law and Justice: The View From Hollywood (3.0 cr)
- POL 3317 *{Inactive}*[SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3319 - Education and the American Dream [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3321 - Issues in American Public Policy (3.0 cr)
- POL 3323 - Political Tolerance in the United States (3.0 cr)
- POL 3325 - U.S. Campaigns and Elections (3.0 cr)
- POL 3329 - The Balance of Power: Federalism & Community in the United States (3.0 cr)
- POL 3733 - From Suffragettes to Senators: Gender, Politics & Policy in the U.S. [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3766 - Political Psychology of Mass Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3767 - Political Psychology of Elite Behavior [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3769 - Public Opinion and Voting Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4317 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4501W - The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4502W - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4737 - American Political Parties (3.0 cr)
- POL 4771 - Race and Politics in America: Making Sense of Racial Attitudes in the United States [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4773W - Advocacy Organizations, Social Movements, and the Politics of Identity [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3701 - Indigenous Tribal Governments and Politics [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
  or AMIN 3501 - Indigenous Tribal Governments and Politics [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3752 - Chicana/o Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
  or CHIC 3852 - Chicana/o Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or POL 5315 - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy (3.0 cr)
- POL 4335 - African American Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
  or AFRO 4335 - African American Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)
  or AMIN 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)

•International Relations

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

- POL 3810 - Topics in International Relations and Foreign Policy (3.0 cr)
- POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)
- POL 3835 - International Relations [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3841 - The Consequences of War (3.0 cr)
- POL 3843W - Night Raids, Detention, Torture, and Drones: Methods of War [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3879 - Critical Humanitarianism: Policy and Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 4810 - Topics in International Politics and Foreign Policy (3.0 cr)
- POL 4881W - The Politics of International Law and Global Governance [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4885W - International Conflict and Security [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4887 - Thinking Strategically in International Politics [MATH] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4891 - The Politics of Nuclear Weapons (3.0 cr)

•Additional Courses

Take 0 or more credit(s) from the following:

- POL 3065 - Political Engagement Careers: Planning and Preparing For Your Future [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3108H - Honors Tutorial: Thesis Preparation and Political Science Inquiry (3.0 cr)
- POL 3994 - Directed Research: Distinguished Undergraduate Research Program (2.0 cr)
- POL 4910 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4994 - Directed Research: Individual (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
  or POL 3085H *{Inactive}*[MATH] (4.0 cr)

•Faculty-Supervised

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Take at most 6 credit(s) from the following:
•POL 3080 - Internship in Politics or Government (3.0 - 13.0 cr)

Capstone

The political science capstone provides students with a unique opportunity to reflect on, articulate, share, and build on their individual experiences in the major. It invites students to reflect on what they have learned as political science majors; to demonstrate their knowledge through the preparation of a portfolio of materials; and to think about how the knowledge, skills, and insights of acquired in their major experience can be used and applied outside of the University.

Students who double major and choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major may waive the political science BA capstone, but are still responsible for taking a minimum of 35 credits towards the political science BA.

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
•POL 4991 - Political Science Capstone (3.0 cr)
or **Honors Option**
POL 4993 - Honors Thesis: Directed Studies (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:
•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3251W - Power, Virtue, and Vice: Ancient and Early Modern Political Theory [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3252W - Revolution, Democracy, and Empire: Modern Political Thought [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3451W - Politics and Society in the New Europe [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3489W - Citizens, Consumers, and Corporations [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3843W - Night Raids, Detention, Torture, and Drones: Methods of War [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4403W - Constitutions, Democracy, and Rights: Comparative Perspectives [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4474W - Russian Politics: From Soviet Empire to Post-Soviet State [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4501W - The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4502W - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4773W - Advocacy Organizations, Social Movements, and the Politics of Identity [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4881W - The Politics of International Law and Global Governance [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4885W - International Conflict and Security [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)

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