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 generally begin the major with 200-level courses, which provide a general introduction to subfields of political science as well as background for 300-level courses. Majors should choose 200-level courses from at least two subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international politics, 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. Students might design concentrations around, for instance, themes such as race, ethnicity, and politics; global transformation; representation and law; social and economic inequalities; terrorism 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 must take POLI_SCI 395-0 in junior year.

Course | Title
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**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 310-0 Methods of Political Inference
- POLI_SCI 311-0 Logics of Political Inquiry
- 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

Notes about substitutions and restrictions:

- At most two political science courses taken abroad may count toward the major, but courses taken abroad may not replace any of the 200-level gateway courses.
- 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 courses (12) 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 wishing to use their AP credit in this fashion must meet with 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 (including students studying abroad) with strong academic records and an interest in pursuing honors should submit an application to the honors program by March of junior year. Interested students should complete at least 7 of the courses required for the major, including the methodology and research seminar requirements, before senior year. Accepted students enroll in the 2-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.

Course | Title
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- 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 322-0 Ideas and Institutions in 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
and resources become allocated in the global system. Global processes through which cooperation and conflict are managed in the international system, and ways in which change occurs 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 310-0 Methods of Political Inference
POLI_SCI 311-0 Logics of Political Inquiry
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
POLI_SCI 399-0 Independent Study