Twin Cities Campus

Political Science B.A.

Political Science Department

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2012
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 32
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Political scientists study topics such as the exercise of power and influence; sources and resolution of conflicts; the relation of politics to the economy, culture, and other aspects of society; the adoption and implementation of public policies; and the development of political systems. These topics are studied at all levels, from local communities to the global community.

The scope of the discipline is reflected in the main areas of specialization that make up the undergraduate curriculum: political theory, comparative government and politics, international relations, and American governmental systems and processes. In addition, undergraduates may choose from several optional concentrations: business and politics, campaigns and elections, citizenship and civic action, global politics, law and politics, democratization and development, political psychology, beliefs, and behavior, and public affairs.

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

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

The Political Science B.A. consists of a minimum of 32 credits, at least 24 of which must be upper-division (POL 3xxx-4xxx). Choosing a sub-plan concentration is optional. Note: POL 3070, 3080, 3085, 3108H, 3110H, 4900V, 4970 may be used to meet the 24-credit upper-division requirement.

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

Beginning fall 2012, all incoming CLA freshman must complete the appropriate First Year Experience course sequence. Specific information about this collegiate requirement can be found at: http://class.umn.edu/degree_requirements/index.html

Preparatory Courses

It is strongly recommended, but not required, that majors complete lower-division POL coursework. No more than 8 credits of POL 1xxx may count toward the B.A.

Take 0 - 8 credit(s) from the following:

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

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

•POL 1234 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 1903 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 1904 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 1905 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 1908W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 1909W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)

Upper-division Courses

Take at least one course from three of the four subfields: political theory, comparative government, international relations, and American government. Students who do not choose to complete an optional sub-plan should take remaining upper-division coursework from these course lists.

Take 3 or more course(s) including 3 or more sub-requirements(s) from the following:

Political Theory

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

•POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
•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 4210 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)

•Comparative Government

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

•POL 3451W - Politics and Society in the New Europe [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3464 - The Politics of Economic Inequality [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3465 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 3475 - Islamist Politics (3.0 cr)
•POL 3477 - Political Economy of Development [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3479 - Latin American Politics [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4403W - Constitutions, Democracy, and Rights: Comparative Perspectives [GP, 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 4465 - Democracy and Dictatorship in Southeast Asia [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4473W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4477 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4481 - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4487 - The Struggle for Democratization and Citizenship (3.0 cr)
•POL 3489W - Citizens, Consumers, and Corporations [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4492 - Law and (In)Justice in Latin America (3.0 cr)
•POL 4494W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4495 *{Inactive}*[DSJ] (3.0 cr)

•International Relations

Take 0 or more course(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 3872W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3873W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4810 - Topics in International Politics and Foreign Policy (3.0 cr)
•POL 4867W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 4878W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4883W *{Inactive}*[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 4889 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)

•American Government

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

•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 3310H - Topics in American Politics (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

- 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 3701 - Indigenous Tribal Governments and Politics [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
- POL 3752 - Chicana/o Politics [SOCS, 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 3785 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 3785H *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4310 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 3327 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4331 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 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 4507 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4561 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4737 - American Political Parties (3.0 cr)
- POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (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)

Senior Project

The senior project is fulfilled by taking any POL 4xxx course as part of the 24-credit upper-division requirement. Honors students must take POL 4900V or POL 3110H to complete the senior thesis requirement.

Program Sub-plans

A sub-plan is not required for this program.

Business and Politics

Business and Politics

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

- POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
- POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3327 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4331 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
- POL 4481 - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
- POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)
- POL 4889 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)

Campaigns and Elections

Campaigns and Elections

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

- POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
- POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
- POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3766 - Political Psychology of Mass Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3306 - Presidential Leadership and American Democracy (3.0 cr)
- POL 4331 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
- POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4737 - American Political Parties (3.0 cr)
- POL 3769 - Public Opinion and Voting Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)

Citizenship and Civic Action

Citizenship and Civic Action

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

- POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
- POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 29, 2024

•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 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
•POL 3873W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4210 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4487 - The Struggle for Democratization and Citizenship (3.0 cr)
•POL 4502W - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)

Democratization and Development

Democratization and Development

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3477 - Political Economy of Development [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
•POL 4210 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4477 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3479 - Latin American Politics [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4487 - The Struggle for Democratization and Citizenship (3.0 cr)
•POL 4561 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4885W - International Conflict and Security [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4889 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 5253 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)

Global Politics

Global Politics

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3451W - Politics and Society in the New Europe [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3477 - Political Economy of Development [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3835 - International Relations [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3872W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3873W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4473W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4477 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3479 - Latin American Politics [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)
•POL 4883W *{Inactive}*[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 4889 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)

Law and Politics

Law and Politics

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3252W - Revolution, Democracy, and Empire: Modern Political Thought [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3872W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (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 4561 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 29, 2024

•POL 4883W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 5252 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 5253 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)

Political Psychology, Beliefs, and Behavior

Political Psychology, Beliefs, and Behavior

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

•POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
•POL 3766 - Political Psychology of Mass Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3306 - Presidential Leadership and American Democracy (3.0 cr)
•POL 4331 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4887 - Thinking Strategically in International Politics [MATH] (3.0 cr)
•POL 5253 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)

Public Affairs

Public Affairs

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

•POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3321 - Issues in American Public Policy (3.0 cr)
•POL 3306 - Presidential Leadership and American Democracy (3.0 cr)
•POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 3327 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4481 - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
•POL 4501W - The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)

Honors UHP

This is an honors sub-plan.

Students admitted to the University Honors Program (UHP) must fulfill UHP requirements, in addition to degree program requirements. Honors courses used to fulfill degree program requirements will also fulfill UHP requirements.

Current departmental honors course offerings are listed at:
http://www.honors.umn.edu/academics/curriculum/dept_courses_current.html

Honors students complete an honors thesis project in the final year, most often in conjunction with an honors thesis course, or with an honors directed studies, or honors directed research course. Students select honors courses and plan for a thesis project in consultation with their UHP adviser and their departmental faculty adviser.

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.