

The study of politics is both humanistic and scientific, and is centuries old. Aristotle called it “the queen of the sciences.” The American Constitution reveals a joining of political theory with the pragmatic formation of political institutions and practices. Today’s political research involves highly scientific and rigorous attempts to understand human behavior and world events. The study of political science prepares one not only for employment, but for a life as an informed citizen ready to participate in political activities within interest groups or political parties, related to community organization and political advocacy, or even as an elected or appointed official.

The major in political science offers a solid undergraduate education in the liberal arts tradition. Such study prepares the graduate for a variety of careers by emphasizing the acquisition of skills in communication and analysis, and by encouraging independent thought, tolerance, and informed interest in current affairs. The ability to define a problem and contribute to its solution is highly valued in a variety of employment settings, as are skills in writing, research, and evaluation. These are the very elements that characterize a liberal arts education, like that offered in the Department of Political Science.

Today’s graduate can expect to change jobs a number of times and even to have more than one career in their lifetime, and political science is excellent preparation for the flexibility required in this modern employment market. More specifically, the study of political science provides a solid background for careers in government at the local, state, and national levels, in international organizations, political campaigns; interest groups and lobbying organizations, journalism, business, and law.

The federal government is the country’s largest employer, utilizing a vast variety of employees in terms of the skills and abilities they hold, the level of responsibility, and geographic location. Advancement within the federal government system is more likely than entering at a relatively high position. Historically, job security, pay, and benefits associated with federal employment are quite good. Agencies do not expect new employees to enter with skills or knowledge specific to the job at hand, but they do look for individuals who can learn readily, work as part of a team, and have a basic understanding of the policy process and the operations of the national government.

Course work on the executive branch, Congress, and the courts; on the policy process; on the activities of interest groups and political parties; and on the role of the media can be useful. Local and state governments provide services in nearly every area of citizens’ lives. Increased professionalization at the local and state levels means that jobs are more dependent than they once might have been on individual abilities. Courses on state and urban government, public policy, and public administration might be especially valuable.

Interest groups and associations (labor unions, corporations, grassroots organizations, etc.) are represented in Washington, D.C. and in most state capitals. Expertise in public policy formation and analysis are especially prized, with many employees having a background in government service. While experience is a key element in this field, students might want to choose classes that will give them a full understanding of the American political and public policy process.

International businesses and organizations offer a range of careers, with a growing demand for those who bring with them an understanding of the political and regulatory environment in which business is done. Political science majors with this sort of career in mind should include study in comparative politics, international relations and organizations, public policy, political development, and interest group politics. Students should choose elective courses or a minor that can train them in basic economics, statistics, computer science, or international trade.

Careers in campaign management and political polling can be pursued in political parties, individual campaigns, or in a consulting firm. A person interested in this sort of career should acquire a thorough understanding of the American political system, taking courses on parties, elections, public opinion, and voting behavior, as well as acquiring skills in writing and data analysis. Given that there are over half a million campaigns in the U.S. annually, entry level jobs with long hours, low pay, and enormous demands are numerous. A typical career would start with an individual campaign, move to a statewide or national campaign, and then to a consulting firm, where security and pay are considerably more comfortable.

Some lawyers engage in private practice on their own or in a firm of as many as 200 attorneys, while others are employed by corporations, government, and organizations. Some individuals with legal training work in other areas such as corporate or public management. Two primary factors for admission to law school are the undergraduate grade point average and the LSAT score. The substance of undergraduate course work is important only to the extent that it is training for the academic demands law students face. The political science major offers valuable experience in critical analysis and writing, and some courses specifically deal with subject matter related to the law and the legal process. However, political science is not specifically designed to be a “pre-law” program; those interested in pursuing a career in law should take a broad set of courses to prepare for the challenges law school and the legal profession.

A career in journalism is, of course, focused on the ability to communicate, especially in writing. Beyond that, the understanding of society and individuals that a liberal arts education can impart is paramount. This should include course work in such fields as political science, history, economics, and sociology. Depending on an individual’s area of interest, courses in comparative government and international relations might be useful. Participation on the staff of a school or group newspaper or campus broadcasting facility would be excellent experience. Whatever your career aspirations, take advantage of this opportunity to develop as a person as well as a potential employee. Seek to gain an understanding of the world and your place in it, rather than simply striving to earn a diploma.

ADVISING

The Department is dedicated to providing accessible and thorough support to the students in our major. The Academic Coordinator (AC) is the primary advisor, and the Undergraduate Director is also available. You are welcome to bring any questions or concerns you have about major requirements, classes, life at FSU in general, or anything else we might be able to assist with.

Take it upon yourself to become familiar with the material in the General Bulletin (available online), especially the Academic Regulations and Procedures, and Undergraduate Degree Requirements sections. Many questions that you have can be found here prior to needing to ask an advisor. Ultimately you are the one responsible for understanding and properly completing your degree requirements.

Each student is required to maintain an FSU email account. The Department often communicates with all majors or the students in a particular class by using group-mail capabilities. Set up your account early and check it often. **Here is another area where the responsibility is yours - to be available to departmental e-mail contact.** Also keep your University records up to date with changes of address or phone number.

The College provides a Peer Advising Center (101 Bellamy) for all College of Social Science majors. The center is staffed by undergraduate students who are not only well informed regarding the University's regulations and procedures, but can also provide a student perspective on academic life. Keep in mind, however, that while others may provide valuable guidance, your official advisors are the Department's Academic Coordinator and Undergraduate Director.

Advisor/Academic Coordinator	Mr. Jeremiah Fisher	jeremiah.fisher@fsu.edu	535 Bellamy	644-7305
Director of Undergraduate Study	Dr. Christopher Reenock	crenock@fsu.edu	567 Bellamy	644-4542

THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Department of Political Science is part of The College of Social Sciences, along with economics, geography, urban and regional planning, public administration, and the interdisciplinary programs in international affairs and in social sciences. With over 1,300 active majors, political science is the largest undergraduate program in the College. The Academic Affairs Office for the College is located in 101 Bellamy. They generally advise freshman, sophomore, and junior majors.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The major in Political Science requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of course work, with a grade of C- or better required for each course. Following are the characteristics those 30 hours must have. The numbers/amounts indicated are minimums; just as with the 30 hours required for the major, students can certainly take more than the requirement.

- 3 introductory courses (more information on the introductory courses is provided below)
- 6 hours in any 3 subfields – intro courses count towards subfields (more details on the subfields provided below)
- POS3713 Understanding Political Science Research (more information below)
- 21 semester hours at the 3000 or 4000 level
- 21 semester hours in the classroom (as distinguished from internship, honors work, and the like)
- 15 classroom hours completed at FSU (at least ½ of the credits for the major, per University policy)
- No more than two (2) grades below “C-” in major coursework (see below)

A minor or second major is required. Public Administration is the only area not permitted as a minor, nor is the Public Administration internship allowed towards credit for the major.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Students majoring in other departments or programs may minor in Political Science by completing 15 semester hours of political science courses with grades of C- or better. Nine of those 15 hours must be at the 3000/4000 level, 6 of the 15 must be earned at FSU. No more than a combined total of 6 hours in PAD or PHM prefix courses can be used toward the minor. Internship credits cannot be counted toward the minor.

NOTE: Advising suggestions are based on transcript information officially posted to student record at time of advising session. Correct final registration remains the responsibility of the student. Liberal Studies advising is undertaken in the Dean's Office of the College of Social Science and Public Policy (101 Bellamy).

FIELDS OF STUDY AND INTRODUCTORY COURSES

The study of Political Science at FSU is divided into five subfields. Each subfield has an introductory course; in most cases that introductory course is a prerequisite to all other courses in the subfield; the exception being the public administration field. The following chart gives more detail on each subfield.

<p>NOTE: Two courses taught in the Department of Philosophy - PHM3331Modern Political Thought and PHM4340 Contemporary Political Thought - may be counted toward the major but do not constitute a subfield. PHM2300 and POT3003 do not count towards political science major requirements. Students who entered FSU prior to Fall 2005 may choose to complete the major using the older standards which allow the following: POS2001 and PHM2300 can count as introductory courses; Political Theory can be used as a subfield (allowable courses have the POT prefix or are PHM2300, PHM3331, PHM4340; a student cannot count both PHM2300 and POT3003).</p>
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Subfield	Prefix	Intro Course	Description
American Government	POS	POS1041 American Government: National	The study of American politics aims to answer important and enduring questions about politics and government at the local, state, and national levels. Various courses consider such topics as political participation and voting behavior; the conduct of elected politicians, both in campaigning and in governing; and institutions like interest groups, bureaucracy, and the like. Courses take theoretical, historical, and analytical perspectives to illuminate the workings of the American political system. Not all POS courses are included in this subfield; the excluded courses are: POS2001, POS3713, POS3949, POS4715, POS4935/4936, POS4941. POS3931 and POS4905 may count depending on the topic (with prior approval). POS1112 counts towards this subfield, but is not an “introductory level” course. POS1041 is required for mapping purposes for all political science majors by the department and University (see Program of Study, below).
Comparative Politics	CPO	CPO2002 Introduction to Comparative Politics	Comparative politics studies the domestic politics of countries and regions throughout the world. It seeks to enhance the students’ understanding of how politics works by observing the differences and similarities among various political systems. Comparative politics is interdisciplinary by its nature because to understand the politics of a country, we must also understand something of its economy, social system, international position, history, and culture.
International Relations	INR	INR2002 Introduction to International Relations	International relations studies the political relationships among the world’s national governments. Courses look at many of the problems and issues of world politics and possible explanations for the events we witness. Topics include such things as the causes and effects of war and peace; the difficulties faced by nations in making agreements; the role of international organizations; the formation of foreign policy; and global responses to contemporary social problems. Courses offered by the International Affairs department with the INR prefix (including <i>Introduction to International Affairs</i>) do not count towards political science requirements.
Public Policy	PUP	PUP3002 Introduction to Public Policy	The study of public policy focuses on what governments do, how and why they do it, and what the consequences are. These courses can look at governmental decisions made at any level and in any nation, and range from studies of specific government actions or programs to more general assessments of government performance.
Public Administration	PAD	PAD3003 Public Administration in American Society	Public administration (housed in a separate department, The Askew School) studies the role and function of bureaucracies in the formation and implementation of public policy. It looks at the legal, financial, and managerial aspects of government.

POS3713 UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH, required for all students in the major, is usually referred to as the “methods course.” Over the last 40 years or so, a majority of political scientists have adopted a method for studying political questions that differs from the approach taken by journalists, historians, and political commentators. They have adopted the scientific method, used in other disciplines such as biology, physics, and medical research. This means that political scientists, as well as other social scientists, use data-quantifiable facts and figures to systematically test explanations of political phenomena. Much of the research in political science uses statistical tests to determine which explanations are best supported by the data. In order to assist political science majors in understanding and evaluating social science research, the Department has designed this course to acquaint students with how the scientific method is applied to the social science, show social science research is designed, how data is collected, and how presentations of research findings are interpreted. This course should be taken as early as possible since it helps students to understand the materials they read in their other classes, to research topics for term papers, to participate in the internship program, and to design an honors thesis. Any one of the introductory courses is the only prerequisite to this class. The instructor will assume no other background, although there is a math component to this course that assumes the liberal studies math requirement has been completed. This course introduces a number of new terms and ideas. The course can be waived for any student with a documented math learning disability, and in certain circumstances where a student is a double-major and has taken a comparable methods course in the other major (both of these circumstances must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Academic Coordinator). Consult the Academic Coordinator for more information.

RESEARCH INTENSIVE BACHELOR'S CERTIFICATE (RIBC) IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Research Intensive Bachelor's Certificate in Political Science seeks to provide an outlet for students who wish to gain research skills and practical experience working in an academic research environment. Specifically, the Department of Political Science will target high-performing political science (and, secondarily, other social science) majors in their sophomore and junior years of study who wish either to 1.) focus on the quantitative approach of political science more than they would following the traditional requirements for political science students; and/or 2.) continue to graduate study in political science.

Admission to the RIBC program is competitive and is based on a review of a statement of interest, SAT or ACT scores, GPA, and fulfillment of prerequisite coursework. Enrollment is limited to 24 students per year. More information about the program is available on the Department's Web site. Successful completion of requirements is recognized with a notation on the student's transcript. The director of the RIBC program is Dr. Robert Jackson.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

The Department offers honors in the major, consisting of a thesis or project that the student completes over a period of two semesters under the guidance of a three-member faculty committee. It is the student's responsibility to determine an area of interest and approach a faculty member to request that they serve as the major professor. Successful completion of this project warrants the notation "With Honors in the Major" on the transcript. Registration for the honors work credits is arranged through the Academic Coordinator. The following prerequisites determine eligibility.

- 1.) registration with the University Honors Program Office (Honors, Scholars, & Fellows House); and
- 2.) a minimum of 15 hours completed in political science, with at least 6 of those hours at FSU; and
- 3.) a 3.5 gpa on all political science course work (at FSU or elsewhere); and
- 4.) completion of POS3713 (or its approved equivalent) with a grade of B or better.

INTERSHIPS

The Department's internship program allows qualified students to receive up to 6 hours of academic credit while gaining practical experience in the field of government or politics. An internship is not required for the major but the hours can be counted toward the 30-hour requirement. They do not satisfy any specific subfield and are considered out-of-the-classroom hours. Interns have worked for various government-related entities such as legislators' offices or legislative committees, state or local government agencies, lobbying organizations, political parties, and election campaigns. Responsibility for finding an appropriate internship rests with the student, but the Department does provide information on the process and contacts. The assignment must allow the student to learn about politics - about decision-making, influencing public policy, government operations, public service, and the like, and must span the entire semester (13 weeks in the summer). Interns are expected to do useful, paraprofessional staff work. The Academic Coordinator determines whether an intern's work assignment is appropriate for earning credit. For the 6 hours of internship credit, the student works at least 20 hours per week, writes a research paper, and attends periodic meetings with the course instructor (or whatever alternative is arranged). Full information on the internship process and prerequisites, and the necessary forms are available in the Department and on the web at <http://www.fsu.edu/~polisci/undergraduate/opportunities.htm>. **POS3713 must be completed prior to earning credit for POS4941 – Internship. POS4941 is the only internship which can be counted towards political science major requirements. Applications for internship credit are generally due no later than the third day of the semester the internship will be completed.**

DIRECTED INDIVIDUAL STUDY (DIS)

Individual study is designed to provide an opportunity for more in-depth study of a specific topic. A student who identifies an area in which she or he wishes to undertake further study can approach a faculty member with expertise in that field to request a DIS. The content and requirements of the course are worked out between each instructor and student. Generally, students should not expect a faculty member to agree to a DIS unless they have had the student in a regular class. A DIS is not permitted to substitute for an established course. DIS requests are generally not approved after the end of the drop/add period, and are not generally approved for the purpose of "making up" missing credits needed for a student to graduate in a given semester.

The student and the instructor complete an Individualized Course Approval/Registration Form and submit it to the Academic Coordinator for processing. Once the course is established in the computer system, the student 1.) is contacted with the course reference number noted, and the student registers for the course through the normal means, or 2.) is added into the course and contacted by the Academic Coordinator to confirm their addition into the DIS hours. Lower-division students must obtain the approval of the Office of Undergraduate Studies before registering for a DIS. Graduate Teaching Assistants are not permitted to direct DIS credit.

GRADUATION CHECKS

Students are required to obtain two graduation checks when 90 hours have been completed: one from the Registrar's Office and one from the College's Academic Affairs. These two checks serve not only to validate progress toward the degree, but also to give you assurance University records are correct and up-to-date.

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING

The University's Academic Honor Code is fully outlined in the Bulletin and in the Student Handbook. The Department adheres to the spirit and the letter of that code, and will pursue disciplinary action against those caught plagiarizing/cheating to the fullest extent allowed by University policy. Visit <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy/> for more information.

REGISTRATION AND DROP/ADD

Information regarding registration dates and procedures is available on-line and in each semester's Registration Guide. It is important that students register for political science classes as soon as they have access. Our classes fill quickly. Students requiring any sort of assistance with registration should see the Academic Coordinator. **Please note that it is department policy not to add students over the maximum capacity of a course.**

The drop/add period ends at midnight on the fourth day of classes in each term. Students have financial and grade liability for courses on their schedule at that time. Students have until the end of the seventh week of classes to drop a course with no grade liability. If such a drop takes the student below 12 hours of enrollment, they must seek permission from the College's Academic Affairs Office (101 BEL). Any drop after the 12th week of classes requires this same permission. These deadlines are different for Summer semesters. Once classes have started, a student who decides not to attend school at all must withdraw from the University through the Office of the Registrar.

The University's first-day attendance policy requires students who fail to attend the first meeting of a class shall have that class dropped from their schedule. **While this is policy, students should not presume they are dropped from a class, and should always check their schedules before the end of drop/add.** Students who know they will miss the first day and don't want to lose their seat can request through the instructor they not be dropped from the course.

GRADES

- **Minimum - No course with a grade below "C-" can be counted toward a major or a minor in political science.**
- Incompletes - Under extenuating circumstances, a student may ask an instructor to give a grade of Incomplete, which allows additional time to complete the requirements of the course. When the work is completed, the instructor changes the grade from an "I" to the earned letter grade. If the grade is not changed before the end of the next term in which the student is registered, the recorded "I" automatically expires ("IE" on the transcript) and is calculated as an F in the student's g.p.a. An Incomplete grade is not given unless the student explicitly requests it and makes arrangements for completing the work. An Incomplete grade is meant only for those rare cases where a student misses a final exam or is unavoidably unable to complete some final assignment. Incompletes are not given to students who simply stop attending class or who are doing poorly. Granting an Incomplete grade is at the instructor's discretion.
- Grade Appeal - The University has a formal grade appeal process to be used where a student feels that she or he has been graded as an individual in a way other than that stipulated in the syllabus and other than that by which all other students in the class were graded. This circumstance is extremely rare and the grade appeal process is seldom required. Students should always feel free to verify their grades, and bring any suspected miscalculation to the instructor's attention promptly. The burden of showing deviation from the syllabus falls upon the student initiating the grade appeal.
- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory - No course taken on an S/U basis can count toward the major, excluding AP credit.
- **"D/F" Rule – No more than two (2) grades below "C-" (i.e. "D+"/"D"/"D-"/"F"/"U") in major courses are allowed on the transcript of political science majors. Upon earning the third grade below "C-," the student will be removed from the political science major by the Academic Dean's Office of the College of Social Sciences, and the student will be required to choose another major. This includes transferred credit.**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student who requires accommodations for test taking, note taking, or some other area related to a class, identify yourself to the instructor during the first few days of class. Be prepared to furnish validation of your disability from the Student Disability Resource Center. That office has a formal procedure for test taking that requires the student to be vigilant and responsible in making the appropriate arrangements.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION – PI SIGMA ALPHA

The FSU chapter of the national Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society's advisor is Dr. Robert Jackson.

POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY AND THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST

All political science faculty hold Ph.D. degrees from a wide variety of institutions. They share a common interest in research methodology. The Department's Web page (<http://polisci.fsu.edu>) provides a complete list of the faculty and their e-mail addresses, as well as links to their personal Web pages. Dr. Charles Barrilleaux is the Department Chair.

Advising Checklist

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

- **30 semester hours – generally, 10 courses in political science with a grade of C- or better for each course, including:**
- 3 introductory courses; ▪ 6 hours in any 3 subfields (intros count towards subfields); ▪ POS3713 Political Science Research;
- 21 semester hours at the 3000 or 4000 level; ▪ 21 classroom hours; ▪ 15 classroom hours taken at FSU (includes online/study abroad);
- **Earn no more than two (2) grades below “C-” in major coursework at FSU or transferred from another institution;**
- Complete a minor or a second major other than Public Administration (following requirements as listed in General Bulletin)

INTRODUCTORY COURSE REQUIREMENT Any 3 introductory courses on the list These also count in the subfield requirement.	CPO2002 Comparative Politics	Students who entered FSU prior to Fall 2005 may also count: ___ POT3003 or ___ PHM2300 and/or ___ POS2001
	INR2002 International Relations	
	PAD3003 Public Administration	
	POS1041 American Government (required for all majors before transfer to upper-division status or transfer admission)	
	PUP3002 Public Policy	

SUBFIELD REQUIREMENT 2 courses in any 3 subfields Introductory courses count towards subfield requirements See exclusions in the student handbook	Comparative Politics (CPO)			Political Theory		
	International Relations (INR)			Students who entered FSU prior to Fall 2005 may use Political Theory as a subfield using POT courses and/or PHM2300, PHM3331 and PHM4340. Cannot use both POT3003 and PHM2300.		
	Public Administration (PAD)					
	American Government (POS)					
	Public Policy (PUP)					

METHODS REQUIREMENT POS3713 Understanding Political Science Research Term: _____
 (students must complete this course by the middle of junior year – 75 credit hours)

Completed and planned courses for the major:					
Comparative Politics					
International Relations					
Public Administration					
American Government					
Public Policy					
Other					

* Note: Advising suggestions based on transcript information officially posted to student record at time of advising session. RG = registered current term (“C-” or better grade to count towards major requirements). Correct final registration remains the responsibility of student.