

POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR (BA, BS, HBA, HBS)

Also available via Ecampus.

Political Science is the systematic study of politics wherever it takes place—in governmental institutions, the international arena, and civil society. Political science majors at Oregon State may choose the general political science major, or one of the three options that focus on law and politics, international affairs, or environmental and energy politics. All political science majors learn to think critically, write clearly and speak persuasively. They learn the ideas of great political thinkers, learn the political fundamentals behind the headlines, and have engaging discussions from all points of view with other students and professors.

Students selecting the Political Science major must complete 52 credits of political science course work, of which at least 36 credits must be upper-division courses. As part of these overall credit totals, Political Science majors must complete:

Code	Title	Hours
Baccalaureate Core		
Select 51 credits		
Foundation Courses		
Select three of the following:		12
PS 201	*INTRODUCTION TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	
PS 204	*INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS	
PS 205	*INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
PS 206	*INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT	
Methods/WIC		
PS 300	^RESEARCH METHODS	4
Upper-Division Subfield Courses		
Select one from at least three of the four following subfields:		12
Subfield 1: American national government and politics, to include the judiciary, state and local government, public policy, public administration		
PS 311	CONGRESSIONAL POLITICS	
PS 312	PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS	
PS 313	CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS	
PS 314	INTEREST GROUP POLITICS	
PS 315	*THE POLITICS OF MEDIA	
PS 317	GENDER AND POLITICS	
PS 321	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: GOVERNMENT POWERS AND CONSTRAINTS	
PS 322	*CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES	
PS 323	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED	
PS 326	JUDICIAL PROCESS AND POLITICS	
PS 328	SPORTS AND POLITICS	
PS 331	*STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS	
PS 371	PUBLIC POLICY PROBLEMS	
PS 374	*SUSTAINABLE LIVING: PRACTICES AND POLICIES	

PS 375	*THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND POLICIES	
PS 425	*GENDER AND THE LAW	
PS 455	*THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	
PS 473	US ENERGY POLICY	
PS 475	ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY	
PS 476	*SCIENCE AND POLITICS	
PS 477	INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY	
PS 478	RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY	
Subfield 2: Comparative politics		
PS 341	*EUROPEAN AND EU POLITICS	
PS 343	*RUSSIAN POLITICS	
PS 344	*LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS	
PS 345	*POLITICS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS	
PS 348	*CHINESE POLITICS	
PS 350	*JAPANESE POLITICS	
PS 441	DEMOCRATIZATION	
PS 446	EAST ASIAN POLITICAL ECONOMY	
PS 449	^TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS	
Subfield 3: International relations		
PS 351	AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY	
PS 356	INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF ASIA PACIFIC	
PS 454	INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORGANIZATIONS	
PS 455	*THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	
PS 457	US-CHINA RELATIONS	
PS 458	*INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	
PS 470	GLOBAL FOOD POLITICS AND POLICY	
PS 477	INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY	
Subfield 4: Political philosophy		
PS 361	CLASSICAL POLITICAL THOUGHT	
PS 362	MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT	
PS 363	*GENDER AND RACE IN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT	
PS 365	AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT	
PS 461	ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICAL THEORY	
PS 462	THEORIES OF LAW	
Additional Upper-Division PS Courses		24
Total credits required for graduation		180

* Bacc Core Course

^ Writing Intensive Course (WIC)

1. Foundation Courses

The school encourages students to take the foundation courses in their first or second year.

Students who choose to specialize in one of the options for the major are required to take two of the introductory courses as specified for the option and choose the third introductory course.

Few upper-division political science courses have enforced prerequisites, but taking the corresponding intro course is often good preparation (for example, PS 201 *INTRODUCTION TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

AND POLITICS would assist with PS 321 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: GOVERNMENT POWERS AND CONSTRAINTS).

II. Methods/WIC

The research methods and WIC course. The school encourages students to take the Methods/WIC course late in their second or early in their third year.

III. Upper-Division Subfield Courses

A. For the general major, students must take one course each from at least three of the four subfields.

B. For the options, students choose from a list of courses approved for the option.

IV. Potential for Specialization

Students may choose a general political science major **or** may choose from one of three transcript-visible options:

1. Environmental and Energy Politics
2. International Affairs
3. Law and Politics

V. Potential for Learning Outside the Classroom.

Political science majors are strongly encouraged to pursue experiential learning and other educational opportunities outside of the classroom, and these experiences can be used to fulfill some political science graduation requirements. Such experiences can include research, thesis writing, projects, or internship. Credits will be placed in the appropriate PS 401 RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP–PS 410 POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP designator. A maximum of 8 credits from any combination of PS 401 RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP–PS 410 POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP may be applied to the major, although additional credits from courses in this range may be applied to general graduation requirements. Additional experiential learning opportunities include "field schools" and study abroad. Students should discuss all of these opportunities with the political science undergraduate advisor.

VI. Additional Requirements for the Major

- Majors are required to maintain a minimum cumulative 2.00 grade-point average for all political science course work.
- Majors must earn a C– grade or better in PS 300.
- Students must complete the BA or BS requirements specified by the College of Liberal Arts.

Major Code: 960