Political Science

The Political Science degree provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of political science. The program stresses the systematic study of politics, political institutions and governmental processes, state and local government, public policy, foreign policy, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- describe the fundamentals of political science and governance.
- compare and contrast contemporary comparative systems and governance.
- evaluate the relationship between the governing process and public policy.
- examine how citizen and interest group participation influence political systems.
- analyze the role of culture and its influence on politics.
- assess how the design of political institutions and processes affect policy and stability.
- analyze politics and diplomacy in the international system.
- apply basic research methods to political science.
- analyze political and public policy making processes, and relate these to current issues and problems, for evaluating political events and their role in the political system.
- compare and contrast various theories of justice and the just state.
- evaluate various theories of the purpose of government and apply to a critical analysis of current political events.

Career Opportunities

This degree is designed to facilitate successful transfer to four-year programs. Career opportunities in political science include, but are not limited to, advocate/organizer, campaign worker, diplomat, educator/teacher, events planner, foreign affairs specialist, lawyer, legislative aide (state and federal), lobbyist, political consultant and public relations specialist.

Associate Degree Requirements: The Political Science Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

**POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States**

3 Units

Advisory: ENGWR 102 or 103, and ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; OR placement through assessment process.

General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F2; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course analyzes the U.S. government’s historic origins, philosophical and theoretical justification, constitutional structures and how these institutions work. It examines and describes the procedural aspects of the political system including holding elections, campaigning, voting, lobbying, legislating, executing and adjudicating law. It provides an analysis of contemporary problems and issues. It also describes California state and local governments’ constitutional base, structures and functions, political process, problems and issues.

**POLS 302 Introduction to Government: Foreign**

3 Units

Advisory: ENGWR 102 or 103, and ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; OR placement through assessment process.

General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course comparatively examines the political systems of selected Western European, Eastern European, Asian, Middle Eastern, African, and Latin American countries. Emphasis is on the formation of political institutions, political culture, citizen and interest participation, political parties, and bureaucratic public policy roles.

**POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California**

3 Units

Advisory: ENGWR 102 or 103, and ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better

General Education: CSU Area D8; CSU Area F3

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course covers the essential organization, institutions and processes of California state and local government. It fulfills the California State University requirement for state and local government, but not the requirement for the U.S. Constitution.
POLS 310  Introduction to International Relations  3 Units
Advisory: ENGRD 116, ENGRWR 102, or ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; OR placement through assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a survey of the international political system. The focus will be on global issues as they relate to the nation-state system, the role of non-state actors, Global North and Global South relations, globalization, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, armed conflict and its causes, regional and hemispheric relations, and international political economy.

POLS 320  Introduction to Political Theory  3 Units
Advisory: ENGRD 116, ENGRWR 102, or ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; OR placement through assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a survey of the ideas that have shaped Western political development, covering important thinkers from the ancient, medieval and modern periods. Topics covered may include theories of just and unjust societies, social contract theory, justifications for government authority, and the rights of citizens versus the responsibilities of citizenship.

POLS 322  Political Ideologies  3 Units
Advisory: ENGRD 116, ENGRWR 102, or ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; OR placement through assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a survey of competing ideological approaches to government and politics. It provides comparative and historical analyses of various ideologies. Emphasis is on the theories, values, and assumptions that make up various political ideologies and their effects on political systems.

POLS 330  Constitutional Rights  3 Units
Advisory: ENGRD 116, ENGRWR 102, or ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; OR placement through assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a survey of American constitutional rights and civil liberties. Emphasis is placed on analysis of U.S. Supreme Court decisions and related materials dealing with issues arising under the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

POLS 332  Law and Society  3 Units
Same As: BUS 345
Advisory: ENGRD 116, ENGRWR 102, or ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; OR placement through assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is an introduction to the Anglo-American Common Law System with emphasis upon the nature and purpose of law. The evolution of legal concepts as a reflection of the social environment, and the basic organization and functioning of the American judicial system will be presented from a theoretical rather than a practical viewpoint through analysis of selected cases and reading materials. This course is not open to students who have completed BUS 345.