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.

NOTE: This Catalog describes Weinberg College BA requirements that pertain to students who matriculated at Northwestern after spring quarter 2023. Refer to the Archives (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/archives/) if you are following BA requirements described in the 2018-2019 through 2022-2023 editions.

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; however, majors may consult with department advisers to design programs of study. For instance, students might design concentrations 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 junior year.

Majors (including students studying abroad) 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. Majors should choose 200-level courses, which provide a general introduction to subfields of political science, as well as important background for 300-level courses. Majors 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.

Notes about substitutions and restrictions:

- At most two units of POLI_SCI 399-0 may count toward the 300-level requirement for the major.
- Only one additional POLI_SCI 395-0 credit beyond the one credit required may count towards the 300-level requirement for the major.
- Honors thesis seminars POLI_SCI 398-1 and POLI_SCI 398-2 do not count toward the major.

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 310-0 Methods of Political Inference
- 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

¹ Restrictions on eligible credits and substitutions include the following:

- 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.

Honors in Political Science

Majors (including students studying abroad) 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. 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.

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Courses

American Politics Courses

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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.

### 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.

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### Seminars and Independent Study

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<td>POLL_SCI 390-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLL_SCI 394-LK</td>
<td>Professional Linkage Seminar</td>
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