POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Students must also complete the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/undergraduate-registration-requirement/) and the degree requirements of their home school.

The major in political science provides an opportunity for students to learn about politics in a variety of realms and settings. Students are encouraged to begin the major with 200-level courses, which provide a general introduction to subfields of political science, as well as important background for 300-level courses. Majors should choose 200-level courses from at least two subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory.

While some students choose courses from within one or two subfields, most take a wide variety across different areas. Concentrations are not required. Majors may consult with department advisers, however, to design more customized programs of study. For instance, students might design a course of study around themes such as race, ethnicity, and politics; global transformation; representation and law; social and economic inequalities; conflict and national security; and citizenship studies.

Students planning to major in political science are advised to complete the 200-level gateway courses and at least one 300-level course in political science by the end of sophomore year. Majors should complete their methodology requirement by the end of junior year and before taking the POLI_SCI 395-0 Political Research Seminar. Students should plan to take POLI_SCI 395-0 in junior or senior year. Those who plan to pursue honors should take POLI_SCI 395-0 in junior year.

Double-counting note: Weinberg College **prohibits double-counting a major course** toward some other major or minor, except where this is explicitly permitted in this catalog. Weinberg College does allow double-counting a major course toward a general bachelor's degree requirement (i.e. degree requirements *other than* majors or minors). Other programs or schools may have their own restrictions that supersede this, so check the relevant parts of this catalog for possible limits.

Course	Title
Major Requirements (12 units)	
3 gateway courses chosen from:	
POLI_SCI 201-0	Introduction to Political Theory
POLI_SCI 220-0	American Government and Politics
POLI_SCI 230-0	Introduction to Law in the Political Arena
POLI_SCI 240-0	Introduction to International Relations
POLI_SCI 250-0	Introduction to Comparative Politics
1 methodology course in political science chosen from:	
POLI_SCI 210-0	Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science
POLI_SCI 211-0	Introduction to Interpretive Methods in Political Science
POLI_SCI 212-0	Evaluating Evidence
POLI_SCI 312-0	Statistical Research Methods
1 Political Research Seminar	
POLI_SCI 395-0	Political Research Seminar
7 additional 300-level courses in political science [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	

1 At most one unit of Chicago Field Studies (chosen from CFS 391-0, CFS 394-0, or CFS 397-0) may substitute for one course.

2 At most two units of POLI_SCI 399-0 may count toward the 300-level requirement for the major.

3 Only one additional POLI_SCI 395-0 credit beyond the one credit required may count towards the 300-level requirement for the major.

4 Honors thesis seminars POLI_SCI 398-1 and POLI_SCI 398-2 do not count toward the major.

5 At most two units of POLI_SCI 394-LK may count toward the 300-level requirement for the major.

Notes about substitutions and restrictions:

- A maximum of two courses per quarter from study abroad may count toward the Political Science major. More courses may be accepted toward the major for longer study abroad programs.
- At most two units of POLI_SCI 399-0 may count toward the 300-level requirement for the major.
- There is no limit to the number of units of Special Topics in Political Science (POLI_SCI 390-0) that may be applied to the major.
- At most two units of Professional Linkage Seminar (POLI_SCI 394-LK) may count toward the 300-level requirement for the major.
- Courses taken P/N cannot be counted toward the major (this is a Weinberg College rule; for details see Grade Requirements (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext)).
- Receiving a 5 on an AP exam (either American Government or Comparative Politics) can place students out of the equivalent 200-level course, but test credit awarded cannot be substituted for the 12 courses required to complete the major. Thus, instead of taking POLI_SCI 220-0 or POLI_SCI 250-0, the student must take an additional 300-level course. Students receiving a 5 on the AP exams in American Government and Comparative Politics can place out of both equivalent 200-level courses and thus need to take two additional 300-level courses. Students wishing to use their AP credit in this fashion must contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies and place the request.
- For students completing the MMSS major, MATH 385-0 fulfills the POLI_SCI methodology requirement, and MMSS 311-2 double-counts as a 300-level political science course (for triple major limitations see MMSS Adjunct Major (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/mathematical-methods-social-sciences/mmss-adjunct-major/)).

Honors in Political Science

Majors with strong academic records and an interest in pursuing honors should submit an application to the honors program in the spring quarter of their junior year. Interested students should complete at least seven of the courses required for the major, including the methodology and research seminar requirements, before senior year. Accepted students enroll in the two-quarter seminar POLI_SCI 398-1 & POLI_SCI 398-2, which provides guidance in writing a senior thesis. These courses do not count toward the major but are required for participation in the honors program. Students must be in residence and able to attend both seminars in person during both the fall and winter quarters when enrolled in the honors program. Students interested in pursuing honors in more than one major are encouraged to pursue interdisciplinary honors.

Students whose theses and grades meet department criteria are recommended to the college for graduation with honors. For more

information see Honors in the Major (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#academicoptionstext).

Courses

American Politics Courses

These courses examine political behavior, power, and politics in American society and in the institutions of US government at the national, state, and local levels.

Course	Title
POLI_SCI 220-0	American Government and Politics
POLI_SCI 230-0	Introduction to Law in the Political Arena
POLI_SCI 320-0	The American Presidency
POLI_SCI 321-0	Urban Politics
POLI_SCI 323-0	Public Opinion and Voting Behavior
POLI_SCI 324-0	Political Parties and Elections
POLI_SCI 325-0	Congress and the Legislative Process
POLI_SCI 326-0	Race and Public Policy
POLI_SCI 327-0	African American Politics
POLI_SCI 328-0	Public Policy
POLI_SCI 329-0	U.S. Environmental Politics
POLI_SCI 331-0	Politics of the Supreme Court
POLI_SCI 332-0	Constitutional Law I
POLI_SCI 333-0	Constitutional Law II: Civil and Political Rights
POLI_SCI 334-0	Latino Politics
POLI_SCI 335-0	Political Psychology
POLI_SCI 336-0	Immigration Politics and Policy
POLI_SCI 337-0	Gender and Politics
POLI_SCI 338-0	Labor in America

Comparative Politics Courses

Some of these courses concentrate on understanding the politics of specific national systems, while others focus on certain types of political phenomena and make cross-national comparisons.

Course	Title
POLI_SCI 250-0	Introduction to Comparative Politics
POLI_SCI 350-0	Social Movements
POLI_SCI 351-0	Politics of the Middle East
POLI_SCI 352-0	Global Development
POLI_SCI 353-0	Politics of Latin America
POLI_SCI 354-0	Politics of Southeast Asia
POLI_SCI 355-0	Politics of China
POLI_SCI 356-0	Constitutional Challenges in Comparative Perspective
POLI_SCI 358-SA	Contemporary South Africa: A Political Economy/ Policy Perspective
POLI_SCI 359-0	Politics of Africa
POLI_SCI 361-0	Democracy and Autocracy
POLI_SCI 362-0	Politics of Europe
POLI_SCI 363-SA	The Political Economy of the European Union
POLI_SCI 364-SA	France: Politics, Culture, & Society
POLI_SCI 365-SA	Decision Making in the European Union
POLI_SCI 366-SA	The Dynamics of Law Making in the European Union
POLI_SCI 368-0	Political Economy of Development
POLI_SCI 369-0	Politics of Post-Soviet Russia and Ukraine
POLI_SCI 373-0	Chinese Foreign Policy
POLI_SCI 374-0	Politics of Capitalism
POLI_SCI 388-0	Institutions and Society
POLI_SCI 389-0	Understanding Genocide

International Relations Courses

This field includes the study of major actors and arenas in the world scene, global processes through which cooperation and conflict are managed in the international system, and ways in which change occurs and resources become allocated in the global system.

Course	Title
POLI_SCI 240-0	Introduction to International Relations
POLI_SCI 340-0	International Relations Theory
POLI_SCI 341-0	International Political Economy
POLI_SCI 342-0	International Organizations
POLI_SCI 343-0	Politics of International Law
POLI_SCI 344-0	U.S. Foreign Policy
POLI_SCI 345-0	National Security
POLI_SCI 346-0	European Union in International Affairs
POLI_SCI 347-0	Ethics in International Relations
POLI_SCI 348-0	Globalization
POLI_SCI 349-0	International Environmental Politics
POLI_SCI 376-0	Civil Wars
POLI_SCI 377-0	Drugs and Politics
POLI_SCI 378-0	America and the World
POLI_SCI 382-0	Religion, Law, & Politics: Politics of Religious Diversity
POLI_SCI 383-0	War and Change in International Politics
POLI_SCI 384-0	International Responses to Mass Atrocities

Political Theory Courses

These courses examine the ideas that inform the thinking of today's citizens, representatives, and political scientists. They are organized by historical periods and conceptual similarity.

Course	Title
POLI_SCI 201-0	Introduction to Political Theory
POLI_SCI 301-0	Ancient Political Theory
POLI_SCI 302-0	Subjects, Citizens, Revolutionaries: Early Modern Political Thought
POLI_SCI 303-0	Modernity and Its Discontents
POLI_SCI 304-0	Human Rights Between East and West
POLI_SCI 306-0	American Political Thought
POLI_SCI 307-0	Deportation Law and Politics
POLI_SCI 308-0	Critical Theory and the Study of Politics
POLI_SCI 308-SA	Critical Theory and the Study of Politics
POLI_SCI 309-0	Political Theories of the Rule of Law

Research Methodology Courses

Courses in this field help students engage in the research they may encounter in their 300 level courses and help prepare students to conduct original research on the causes and consequences of political phenomena. The methodological techniques are often transferable to research problems in government and business.

Course	Title
POLI_SCI 210-0	Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science
POLI_SCI 211-0	Introduction to Interpretive Methods in Political Science

POLI_SCI 212-0	Evaluating Evidence
POLI_SCI 312-0	Statistical Research Methods

Seminars and Independent Study

Course	Title
POLI_SCI 390-0	Special Topics in Political Science
POLI_SCI 394-LK	Professional Linkage Seminar
POLI_SCI 395-0	Political Research Seminar
POLI_SCI 398-1 & POLI_SCI 398-2	Senior Thesis Seminar and Senior Thesis Seminar
POLI_SCI 399-0	Independent Study