

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

Degree Types: PhD

The Political Science PhD Program (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/graduate/>) is designed for students whose primary concern is a mastery of theories, methods of research, and substantive literature of the discipline of political science.

The program reflects an effort to address big questions in politics by combining multiple social science methodologies including quantitative, qualitative, experimental, interpretive methods. Committed to excellence in research and teaching, methodological diversity, and interdisciplinary collaborations, the department offers a stimulating intellectual community that is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity for students and faculty of all backgrounds.

We offer field training in American politics, comparative politics, political theory, international relations, and methods. Our graduate training strengths include:

- Race, Ethnicity and Politics (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/race.html>)
- Conflict Studies (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/conflict-studies.html>)
- Law and Politics (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/law-politics.html>)
- Public Opinion, Political Communication and Political Participation (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/public-opinion-communication-participation.html>)
- American Political Development (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/american-political-development.html>)
- International Theory (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/international-theory.html>)
- Comparative Historical Analysis (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/comparative-historical-studies.html>)
- Feminist and Gender Studies (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/research/subfield-specialties/gender-politics.html>)

Students in this program are also encouraged to participate in TGS's Interdisciplinary Initiative program. For more information on how you can have a second intellectual "home" outside of your department or program please visit the Interdisciplinary Clusters page (<https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/admission/academic-programs/clusters-and-certificates/>).

## Additional resources:

- Department website (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/>)
- Program handbook(s)

## Degree Offered

- Political Science PhD (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/political-science/political-science-phd/>)

Learning objective(s)/Students should be able to...

- Define a research question, identify and gather data, and analyze that data to answer the question.

- Identify major debates in field and demonstrate a capacity to assemble a syllabus for teaching.
- Gain familiarity with major debates in a field other than the primary field.
- Obtain skills related to pedagogical development and classroom management.
- Design a research project and produce fundable proposals.
- Identify methodological tools relevant to their research and be aware of developments on the field.
- Understand ethical practices and awareness of federal statutes governing research ethics.
- Contribute original research to a scholarly community.

## Political Science Courses

### POLI\_SCI 307-0 Deportation Law and Politics (1 Unit)

Analysis of deportation law and politics from colonial America through today. Requires two visits to Chicago immigration courts.

*Ethical and Evaluative Thinking Foundational Disci Ethics Values Distro Area U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

### POLI\_SCI 310-0 Methods of Political Inference (1 Unit)

Methods for inferences based on data in political research. Research design and quantitative and qualitative methods of inference. Focuses on descriptive, statistical, and causal inference and the application of different methods to substantive problems.

*Formal Studies Distro Area*

### POLI\_SCI 320-0 The American Presidency (1 Unit)

Structural foundations and historical development of the American presidency; predominant scholarly theories of presidential power and leadership; contemporary issues and debates.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 220-0 or equivalent.

*Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

### POLI\_SCI 323-0 Public Opinion and Voting Behavior (1 Unit)

Who votes and for whom. Social, psychological, economic, and political factors influencing election choices. Sources of opinions. Focus on American presidential elections with some comparative and nonpresidential material.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 220-0 or equivalent.

*Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

### POLI\_SCI 324-0 Political Parties and Elections (1 Unit)

Role of political parties in a democratic society. Topics include nomination, national conventions, political funding, campaigns, party organization, and national, state, and local parties.

*Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

### POLI\_SCI 325-0 Congress and the Legislative Process (1 Unit)

Organization of legislatures to make public policy; impact of constituents and political parties on legislative decision making; polarization; legislative-executive relations. Emphasis on the US Congress and contemporary politics.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 220-0 or equivalent.

*Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

### POLI\_SCI 327-0 African American Politics (1 Unit)

Survey of black politics in the United States, including blacks' relations with government, whites, political parties, public policy, and electoral politics.

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**POLI\_SCI 328-0 Public Policy (1 Unit)**

The role of government in regulating economic and social behavior; theories of public policy making; sources and effects of public policy. *Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

**POLI\_SCI 329-0 U.S. Environmental Politics (1 Unit)**

Political problems associated with human impact on natural environment; pollution, natural resources, public lands, land use, energy, and population.

*Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

**POLI\_SCI 331-0 Politics of the Supreme Court (1 Unit)**

Operation of appellate courts, with emphasis on the US Supreme Court. Decision making by appellate courts and the development of public policy.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 220-0 or POLI\_SCI 230-0.

**POLI\_SCI 332-0 Constitutional Law I (1 Unit)**

Introduction to interpretation of the US Constitution by the Supreme Court. Judicial review, federalism, congressional and executive authority, separation of powers. Taught with LEGAL\_ST 332-0; may not receive credit for both courses.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 220-0 or POLI\_SCI 230-0.

*Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

**POLI\_SCI 333-0 Constitutional Law II: Civil and Political Rights (1 Unit)**

Consideration of US Supreme Court decisions dealing with civil and political rights, including equality, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. LEGAL\_ST 333-0 and POLI\_SCI 333-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 220-0 or POLI\_SCI 230-0.

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**POLI\_SCI 342-0 International Organizations (1 Unit)**

An examination of the politics, law, and history of international organizations from the 20th century to the present. Emphasis on the main inter-governmental organizations including the United Nations, the WTO, the WHO, and international courts. POLI\_SCI 342-0 and LEGAL\_ST 342-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 240-0 or consent of instructor.

*Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

**POLI\_SCI 345-0 National Security (1 Unit)**

Basic issues in national security, focusing primarily on the United States. Topics include the nature of "national interest," major actors in national security policy making and military strategy, and the influence and role of the defense establishment.

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**POLI\_SCI 346-0 European Union in International Affairs (1 Unit)**

Introduction to the institutions and policies of the European Union today. *Historical Studies Distro Area Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

**POLI\_SCI 347-0 Ethics in International Relations (1 Unit)**

Role of ethical considerations in international relations: where and when ethical questions are raised and by whom; causes and predictability of tensions between the ethics and self-interests of nations and political figures.

*Ethical and Evaluative Thinking Foundational Disci Ethics Values Distro Area Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

**POLI\_SCI 353-0 Politics of Latin America (1 Unit)**

Patterns of socioeconomic development and regime forms in Latin America. Interaction of internal and international economic and political structures and processes.

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**POLI\_SCI 354-0 Politics of Southeast Asia (1 Unit)**

Political economy of selected Southeast Asian countries, 1945 to present. Important themes include oligarchy and human rights.

*Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

**POLI\_SCI 355-0 Politics of China (1 Unit)**

This course offers an overview of modern China's politics and society. It is divided into three parts. The first part surveys Chinese history from the fall of the Qing dynasty to the end of Mao's era. The second part delves into China's economic reform and its distinct political system that combines high-growth capitalism with single-party rule. The third part focuses on several challenges confronting China and the world as a whole today, including climate change, populism, inequality, nationalism, and technological change. The course equips students with knowledge of China's political landscape as well as key concepts and theories in political science, such as revolution, democracy, and political legitimacy. The geopolitical unit known as China today will be understood through historical, comparative, and global perspectives.

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**POLI\_SCI 359-0 Politics of Africa (1 Unit)**

Political structures and behaviour ; power relation ; political regimes ; development of modern political systems.

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**POLI\_SCI 361-0 Democracy and Autocracy (1 Unit)**

Theories of the emergence and breakdown of democracy as well as of tensions between democratic and autocratic governance in contemporary democratic regimes. Comparisons of case studies in developed and developing countries.

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**POLI\_SCI 362-0 Politics of Europe (1 Unit)**

Political development of Europe from the Peace of Westphalia to the European Union. Focus on states and state-making, regime types, economic development, and nationalism.

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**POLI\_SCI 390-0 Special Topics in Political Science (1 Unit)**

Designed for investigation of topics of interest to students and faculty that are not covered by other course offerings. May be repeated for credit with change of topic.

**POLI\_SCI 403-0 Introduction to Probability and Statistics (1 Unit)**

Set theory, sample spaces, combinatorics, conditional probability, Bernoulli and binomial random variables and distributions. Some discussion of estimation and inference.

**POLI\_SCI 405-0 Linear Models (1 Unit)**

Theory and application of linear regression and extensions such as limited dependent variables. Consequences of violating the assumptions underlying the classical linear regression model.

Prerequisite: Knowledge of introductory econometrics.

**POLI\_SCI 406-0 Quantitative Causal Inference (1 Unit)**

Quantitative strategies for causal inference in the social sciences. Topics include the causal analysis of experiments, regression for causal inference, instrumental variables, matching, synthetic controls, missing data, regression-discontinuity designs, and difference-in-differences strategies.

Prerequisite: POLI\_SCI 405-0 or equivalent.

**POLI\_SCI 407-0 Experimental Political Science (1 Unit)**

Experiments are a central methodology in political science. The design, implementation, and analysis of experiments raise a variety of distinct epistemological and methodological challenges. This class will review the challenges to experimentation, discuss how to implement experiments, and survey prominent applications. The class will touch on recent methodological advances in experiments and ongoing debates about the reliability of experimental studies.

**POLI\_SCI 408-0 Interpretive Methods in Political Science (1 Unit)**

This seminar is intended for graduate students in political science and related fields who are interested in empirical research using interpretive methods. It examines a wide range of logics of research and argument and considers their utility for the study of politics.

**POLI\_SCI 409-0 Case Study and Small-N Methods (1 Unit)**

This seminar offers an introduction to small-N and case study methods. The course focuses on tools for describing social and political phenomena and for analyzing causal relationships among these phenomena.

**POLI\_SCI 410-0 American Politics Field Seminar (1 Unit)**

Introduction and review of major studies in American politics on such topics as the presidency, the Congress, the courts, interest groups, political parties, and voting behavior. A basic course for graduate students.

**POLI\_SCI 411-0 Theories of American Political Institutions (1 Unit)**

Exploration of historical and contemporary debates in the study of political institutions, with a focus on U.S. politics (both federal and state legislatures). Includes theories of parties, Congress, President, bureaucracy, interest groups, and courts. Emphasis on key debates, theories, and evidence.

**POLI\_SCI 412-0 Political Participation (1 Unit)**

Participation of the masses in various political systems; the functions these activities serve. Modes and distribution of activity, protest and other unconventional forms of action, relationship to social stratification, social-choice theories of participation, and effects of different modes and levels of participation.

**POLI\_SCI 413-0 Theories of Political Behavior (1 Unit)**

Contrasting approaches to the study of voting, theories of the survey response, psychological theories of mental process, models of public opinion, dispositional explanations of behavior, political participation, and mathematical models of social interaction.

**POLI\_SCI 414-0 The Presidency (1 Unit)**

This graduate seminar surveys traditional and current scholarship on the American presidency. It examines major theories of executive power and leadership, unilateral action, and institutional change; and the dynamic relationship between the presidency and the Congress, the bureaucracy, the parties, and the public. Special attention is given to contemporary research on these topics.

**POLI\_SCI 417-0 Legislatures (1 Unit)**

Structure and function of legislative bodies in political systems. Focus on the US Congress; comparison with state and foreign legislatures. Political

representation, legislative-executive relations, explanation of legislative behavior, and legislative leadership.

**POLI\_SCI 418-0 American Political Parties (1 Unit)**

Organizational structure of political parties and its consequences; the nature and redefinition of political party coalitions; conflict and consensus building within parties; changes within the parties and their effect on power distributions; parties in governmental decision making; party activists; and policy formation and its implications within the parties.

**POLI\_SCI 419-0 American Political Development (1 Unit)**

The historical construction of politics in the U.S. Topics include liberalism and conservatism; state-building and party-building; industrialization and the welfare state; political traditions, regimes, and orders; electoral realignments; constitutional development; social movements; and racial politics. Historical-institutional themes of timing and sequence, critical junctures, path dependence, policy feedback, political entrepreneurship, and intercurrence.

**POLI\_SCI 423-0 American Social Policy in Comparative Perspective (1 Unit)**

This course provides an introduction to American social policy, particularly policies designed to mitigate risk, poverty, and/or inequality. The emphasis of this course is not policy, but politics. We will focus on understanding the contours of the American welfare state and the institutional, economic, demographic, and political factors contributing to and inhibiting its development.

**POLI\_SCI 424-0 Public Opinion, the Media, and Democracy (1 Unit)**

This course is concerned with public opinion, the mass media, and the role of the public in making U.S. foreign and domestic policy. Topics include the micro foundations of public opinion (especially policy preferences), the influence of public opinion on policy, leadership or manipulation of opinion, and the quality of political information made available to the public through the media, including the systematic biases or deficiencies.

**POLI\_SCI 440-0 International Relations Theory (1 Unit)**

Contemporary international relations theory. Basic concepts on the philosophy of social science and substantive theories of international relations, including neorealism, neoliberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.

**POLI\_SCI 441-0 International Political Economy (1 Unit)**

Surveys major issue areas, findings, and theoretical debates in the fields of International and Comparative Political Economy. Assessment of the relative importance of systemic and domestic factors in the evolution of international economic relations; the structure of dynamics of those relations.

**POLI\_SCI 442-0 International Organization (1 Unit)**

Introduction to theory and practice of international organizations in IR. We examine the law, politics, and history of international institutions and the assumptions, methods, and ideologies used to study them. We look at theoretical models of IOs as well as practical politics and examples.

**POLI\_SCI 443-0 International Law and International Politics (1 Unit)**

This seminar on international law builds on interdisciplinary approaches. It examines the social construction of norms in international affairs, legitimacy and fairness in shaping perceptions and behavior, and how institutions of international law shape international political processes and state behavior.

**POLI\_SCI 445-0 International Security (1 Unit)**

Survey of debates in the field of international security emphasizing recent research. Topics include international conflict, laws of war,

nuclear weapons, sovereignty, international justice, and humanitarian intervention.

**POLI\_SCI 447-0 Critical Studies in World Politics (1 Unit)**

Scholarship on world politics in the Frankfurt School, Gramscian, and postmodern traditions.

**POLI\_SCI 449-0 Informal Institutions (1 Unit)**

This course examines informal institutions: the rules and procedures that lack formal codification yet effectively structure political behavior.

**POLI\_SCI 450-0 Contemporary Theory and Research in Comparative Politics (1 Unit)**

Major contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches such as society-centered, state-centered, political-institutional, political-cultural, and process-centered theoretical approaches; cross-national statistical and comparative-historical methodological approaches.

**POLI\_SCI 451-0 Comparative Political Economy of Developing Countries (1 Unit)**

Examines political explanations for the divergence in economic performance among developing countries. Topics include the developmental state, collective action, property rights, and democracy.

**POLI\_SCI 452-0 Democratization (1 Unit)**

The interrelationships between socioeconomic structures and democracy, the importance of political leadership, the historic relationship between capitalism and democracy, and contemporary tensions between market reform and democratization.

**POLI\_SCI 453-0 Modern Africa (1 Unit)**

Interdisciplinary survey of current conditions in Africa; the place of Africa in the modern world.

**POLI\_SCI 454-0 Social Movements and Mobilization (1 Unit)**

This graduate-level seminar explores the political conditions and processes shaping social and political mobilization, examining major theories from the fields of sociology and political science about social movements: collective challenges to authority that aim to change society or institute structural changes in an existing state or states.

**POLI\_SCI 455-0 Politics of Latin America (1 Unit)**

This course provides an advanced introduction to the field of Latin American politics. The material is designed to familiarize students with both the substantive areas and the different theoretical and methodological orientations that characterize work in comparative politics on Latin America. The course assumes no prior knowledge of Latin America and is appropriate for graduate students who work mainly on other parts of the world.

**POLI\_SCI 458-0 Political Institutions (1 Unit)**

The new institutionalism is one of the most important recent advances in political science. This course surveys the main varieties of institutionalism - historical, rational choice, sociological - focusing on their main methods and major findings.

**POLI\_SCI 459-0 Comparative Political Behavior (1 Unit)**

Theories and approaches to studying citizen politics in different societies, including an emphasis on the roles of everyday people's information, identity, and cost-benefit analysis in shaping political events, as well as a consideration of how these processes interact with elite frames and with institutions.

**POLI\_SCI 460-0 Comparative Politics Proseminar II (1 Unit)**

Survey of major topics in comparative politics. Contemporary state of the subfield, its evolution, and emerging research questions and controversies. Themes include institutions, identities, the state, regimes, inequality.

**POLI\_SCI 461-0 Ancient and Medieval Political Thought (1 Unit)**

Close reading of Greek sources with attention to literary, cultural and historical context and problems of translation. Texts include works in history, philosophy oratory, drama (e.g., Aristophanes, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle). May be repeated for credit with different texts.

**POLI\_SCI 462-0 Early Modern Political Thought (1 Unit)**

Close reading of late Medieval and Renaissance to early Enlightenment sources. Topics include the separation of church and state; social division and political unity; politics between anthropology and cosmology; the rise of individualism; the state as work of art. May be repeated for credit with different topics and authors.

**POLI\_SCI 463-0 Late Modern Political Thought (1 Unit)**

**POLI\_SCI 464-0 Contemporary Political Thought (1 Unit)**

**POLI\_SCI 465-0 American Political Thought (1 Unit)**

An advanced introduction to the development of American political thought in the US, from the Revolutionaries to the Pragmatists. The seminar will attempt to convey the spirit and substance of the debates that have identified American political thought at different times. The course will attempt some thematic organization by attending to citizens and the state(s).

**POLI\_SCI 466-0 Comparative Political Theory (1 Unit)**

This course explores the question of how to study political thought from outside the Western canon, and how to think normatively about politics outside the industrialized West. It involves an overview of the growing field of Comparative Political Theory, as well as related discussions in the disciplines of comparative literature, philosophy, history, and anthropology.

**POLI\_SCI 467-0 Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy (1 Unit)**

This course surveys core debates in contemporary political philosophy, providing students with familiarity in the Anglo-American tradition in the field.

**POLI\_SCI 468-0 Problems in Democratic Theory (1 Unit)**

Consideration of issues such as whether democracy presupposes a demos that is socially unified. What are democracy's prospects in an age of globalization and transnationalism?

**POLI\_SCI 469-0 Special Topics in Knowledge & Politics (1 Unit)**

Examination of the crisis - or promise - of meaning that results from the multitude of ways in which political and linguistic theorists have responded to the challenge to think about language in non-referential terms.

**POLI\_SCI 471-0 Game Theory: Math Models of Individual Political Behavior (1 Unit)**

An introduction to game theory. Topics covered include individual decision-making under uncertainty; normal and extensive form games; games of incomplete information; repeated games. Applications to voting theory, collective action and institutional choice.

**POLI\_SCI 476-0 Politics of Violence (1 Unit)**

This graduate seminar surveys recent research into the politics of contemporary and recent conflicts. Students have an opportunity to conceptualize the roles of violence, recruitment, mobilization and ideology, and social structures in shaping processes and outcomes of conflicts.

**POLI\_SCI 483-0 American Political Behavior Graduate Workshop (1 Unit)**

Key debates and developments in research on American Political Behavior; the development, presentation and critique of student-generated original research.

**POLI\_SCI 484-0 Comparative-Historical Social Science Workshop (1 Unit)**

This course is an interdisciplinary seminar designed for graduate students interested in comparative and historical work, broadly defined. Some of the work is more comparative and some is more historical. The workshop includes presentations of new work by Northwestern graduate students, Northwestern faculty, and leading outside scholars in the field of comparative-historical analysis.

**POLI\_SCI 485-0 Global Theory Workshop (1 Unit)**

Sustained discussion of work in progress in analytical political thought, with special emphasis on research that is transnational in character; internal and guest speakers combined with the development, presentation and critique of student-generated original research.

**POLI\_SCI 486-0 Advanced Topics in Middle East Politics (1 Unit)**

Advanced seminar on topics including state formation, regimes, political economy, political culture, political institutions, identity, social movements, and religion in politics. The focus is from the late Ottoman era through 2011 uprisings.

**POLI\_SCI 490-0 Special Topics in Political Science (1 Unit)**

Investigation of topics of current interest to students and faculty not covered by other offerings.

**POLI\_SCI 495-0 Qualitative Methods (1 Unit)**

This seminar provides a broad introduction to research design and qualitative methods. The first part of the course covers foundational issues, including conceptualization, measurement, and causality in a qualitative context. Part II introduces students to various approaches and techniques including case studies, process tracing, archival, ethnographic, and interview methods, considering the utility and tradeoffs of each.

**POLI\_SCI 499-0 Independent Study (1 Unit)**

Contact the department for section and permission numbers. Permission of instructor and department required. May be repeated for credit.

**POLI\_SCI 519-0 Responsible Conduct of Research Training (0 Unit)****POLI\_SCI 590-0 Research (1-3 Units)**

Contact the department for section and permission numbers. Independent investigation of selected problems pertaining to thesis or dissertation. May be repeated for credit.