

# Department of Political Science

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## Field Description

Our lives, our communities, and our world are to a considerable degree shaped by political events. Political science provides students with an understanding of the multifaceted ideas, structures, and processes of politics in the United States and abroad. Courses are designed to accomplish three principal objectives: to help the student acquire and establish habits of critical and creative thinking about public issues; to enlarge and broaden the students understanding of significant data, major ideas, and activities regarding politics; and to prepare students for careers in law, government, journalism, and education.

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## The Major

In order to officially become a major in Political Science, students **must come in person to the Political Science Department (VC 5-280) to fill out our major declaration form and have it approved by the chair.**

The Political Science major is unusually flexible. Students are required to take American Government ( [POL 1101](#)), a capstone seminar ( [POL 4900](#)), plus seven other political science courses, representing at least four of the six subfields outlined below. At least two electives must be at the 3000-level.

In addition to our field-specific courses, students can also receive elective credit for Special Topics courses ( [POL 3999](#)), Independent Study projects ( [POL 5000](#)), Research Practicums ( [POL 5030-5031](#)), or [Honors Thesis projects](#) ( [POL 6001H](#), [POL 6002H](#)).

**Important Advisory Regarding Capstones:** Students must complete at least two 3000-level courses in Political Science BEFORE they are eligible to register for the capstone ( [POL 4900](#)). Political Science does NOT offer any capstone courses in summer or winter sessions.

## Program Learning Goals

**Upon Completion of a Major in Political Science, students will be able to:**

### *Political Science Concepts*

1. Gain a broad exposure to central issues of political science, which include:
  - the ethical problems attendant to the exercise of power;
  - the history of important political ideas, such as "liberty," "justice," "community," and "equality";
  - the impact of historical, economic, and social forces on the operation of politics;
  - the functioning and distinctive features of the US political system;
  - the diversity of political systems found among nations and the significance of these differences;
  - the interaction among international actors and the causes of war and peace.
2. Employ a key concept, theory, or method of political science.

### *Critical Thinking Skills*

1. Articulate a thesis regarding a political question.

2. Consider alternative perspectives regarding a political question.
3. Evaluate evidence regarding a political question.

#### **Research Skills**

1. Gather appropriate evidence pertinent to a political question, including:
  - primary evidence (quantitative data, court cases, interviews, etc.);
  - secondary evidence (political science literature).

#### **Written and Oral Expression**

1. Craft a well-structured written or oral argument regarding a political question.

#### **Civic Engagement**

1. Develop a greater sense of civic duty to participate in public affairs.

#### **Major Course Requirements**

<b>Base Course</b>	
<a href="#">POL 1101</a>	American Government: Practices and Values
<b>Required Course</b>	
<a href="#">POL 4900</a>	Political Science Capstone Seminar
<b>Electives</b>	21 credits
Students are to select 21 credits from among all the courses offered by the department, with at least one course from four of the six areas listed below. At least two electives must be at the 3000-level. Students can also receive elective credit for Special Topics courses ( <a href="#">POL 3999</a> ), Independent Study projects ( <a href="#">POL 5000</a> ), Research Practicums ( <a href="#">POL 5030-5031</a> ), or <a href="#">honors thesis projects</a> ( <a href="#">POL 6001H</a> , <a href="#">POL 6002H</a> ).	
<b>American Government and Political Institutions</b>	
<a href="#">POL 2001</a>	The United States in an Age of Globalization
<a href="#">POL 3008</a>	Religion and Politics in the United States ( <a href="#">HIS 3008</a> , <a href="#">REL 3008</a> )
<a href="#">POL 3101</a>	Political Psychology ( <a href="#">PSY 3101</a> )
<a href="#">POL 3102</a>	American Conservatism: Origins, Development, and Contemporary Controversies ( <a href="#">HIS 3102</a> )
<a href="#">POL 3310</a>	Public Opinion
<a href="#">POL 3311</a>	Political Parties and Elections
<a href="#">POL 3312</a>	Congress and the Legislative Process
<a href="#">POL 3313</a>	Constitutional Law
<a href="#">POL 3314</a>	Civil Liberties
<a href="#">POL 3316</a>	The Presidency

<a href="#">POL 3340</a>	Political Socialization
<a href="#">POL 3417</a>	Case Studies in American Government
<b><i>Comparative Politics</i></b>	
<a href="#">POL 2260</a>	Introduction to Comparative Government
<a href="#">POL 3086</a>	Modern Middle East and North Africa ( <a href="#">HIS 3086</a> )
<a href="#">POL 3104</a>	Politics of the Third World
<a href="#">POL 3361</a>	Comparative Politics in Selected Areas of the World
<a href="#">POL 3362</a>	European Political Systems
<a href="#">POL 3364</a>	Latin American and Caribbean Political Systems
<a href="#">POL 3365</a>	Asian Political Systems
<a href="#">POL 3366</a>	African Political Systems
<a href="#">POL 3367</a>	Comparative Revolutions
<a href="#">POL 3368</a>	Communist Political Systems
<a href="#">POL 3842</a>	Making of Modern India ( <a href="#">AAS 3842</a> ), ( <a href="#">HIS 3842</a> )
<b><i>International Politics</i></b>	
<a href="#">POL 2240</a>	Introduction to International Relations
<a href="#">POL 3341</a>	International Relations in the Middle East
<a href="#">POL 3342</a>	American Foreign Policy
<a href="#">POL 3343</a>	International Relations in Selected Areas of the World
<a href="#">POL 3344</a>	The United Nations in World Politics
<a href="#">POL 3345</a>	Contemporary International Conflict
<a href="#">POL 3346</a>	The Rise of Asia in World Affairs ( <a href="#">AAS 3346</a> ), ( <a href="#">HIS 3346</a> )
<a href="#">POL 3347</a>	Seminar on Political Globalization
<b><i>Political Theory and Methodology</i></b>	
<a href="#">POL 2280</a>	The Great Political Debates: The Individual and Society
<a href="#">POL 2332</a>	American Political Thought
<a href="#">POL 3062</a>	Political Sociology ( <a href="#">SOC 3062</a> )

<a href="#">POL 3201</a>	Topics in Politics and Literature ( <a href="#">ENG 3201</a> )
<a href="#">POL 3233</a>	Political and Administrative Research <i>effective spring 2020 course number and title change to: <a href="#">POL 3000</a> Research Skills in Political Science</i>
<a href="#">POL 3333</a>	Political Behavior
<a href="#">POL 3334</a>	American Radicalism
<a href="#">POL 3335</a>	Early Political Theory
<a href="#">POL 3336</a>	Modern Political Theory
<a href="#">POL 3337</a>	Contemporary Political Ideologies
<a href="#">POL 3456</a>	American Intellectual History
<a href="#">POL 3500</a>	Political Analysis
<b>Public Policy</b>	
<a href="#">POL 2353</a>	Public Policy
<a href="#">POL 3001</a>	Women: Politics and Policy
<a href="#">POL 3005</a>	Social Welfare Policy ( <a href="#">HIS 3005</a> )
<a href="#">POL 3103</a>	Political Economy
<a href="#">POL 3315</a>	Government and the American Economy
<a href="#">POL 3317</a>	The Politics of Energy and the Environment
<a href="#">POL 3318</a>	Immigration and Integration in the United States
<a href="#">POL 5452</a>	Field Work in Government and Politics
<b>Urban Politics</b>	
<a href="#">POL 3220</a>	State and Local Government
<a href="#">POL 3321</a>	Urban Politics
<a href="#">POL 3323</a>	Politics and Government of New York City
<a href="#">POL 3422</a>	Urban Public Policy

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## Honors Thesis in Political Science

The Honors Thesis is a two-semester sequence ( [POL 6001H](#), [POL 6002H](#)) that offers students of superior academic achievement the opportunity to work individually with a professor on a major research project in Political Science. This project involves in-depth and original research of an empirical and/or theoretical question in the field. The degree "with honors" is conferred upon acceptances of the honors project by the Committee on Undergraduate Honors. the six credits earned from completing a thesis will be accepted as part of the 24 credit major.

*Prerequisites:*

- 3.5 GPA in Political Science and also a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Complete a minimum of four courses in Political Science, including at least two at the 3000-level or above
- Submit an [application and prospectus](#) that has been approved by the prospective faculty mentor, the Chair of Political Science (Dr. David Jones), and the Chair of the Committee of Undergraduate Honors (Dr. Frank Heiland). The deadline for the prospectus is April 1 for a student who wishes to begin the thesis in the Fall semester, and November 1 for a student who wishes to begin the thesis in the Spring semester.
- Students do NOT have to be enrolled in the Honors Program to write an honors thesis.

For more information, please visit the [Honors Thesis in Political Science](#) website

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## The Minor

A minor in political science will help students to flourish in the political environment in which their future economic and social activities will be carried on. To suit the special educational needs and objectives of individual students, appropriate substitution of designated courses may be made after consultation with the departmental advisor. Students may minor by taking 6 credits of 3000-level courses plus [POL 4900](#) Political Science Capstone Seminar. In order to officially become a minor in Political Science, students must submit a minor declaration form to the Registrar's Office.

***Important Advisory Regarding Capstones:*** Students must complete at least two 3000-level courses in Political Science BEFORE they are eligible to register for the capstone ( [POL 4900](#)). Political Science does NOT offer capstone course in summer or winter sessions.

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## Courses in Political Science

***Important Note:*** A number of the courses listed below are not offered every semester. Please consult [CUNYfirst](#) for the information on what courses are currently being offered.

<a href="#">POL 1101</a>	American Government: Practices and Values	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 2001</a>	The United States in an Age of Globalization	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 2240</a>	Introduction to International Relations	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 2260</a>	Introduction to Comparative Government	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 2280</a>	The Great Political Debates: The Individual and Society	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 2332</a>	American Political Thought	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 2353</a>	Public Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3001</a>	Women: Politics and Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3005</a>	Social Welfare Policy ( <a href="#">HIS 3005</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3008</a>	Religion And Politics In The United States ( <a href="#">HIS 3008</a> ), <a href="#">REL 3008</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits

<a href="#">POL 3062</a>	Political Sociology ( <a href="#">SOC 3062</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3086</a>	The Modern Middle East and North Africa ( <a href="#">HIS 3086</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3101</a>	Political Psychology ( <a href="#">PSY 3101</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3102</a>	American Conservatism: Origins, Development, And Contemporary Controversies ( <a href="#">HIS 3102</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3103</a>	Political Economy	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3104</a>	The Politics of the Third World	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3201</a>	Topics in Politics and Literature ( <a href="#">ENG 3201</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3220</a>	State and Local Government	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3233</a>	Political and Administrative Research <i>effective spring 2020 course number and title change to: <a href="#">POL 3000</a> Research Skills in Political Science</i>	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3310</a>	Public Opinion	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3311</a>	Political Parties and Elections	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3312</a>	Congress and the Legislative Process	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3313</a>	Constitutional Law	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3314</a>	Civil Liberties	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3315</a>	Government and the American Economy	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3316</a>	The Presidency	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3317</a>	The Politics of Energy and the Environment	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3318</a>	Immigration and Integration in the United States	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3321</a>	Urban Politics	3 hours; 3 credit
<a href="#">POL 3323</a>	Politics and Government of New York City	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3333</a>	Political Behavior	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3334</a>	American Radicalism	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3335</a>	Early Political Theory	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3336</a>	Modern Political Theory	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3337</a>	Contemporary Political Ideologies	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3340</a>	Political Socialization	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3341</a>	International Relations in the Middle East	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3342</a>	American Foreign Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3343</a>	International Relations in Selected Areas of the World	3 hours; 3 credits

<a href="#">POL 3344</a>	The United Nations in World Politics	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3345</a>	Contemporary International Conflict	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3346</a>	The Rise of Asia in World Affairs ( <a href="#">AAS 3846</a> ), <a href="#">HIS 3846</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3347</a>	Seminar on Political Globalization	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3361</a>	Comparative Politics in Selected Areas of the World	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3362</a>	European Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3364</a>	Latin American and Caribbean Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3365</a>	Asian Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3366</a>	African Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3367</a>	Comparative Revolutions	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3368</a>	Communist Political Systems	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3417</a>	Case Studies in American Government	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3422</a>	Urban Public Policy	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3456</a>	American Intellectual History	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3500</a>	Political Analysis	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3842</a>	The Making of Modern India ( <a href="#">AAS 3842</a> ), <a href="#">HIS 3842</a> )	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 3999</a>	Special Topics in Political Science	1-3 hours; 1-3 credits
<a href="#">POL 4900</a>	Political Science Capstone Seminar	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 5000</a>	Independent Study in Political Science I	Hours and credits to be arranged
<a href="#">POL 5001</a>	Independent Study in Political Science II	Hours and credits to be arranged
<a href="#">POL 5002</a>	Independent Study in Political Science III	Hours and credits to be arranged
<a href="#">POL 5030-5031</a>	Research Practicum in Political Science I and II	Variable (3 to 9 hours; 1 to 3 credits per semester)
<a href="#">POL 5452</a>	Field Work in Government and Politics	3 hours; 3 credits
<a href="#">POL 6001H</a>	Political Science Honors I	3 hours; 3 credits per semester
<a href="#">POL 6002H</a>	Political Science Honors II	3 hours; 3 credits per semester

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