Political Science

The Department of Political Science offers students the opportunity to study all aspects of politics using cutting-edge technical and theoretical tools. Our courses are animated by longstanding problems related to the use of power, its rightful exercise by governments and individual actors, and the institutions that affect how that power is exercised. Reflecting the breadth of the discipline, we offer a range of classes, including courses on elections and electoral politics, international political economy, justice and the state, and comparative analyses of political institutions across states.

A major in political science thus exposes students to the primary themes of the discipline: American politics, comparative politics, international politics, political methodology and political theory. A political science major offers students the opportunity to study political life as part of a broad liberal education, and it is a useful step toward law or business school. Other political science students pursue careers or further education in public administration, urban planning, journalism, education and social work or in federal, state or local government.

Phone: 314-935-5810
Email: polisci@wustl.edu
Website: https://ucollege.wustl.edu/programs/undergraduate/bachelors-political-science

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

All University College undergraduate students must satisfy the same general-education requirements (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/ucollege/bachelors/#degreerequirements).

Required: 30 units minimum

To major in political science, students must complete a minimum of 30 units of political science course work, including at least 6 units of introductory course work, the course U25 PolSci 323 Introduction to Quantitative Methods, and at least 18 units of advanced courses at the 300 and 400 levels. The 18 advanced units for the major must include at least one 3-unit course from three of the following five fields:

- American politics
- Comparative politics
- International politics
- Political and social theory
- Methods of political research and analysis

The department encourages students to explore a wide variety of courses in political science. A student's program should be planned in close consultation with an academic adviser.

The Minor in Political Science

Required: 15 units

For the minor, 15 units of course work in Political Science, including at least 9 units of advanced-level courses, are required.

Courses


U25 PolSci 101 American Politics

This course provides an overview of the politics of American government. The topics covered are the historical developments of American politics, federalism, political participation (e.g., voting), institutions (e.g., Congress), and public opinion. That political actors are strategic in their pursuit of objectives is a theme underlying our examination of these topics. Accordingly, we explore the many ways in which strategic political behavior impacts institutions and the interactions between political actors in the U.S.

Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 103 Introduction to International Politics

Why do countries fight wars? When do states decide to trade? How can countries address global challenges such as climate change? This course introduces students to the tools needed to answer those and other questions related to interactions between states. First, we cover the theoretical and empirical basics required to analyze international politics in major policy areas such as conflict, trade, development, and the environment. Second, we explore the role of international organizations and how international interactions are connected to domestic politics. Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 103B International Politics

Globalization, the accelerating rate of interaction between people of different countries, creates a qualitative shift in the relationship between nation-states and national economies. Conflict and war is one form of international interaction. Movement of capital, goods, services, production, information, disease, environmental degradation, and people across national boundaries are other forms of international interactions. This course introduces the study of global political-economic relations. We focus upon building a toolkit that will help us understand the micro-foundations of the globalization of material and social relations.

Same as L32 Pol Sci 103B

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: IS EN: S

U25 PolSci 203 Topics in Politics

The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.

Credit 3 units.
U25 PolSci 227 Just Do It! Running for Political Office
The course will focus on skills related to the democratic expression of political rights and responsibilities. The course will balance background knowledge of the issues with application. Students will explore how to use coalition building and advocacy skills to relate to personal issues to public issues. Students will research a current Missouri bill, create a strategic plan for its passage or failure, and prepare to give testimony on such bill in a mock House of Representatives committee hearing. Students will also learn about ethical dilemmas in policy and politics and create a plan for turning their passions into policy. 
Same as L32 Pol Sci 227
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 230 U.S. Presidential Campaigning
With the 2016 Presidential race as our backdrop, this course will explore the road to the White House, from early primaries and caucuses through the general election. We will study the role and impact of the media, political parties, and interest groups. We will discuss campaign strategy and organization and the importance of fundraising, debates, polling, social media, and national conventions. We will assess the strengths and weaknesses of current presidential campaigns in real time. Students will select a candidate to "manage" throughout the course and develop themes, speeches, and a general election strategy for their candidate. We will not debate which candidate is the best, but we will discuss who has the best message, organization, and overall campaign.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 260 Game Theory in Science and Culture
Introduces the major intellectual insights of game theory in a nontechnical fashion, and examines the influence game theory has had on geopolitics, social philosophy, psychology, art, and the humanities. In addition to covering the basic machinery of the theory, the class will: participate in numerous illustrative classroom games; examine game theory in film, literature, and literary criticism; see how game theory has contributed to social theory; and learn about the background of game theory and its history and perception as a hoped-for tool in the Cold War. Grades based on problems, short essays, two short-essay exams, and participation.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 260
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC

U25 PolSci 3006 Humanitarian Intervention
This course will examine the political factors that influence humanitarian intervention by studying the ethical, legal, economic, and geostrategic aspects underpinning one of the more controversial developments, namely, the use of military force to protect civilians caught up in internal conflict, such as in Somalia, Bosnia, and Kosovo. The course reviews traditional humanitarian principles and considers how 21st-century intrastate wars have influenced humanitarian organizations. We also consider the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine and its impact on NATO operations.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3031 Race and Ethnicity in American Politics
This seminar will discuss the continuing importance of race and ethnicity in American politics and the politics of racial minority groups in America. It will examine the disadvantage minorities have in the American political structure including problems with political participation. It will examine how the structure and functions of the branches of government and its bureaucracy affect the aspirations of minorities. The roll of pressure groups on political structure will be discussed. Additional discussion will focus on urban politics and tensions.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3031
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC, SC, SD Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 3050 Politics of International Law
In this course, we will focus on key issues of international law and international politics, and how issues of law and politics intersect at the international level. This will include a focus on theories of international relations, theories of international law; conflicts regarding resources, territory and ideology; the military-industrial complex; globalization, privatization and commercialization; international trade; international treaties; international institutions; the limits of international law; customary international law; the law of the sea; space law; the concept of empire; unilateralism; human rights; and war law.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSI

U25 PolSci 3061 Sex, Race, and Justice: The U.S. Supreme Court Year Review
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3090 Civil War and Peace
This course examines the causes and consequences of intra-state conflict, as well as the potential solutions to it, drawing on examples from countries throughout the world, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, India, Iraq, Russia, Rwanda, Spain, et cetera. We will consider many potential causes of intra-state violence, including ethnic and religious identities, economic and security concerns, elite manipulation, and international diffusion. In order to understand the challenges countries face recovering from violence, we will subsequently examine different ways in which conflicts are conducted, as well as their consequences, including economic underdevelopment, rape, child soldiers, and disease. Finally, using what we have learned about the causes and consequences of conflict, we will analyze the utility of different tools for managing intra-state conflict, including, but not limited to, minority representation, consociationalism, decentralization and partition.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3090
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA, IS

U25 PolSci 3103 Topics in Politics: Comparative Politics — The Middle East
Credit 3 units. BU: BA UColl: PSC, PSI

U25 PolSci 3111 The Trump Administration: An Examination of a New Paradigm for Presidential Leadership & Governance
This course will examine and assess the promise, progress, and performance of the Trump administration by addressing Trump as the president, the politician, and the person. We will examine Trump’s historic upset victories in the Republican primary and the Presidency, including his populist-nationalist political philosophy and campaign strategy. We will study how Trump, the politician, has been able to successfully win the right, despite controversial positions. We will examine how he implements his brand of political-economic strategy and global world view across contemporary issues, including public activism and Black
Lives Matter, immigration and civil liberties, fake news and media literacy, gender issues, the environment, and globalization. The syllabus schedule may change in response to political events.

Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3153 Local Economic Development
This course introduces students to the concepts and practices of local economic development.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA, PST

U25 PolSci 3191 Topics in American Politics
This course is intended primarily for sophomores and juniors. The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI, PSA, PST

U25 PolSci 321 Public Opinion and American Democracy
This course is about the salience of public opinion and its influence on American politics. Topics to be covered include many of the theories developed to explain how public opinion is formed, if and why it changes, and the relationship between public opinion and the political behavior of citizens and elites. Therefore, the course will describe and analyze many of the factors that influence the formation, structure, and variation in public opinion: information processing, education, core values, racial attitudes, political orientation (ideology and party identification), political elites, social groups, the media, and religion. Additional topics include presidential approval, congressional approval, and the relationship between public opinion and public policy. The course will also train students in several concepts of statistical analysis (assuming no prior knowledge) so that students can use these tools as part of their own research projects. Prerequisites: previous course work in American politics or communications.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3211
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 323 Introduction to Quantitative Methods
This is an introduction to research methodology and quantitative analysis for social scientists. This class will introduce students to social scientific inquiry and basic statistical tools used to study politics. Students will learn to study politics with the help of measurement, descriptive analysis, correlation, graphical analysis, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, analysis of variance, and regression analysis. The course will include classroom lectures and computer lab-time to enable students to work hands-on with datasets. Basic math skills (algebra) is recommended. Recommended for the Liberal Arts and Business (LAB) Certificate.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3267 Research in the Contemporary Academic Library: Prison Education Project Research Partnership
This course has a dual role as an introduction to political science research approaches and methods and a practical training opportunity in library research. Students will have opportunities for direct application of their information and data literacy as research assistants working with faculty and incarcerated students in the Washington University Prison Education Project. The course is appropriate for political science and other social studies students as well as students participating in any scholarly community.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 3291 Modern South Asian Politics
This course will focus on the recent political history and development of South Asia. It will begin with a review of the British colonial period and the Independence movement. The remainder of the course will examine different political issues in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Topics will include political mobilization, land reform, law and politics, social movements, religious and caste politics, the rise of religious nationalism, and political control of the economy.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3292
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 330 Topics in Political Science
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 331 Topics in Political Science
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSI

U25 PolSci 3326 Topics in Politics: Constitutional Politics in the U.S.
The principal purpose of this course is to introduce students to the politics of constitutional interpretation. We will first discuss the origins of the constitution, the structure operation and work of courts, and judicial decision making. Afterwards, we will examine various areas of the law relating to institutional powers and constraints (e.g., federalism, presidential powers, Congressional authority). In so doing, we will develop an understanding for the legal doctrine in each area of the law and also examine explanations for the legal change we observe.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3325
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 3331 Topics in Politics: Social and Political Movements
This course is intended primarily for sophomores and juniors. The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 3333
various disciplines, these accomplishments in physics, biology, and architecture can be explained by political science concepts, theories and analytical tools. Students from many disciplines can learn more by understanding the big picture of patterned activities relevant to outer space. Newly emerging industries such as space tourism, space mining, commercial space settlements and outer space colonization will be discussed. Credit 3 units. UColl: PSC, PSI

U25 PolSci 3401 Topics in Politics
This course varies from semester to semester. Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 341 American Electoral Politics
This course will track many elements of the presidential election process. In particular, we shall examine the reason and role of the primary and caucus process in choosing delegates to the national conventions; the role of campaign donations and political action committees; how and why various aspects of the media cover campaigns, the more powerful role of social media, why journalists choose certain narrative lines; how televised debates and polls sort out the leading contenders; how the base of both leading parties have considerable leverage in choosing their party's nominee, and how polls work and shape public perceptions. Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 344 Courts and Civil Liberties
Introduction to the philosophical bases and historical development of constitutional civil liberties. Substantial emphasis on the Supreme Court's interpretation of First Amendment guarantees and of the right to privacy. Prerequisite: sophomore standing, or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 341 Courts and Civil Liberties: Defendant's Rights
This course explores the operations of the American criminal justice system. Substantial emphasis on the constitutional rights accorded to the criminally accused. Readings consist primarily, but not exclusively, of Supreme Court cases. Same as L32 Pol Sci 3441
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC BU: BA, ETH EN: S

U25 PolSci 3521 The Politics of Privacy in the Digital Age
This course explores the changing nature of privacy in contemporary society. Same as L32 Pol Sci 3462
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: ETH UColl: PSA, PSC

U25 PolSci 364 The New Space Rush
This course will introduce students to new activities regarding outer space. New types of spaceships and space hotels are being designed. Vast quantities of natural resources such as gold, platinum, iridium, osmium, helium 3 and water were recently discovered in outer space. These new advances in space exploration, science, technology and architecture can be analyzed through the lens of political science. Across various disciplines, these accomplishments in physics, biology, chemistry, engineering, medicine and computer science, along with the likely economic implications, can be explained by political science concepts, theories and analytical tools. Students from many disciplines can learn more by understanding the big picture of patterned activities relevant to outer space. Newly emerging industries such as space tourism, space mining, commercial space settlements and outer space colonization will be discussed. Credit 3 units. UColl: PSC, PSI

U25 PolSci 367 Ancient Political Thought
Same as U02 Classics 367
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 370 Topics in Politics
The European Union is the most advanced experiment of regional integration and "supranational" governance beyond traditional nation-states and intergovernmental cooperation. This course is designed to explore the dynamics of this experience over the past 60 years within a historical and geographical context, considering political, economic, institutional and cultural factors. The course will not only cover the 28 member nations and interrelationships among them, but will also address topics related to the external relations of the EU. Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI, PSC

U25 PolSci 374 American Foreign Policy
American foreign policy from the end of World War II to the present; the domestic constraints on America's ability to create a coherent, effective foreign policy. Credit 3 units. UColl: PSI

U25 PolSci 375 Topics in International Politics: National Security in an Unstable World
The international strategic landscape of the 21st century is complex and contradictory. However, it is within this landscape that the U.S. national security establishment must develop effective policies and priorities to secure America's national interests. This course will survey key concepts, tools, and approaches to the study of world politics as they relate to our national security, and it will present a brief history of the evolution of the international system. Building on this foundation, the student will learn about the role and functioning of the major institutions of the U.S. national security system, including the Presidency, the National Security Council, the military establishment, and the intelligence community. The course will address such questions as the following: How do U.S. institutions interact to produce national security policy? How have they evolved? Do they function effectively in the 21st century? How does our national security system assess the international arena within which it must operate? Is there a grand national security policy evolving? Credit 3 units. Art: SSC BU: IS

U25 PolSci 3781 Israeli Politics
Places Israeli political issues and events within the context of existing political theories. Discusses the politics and ideology of pre-state Israel and the foundation of the state. The creation of modern Israel political institutions, elections, and government coalitions. Also, Israeli foreign policy and international involvement. Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, PSC, PSI
U25 PolSci 382 Introduction to Public Policy
In this course students will learn the structures, processes, and actors comprising policymaking in the United States at the national and state level. Using various models of the policy process, students will gain understanding of policies in a variety of policy arenas. The core project of the course will help students develop their analytic and writing skills by applying the models learned in class to a specific policy debate within one of the areas discussed in the course.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI, PSA

U25 PolSci 389 Power, Justice, and the City
This course examines normative theoretical questions of power and justice through the lens of the contemporary city, with a particular focus on American urban life. It explores urban political economic problems, questions of racial hierarchy and racial injustice in the modern metropolis, and the normative and practical dilemmas posed by "privatism" in cities and their suburbs.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 389A
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC, SC, SD Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

U25 PolSci 3911 History of Political Thought: Justice, Virtue, and the Soul
This course offers a critical introduction to the main issues and debates in western political theory, including but not limited to the topics of justice, legitimacy, equality, democracy, liberty, sovereignty, and the role of history in the political and social world. This course is designed to be the first in a three-semester sequence on the history of political thought, and students are encouraged, but not required, to take the courses in chronological sequence. The first semester begins with ancient Greek political thought, and follows its development up to the early 16th century.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 391
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S UColl: ML

U25 PolSci 400 Independent Study
Must complete independent study forms with signatures from faculty, University College Coordinator and dean at University College.
Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 4013 Negotiating Major Legislation in Congress
This course examines the outcomes of the legislative process in the United States. The first third of the course will examine key concepts and major determinants of the negotiation process: majority rule instability, agenda control, political parties, the amendment process, and the uncovered set. The rest of the course will examine the negotiations that led to some of the most significant legislation in the past 100 years, from the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 through the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to the immigration bill of 2006. Along with other assignments, each student will write several drafts of a major research project on a major piece of legislation. Each research project will examine the amendments offered, the strategic intentions of the amendments' sponsors, the agenda process, and the role of party. Prerequisite: PolSci 101B.
Same as L32 Pol Sci 4013
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC, WI

U25 PolSci 4080 Voting Rights and Election Law
This course will study legal concepts of voting rights and election law that impact the ability of citizens participate in the democratic process. What is the nature of the right to vote? Who gets to participate and on what terms? This question has been an ongoing source of debate and controversy since the founding of our nation, and remains so today, as the vote is symbolic of voice, presence and power in a democracy. As debates of race, class, citizenship, power and the role of government play out in how we exercise our political voice, this course will look at the timely and dynamic debates on voting and the underlying legal, historic, policy and political movements surrounding them. Many find it hard to believe that there is no explicit "right to vote" in the U.S. Constitution - part of a compromise inextricably tied to the history of race in America. Yet there are more constitutional amendments governing the right to vote than any other, prohibiting the abridgment of voting based on race, gender, property ownership, age and other qualifications. Legislative enactments have also established rights with respect to voting. Each extension of voting rights has been a product of and brought about, social and political change. Today there are more laws conditioning access to the ballot than at any other time since the post-reconstruction era, and many states will be facing new rules heading into upcoming midterm elections and in anticipation of redistricting following the 2020 census. This course will examine the interplay of law and politics, history and political movements in the right to vote. The course will begin with a historical look at the development of voting rights from the founding of our country to the present. What factors have caused us to redefine who gets to participate in the electoral process and how? We will then apply these principles to current controversies in voting rights, through examination of current litigation and policy debates, and by assessing proposed solutions for voting rights going forward. The course involves study of fundamental court cases, interactive discussion of contemporary debates, and review of current litigation and legislative proposals. The course will be supplemented by occasional media and guest visits by election officials, lawyers, lawmakers, advocates or others.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

U25 PolSci 4131 Directed Research in Political Science
Research activities or project in political science under the supervision of an instructor in the department. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

U25 PolSci 414 Directed Fieldwork
A fieldwork project carried out under the direction of the department. Must be taken pass/fail. Credit variable, maximum 9 units.

U25 PolSci 422 Topics
The topic of this course varies by semester, dependent on faculty and student interests.
Credit 3 units. UColl: PSA

Theory and practice of mercantilism, capitalism, and socialism. Historical and contemporary examples considered, with contemporary focus on Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Hong Kong. Primary emphasis on choices open to individuals; pecuniary and non-pecuniary prices paid to exercise those choices. Statistical evidence and case studies will be
used. Course requirements include weekly written critique. Prerequisite: U07 Econ 1011 or 1021. Same as U07 Econ 427 Credit 3 units.

U25 PolSci 4552 Comparative Political Economy
This seminar will introduce the student to aspects of social choice theory, applied to themes to do with the economic origins of democracy, democratization and the stability of social orders. We shall read and discuss a number of recent books: Acemoglu and Robinson on Economic Origins; North, Weingast and Wallis on Violence and Social Orders; Przeworski on Democracy and Development; Ferguson on Money; Collier on Wars, Guns, and Votes. If time permits we also hope to discuss recent work by Stern on the Economics of Climate Change. Students will be expected to work on two short research papers, either empirically or theoretically based, and make a presentation of their work near the end of the semester. Same as L32 Pol Sci 4552 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

U25 PolSci 482 Public Policy Internship
Internships in such places as legislators’ offices, public interest groups, regional or community organizations, or private businesses with active public policy research interests. Prerequisites: 12 hours of political science course work; advanced standing; permission of University College, the instructor, and the department chair. Must be taken for letter grade. Must be taken concurrently with U25-414. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

U25 PolSci 483 Legal Internships
The legal internship program is designed to allow advanced undergraduates the opportunity to undertake an internship in one of a variety of public and private law offices. Must be taken for letter grade. Must be taken concurrently with U25-414. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.