

# BA in Political Science

45 units

Political science is concerned with the knowledge that is needed by citizens and government officials. This knowledge is required to make and recognize good laws, distinguish justice from injustice, and understand the legitimate purposes and necessary limits of political power. The political science major (<https://www.apu.edu/clas/programs/political-science-major/>) prepares students to take an informed, intelligent, and leading role in the affairs of their community, country, and world. In addition to classroom, research, and seminar experiences, students are encouraged to become directly involved in politics through internship experiences on the local, state, or national level.

## Career Opportunities

The political science major studies politics as part of a traditional liberal arts education. This discipline helps develop intellectual curiosity and the abilities to write and speak well, think critically, judge wisely, and exercise leadership. These skills help prepare students for a future in a variety of careers. The most common vocations pursued by political science majors include law, foreign affairs, journalism, public relations, and criminal justice. Careers in government, politics, and public service agencies are popular. Opportunities for teaching, research, consulting, and graduate study are also available.

## Requirements

The Department of History and Political Science maintains the following requirements for each of the majors it offers:

1. Students must complete all prerequisites for any HIST or POLI course with a C- or better before taking the course (except as noted in the course description).
2. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in all political science and history courses required for the major.
3. Students must complete each HIST or POLI course with a C- or higher for the course to meet a degree requirement in the Department of History and Political Science.

| Code  | Title  | Units |
|---|--|-------|
| <b>Core Courses</b>   |  |       |
| POLI 150  | American Government <sup>1</sup>                   | 3     |
| POLI 160  | Introduction to Politics                           | 3     |
| POLI 180  | Intro to International Relations                   | 3     |
| POLI 300  | Writing 3: Research and Writing <sup>2</sup>       | 3     |
| POLI 399  | Political Science Practicum <sup>3</sup>           | 3     |
| POLI 496  | Senior Seminar: Religion and Politics <sup>4</sup> | 3     |
| Select one of the following:  |  | 3     |
| MATH 130  | Introduction to Statistics <sup>5</sup>            |       |
| ECON 250  | Principles of Macroeconomics <sup>6</sup>          |       |
| <b>Subject Courses</b>  |  |       |
| Select two courses in each of the following subfields:  |  | 18    |
| <b>American Institutions</b>  |  |       |
| POLI 405  | The American Presidency                            |       |
| POLI 410  | Congress   |       |
| POLI 415  | The Federal Judiciary                              |       |
| <b>Comparative/International</b>  |  |       |
| HIST 334  | History of American Foreign Affairs                |       |
| POLI 320  | Comparative Politics                               |       |
| POLI 383  | National Security                                  |       |
| <b>Political Philosophy</b>   |  |       |
| POLI 360  | Classical Political Thought                        |       |
| POLI 363  | Modern Political Thought                           |       |
| POLI 376  | The American Founding                              |       |
| <b>Elective Courses</b>   |  |       |
| Select two electives from the list below. A course taken to meet any of the above subject course requirements may not also count for elective credit. |  | 6     |
| HIST 334  | History of American Foreign Affairs                |       |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| POLI 220 | State and Local Government                    |
| POLI 250 | Introduction to Criminal Law                  |
| POLI 260 | Introduction to Legal Transactions            |
| POLI 310 | Political Geography                           |
| POLI 320 | Comparative Politics                          |
| POLI 325 | Seminar in International Relations            |
| POLI 350 | Constitutional Law: Fundamental Freedoms      |
| POLI 351 | Constitutional Law: Criminal Justice          |
| POLI 352 | Constitutional Law: National Powers           |
| POLI 353 | Seminar on Legal Studies                      |
| POLI 360 | Classical Political Thought                   |
| POLI 363 | Modern Political Thought                      |
| POLI 376 | The American Founding                         |
| POLI 380 | Terrorism and Counterterrorism                |
| POLI 381 | Theories of International Relations           |
| POLI 382 | Diplomacy and Foreign Policy                  |
| POLI 383 | National Security                             |
| POLI 385 | Politics of Developing Countries              |
| POLI 390 | History and Politics of the Non-Western World |
| POLI 399 | Political Science Practicum <sup>3</sup>      |
| POLI 400 | Seminar on American Politics                  |
| POLI 405 | The American Presidency                       |
| POLI 410 | Congress                                      |
| POLI 415 | The Federal Judiciary                         |
| POLI 420 | Women in Politics                             |
| POLI 421 | Regional Studies                              |
| POLI 422 | International Organizations                   |
| POLI 450 | Principles and Practice of Research Design    |
| POLI 471 | Political Topics                              |
| POLI 497 | Readings                                      |
| POLI 498 | Directed Research                             |
| POLI 499 | Thesis/Project                                |

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**Total Units**
**45**

<sup>1</sup> Meets the General Education Civic Knowledge and Engagement requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Meets the General Education Writing 3 requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Up to 8 units may be earned over the course of several semesters or during one semester, though only 6 units are counted toward the political science major (and 3 units toward the political science minor), with the remaining 2 units counting as general elective credits toward graduation.

<sup>4</sup> Meets the General Education Integrative and Applied learning requirement.

<sup>5</sup> Meets the General Education Quantitative Literacy requirement.

<sup>6</sup> Meets the General Education Social Sciences requirement.

## Program Learning Outcomes

### Program Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. American Government: Explain the principles, purposes, and main features of American government.
2. International Politics: Explain the main features of international politics.
3. Political Philosophy: Analyze the writing of major thinkers in the history of political philosophy.
4. Christian Foundation: Articulate a Christian understanding of politics and government.
5. Professional Writing: Demonstrate ability to write and cite sources to professional standards within the discipline.