

Political Science Major, American Politics Specialization

Program Requirements

- **Total units required:** 30

Students who major in political science are required to complete 30 graded units (10 courses) in political science with a C or better, distributed as follows:

Required Courses Substantive Introductory Courses

6 graded units must come from two 100-level introductory courses. (**Note:** Students scoring a 4 or 5 on the AP US Government and Politics exam and/or the AP Comparative Government and Politics exam may place out of the associated introductory course and replace it with a 300- or 400-level course in a related subfield.)

Methodology Course

3 graded units must come from either Pol Sci 263 Data Science for Politics or Pol Sci 363 Quantitative Political Methodology. All majors are urged to complete this requirement during their sophomore year. (**Note:** Some statistics courses offered in other departments will allow students to opt out of this class, but those credits will not count toward their political science major. See the department website for more information.)

Elective Courses Distribution Requirement

Students must complete at least one 3-unit course at the 200-, 300-, or 400-level in three of the following subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international politics, political methodology, or political theory.

Upper-Level Requirement

18 graded units must come from any six 300- or 400-level courses, including at least one 400-level capstone course (see below).

Other Courses

A student's remaining graded units may be earned by any political science course or independent study. However, credits given for writing a senior thesis (detailed in the Senior Thesis section below) do not count toward the major. In addition, a student may complete an internship for Political Science credit.

Capstone

All majors must complete at least one 400-level class, home-based in political science, as a capstone experience. Students writing a senior thesis satisfy this requirement by completing Pol Sci 495 Research Design and Methods.

Limitations

No more than 6 units from the following may count toward the major: internship, directed reading, directed research, or teaching practicum.

No more than 6 units from the following may count toward the major: study abroad, summer school, the School of Continuing & Professional Studies, or transfer credit.

Requirements for the American Politics Specialization

Students may specialize in American Politics by completing three courses within the American Politics subfield. Consult the department or review the details of a course in the Course Listings to learn about subfield designations.

Code	Title	Units
Pol Sci 3031	Race and Ethnicity in American Politics	3
Pol Sci 3044	Foundations of American Democracy	3
Pol Sci 3070	Politics and Policymaking in the American States	3
Pol Sci 3211	Public Opinion and American Democracy	3
Pol Sci 3240	The Political Economy of Public Goods	3
Pol Sci 3255	Development of the American Constitution	3
Pol Sci 3323	The Democracy Lab	3
Pol Sci 332B	Energy Politics	3
Pol Sci 336	Topics: American Elections and Voting Behavior	3
Pol Sci 3403	The Politics of Congressional Elections	3
Pol Sci 342	The American Presidency	3
Pol Sci 344	Courts and Civil Liberties	3
Pol Sci 3441	Defendant's Rights	3
Pol Sci 345	The Legislative Process	3
Pol Sci 3462	The Politics of Privacy in the Digital Age	3
Pol Sci 349	Politics in Bureaucracies	3
Pol Sci 3510	Topics in American Politics: The Supreme Court	3
Pol Sci 3551	The Welfare State and Social Policy in America	3
Pol Sci 3561	Topics in Politics	3
Pol Sci 358	Law, Politics and Society	3
Pol Sci 3752	Topics in American Politics	3
Pol Sci 398	Topics in Politics	-3

Pol Sci 399	Topics in Politics	3
Pol Sci 4001	American Democracy and the Policy-Making Process	3
Pol Sci 4013	Negotiating Major Legislation in Congress	3
Pol Sci 4025	Experiments in Politics	3
Pol Sci 4260	Writing about Civil Rights	3
Pol Sci 428	Topics in Comparative Politics: Politics and Identity	3
Pol Sci 4373	Immigration, Identity, and the Internet	3
Pol Sci 4505	American Political Parties	3
Pol Sci 4513	Topics in Politics: Criminal Law and Criminal Justice: Homicide	3
Pol Sci 4861	Seminar on American Election and Voting	3
Pol Sci 489	Politics of Regulation	3

Senior Honors

To graduate with Latin Honors, students must successfully complete a senior thesis project and meet a GPA requirement set by the College of Arts & Sciences.

Phone: 314-935-5810
Email: polisci@wustl.edu
Website: <http://polisci.wustl.edu>

Additional Information

Specializations

Political science majors may specialize in a subfield of political science by taking (as part of their distribution requirement) three courses with the same subfield distribution in any one of the five subfields (American politics, comparative politics, international politics, political methodology, or political theory). Students may earn specializations in up to two subfields. The successful completion of a subfield specialization will be listed on the student's transcript.

Senior Thesis

The department encourages students to pursue independent research by working toward a senior thesis. Students admitted to this program work closely with a faculty advisor for a full calendar year, beginning at the end of their junior year. Students writing a senior thesis receive 6 units of credit for two semesters of work by enrolling in Pol Sci 415 Senior Thesis Research. However, this credit does not count toward the completion of the political science major. Although there is no grade point average requirement for writing a senior thesis, an application is required. For more information, contact the department office. All majors may apply.

To qualify to write a senior thesis, students must do the following:

- Complete the methodology course requirement by the fall of their junior year (all majors are strongly urged to complete this requirement during their sophomore year).
- Complete Pol Sci 495 Research Design and Methods prior to their senior year.
- Complete a subfield specialization (detailed in the Specializations section above) by the end of the fall of their senior year in the subfield appropriate for their senior thesis. At least two thirds of the specialization must be completed by the end of their junior year.
- Apply during their junior year for admission into the program.