POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR

The minor in political science offers students the opportunity to acquire a foundation in the discipline as well as significant exposure to advanced courses.

Students may want to choose courses that complement and deepen their major area of study. For example, an economics major may want to focus on political economy courses. A history major might study contemporary politics in an area on which he or she is focusing. A philosophy major may study political theory. Alternatively, students can choose to broaden their knowledge of political science in areas unrelated to their majors. Students should consult with a member of the departmental undergraduate advising team to develop an individual program of study.

Course | Title
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Minor Requirements (6 units)  
At least 2 200-level courses chosen from:  
POLL_SCI 201-0 | Introduction to Political Theory  
POLL_SCI 220-0 | American Government and Politics  
POLL_SCI 230-0 | Introduction to Law in the Political Arena  
POLL_SCI 240-0 | Introduction to International Relations  
POLL_SCI 250-0 | Introduction to Comparative Politics  
4 additional political science courses, including at least 3 at the 300 level  

1 At most 1 unit of Chicago Field Studies (chosen from CFS 391-0, CFS 394-1, CFS 396-0, or CFS 397-0) may substitute for one course.

Notes about substitutions and restrictions:

- At most one course from study abroad may count toward the minor.
- At most two units of POLL_SCI 399-0 Independent Study may count towards the minor.
- Courses taken P/N cannot be counted toward the minor (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 (6) required to complete the minor. Thus, instead of taking POLL_SCI 220-0 or POLL_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 to place the request.

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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POLL_SCI 220-0 | American Government and Politics  
POLL_SCI 230-0 | Introduction to Law in the Political Arena  
POLL_SCI 320-0 | The American Presidency  
POLL_SCI 321-0 | Urban Politics

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
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POLL_SCI 250-0 | Introduction to Comparative Politics  
POLL_SCI 350-0 | Social Movements  
POLL_SCI 351-0 | Politics of the Middle East  
POLL_SCI 352-0 | Global Development  
POLL_SCI 353-0 | Politics of Latin America  
POLL_SCI 354-0 | Politics of Southeast Asia  
POLL_SCI 355-0 | Politics of China  
POLL_SCI 356-0 | Constitutional Challenges in Comparative Perspective  
POLL_SCI 357-SA | Political Economy of Israel  
POLL_SCI 358-SA | Contemporary South Africa: A Political Economy/Policy Perspective  
POLL_SCI 359-0 | Politics of Africa  
POLL_SCI 361-0 | Democratic Transitions  
POLL_SCI 361-SA | Democratic Transitions  
POLL_SCI 362-0 | Politics of Europe  
POLL_SCI 363-SA | The Political Economy of the European Union  
POLL_SCI 364-SA | France: Politics, Culture, & Society  
POLL_SCI 365-SA | Decision Making in the European Union  
POLL_SCI 366-SA | The Dynamics of Law Making in the European Union  
POLL_SCI 368-0 | Political Economy of Development  
POLL_SCI 369-0 | Politics of Post-Soviet Russia  
POLL_SCI 373-0 | Chinese Foreign Policy  
POLL_SCI 374-0 | Politics of Capitalism  
POLL_SCI 379-SA | China in Transition: Ideology, Political Economy, Law, and Relations with the US  
POLL_SCI 381-SA | Political Economy of Contemporary China  
POLL_SCI 388-0 | Institutions and Society  
POLL_SCI 389-0 | Understanding Genocide

International Politics 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.
Political Science Minor

Course | Title
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POLL_SCI 240-0 | Introduction to International Relations
POLL_SCI 340-0 | International Relations Theory
POLL_SCI 341-0 | International Political Economy
POLL_SCI 342-0 | International Organizations
POLL_SCI 343-0 | Politics of International Law
POLL_SCI 344-0 | U.S. Foreign Policy
POLL_SCI 345-0 | National Security
POLL_SCI 346-0 | European Union in International Affairs
POLL_SCI 347-0 | Ethics in International Relations
POLL_SCI 348-0 | Globalization
POLL_SCI 349-0 | International Environmental Politics
POLL_SCI 372-0 | The Middle East in International Politics
POLL_SCI 376-0 | Civil Wars
POLL_SCI 377-0 | Drugs and Politics
POLL_SCI 378-0 | America and the World
POLL_SCI 380-0 | Refugee Crises and Human Rights
POLL_SCI 382-0 | Politics of Religious Diversity
POLL_SCI 383-0 | War and Change in International Politics
POLL_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
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POLL_SCI 201-0 | Introduction to Political Theory
POLL_SCI 301-0 | Classical Political Theory
POLL_SCI 302-0 | Subjects, Citizens, Revolutionaries: Early Modern Political Thought
POLL_SCI 303-0 | Modernity and Its Discontents
POLL_SCI 304-0 | Human Rights Between East and West
POLL_SCI 306-0 | American Political Thought
POLL_SCI 307-0 | Deportation Law and Politics
POLL_SCI 308-0 | Critical Theory and the Study of Politics
POLL_SCI 308-SA | Critical Theory and the Study of Politics
POLL_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
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POLL_SCI 210-0 | Introduction to Empirical Methods in Political Science
POLL_SCI 211-0 | Introduction to Interpretive Methods in Political Science
POLL_SCI 310-0 | Methods of Political Inference
POLL_SCI 311-0 | Logics of Political Inquiry
POLL_SCI 312-0 | Statistical Research Methods

Seminars and Independent Study

Course | Title
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POLL_SCI 390-0 | Special Topics in Political Science
POLL_SCI 394-LK | Professional Linkage Seminar