

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY OPTION (B.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/political-science/program/ba/political-science-major-international-security-option>

Description

The international security option in major allows students to focus the electives in their political science major on contemporary international security issues. Topics include: terrorism, ethnic conflict, nuclear weapons, drug-related violence, human security, technology and war, and much more.

Students who elect this option can highlight their focus on international security to potential employers and graduate schools. The option in major will appear on students' transcript. The option in major will allow students to develop a network with students who share a passion for international security, and to leverage this network at UNH and beyond.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

**Major GPA requirements as indicated.*

Major Requirements

The Political Science major option in International Security consists of at least 10 courses (40 credits).

The minimum grade requirement is C- per course. Any grade lower than a C- will not count toward the major option. The required minimum overall GPA for major coursework is 2.0.

Code	Title	Credits
Requirements		
POLT 401	Politics and Society	4
POLT 402	American Politics and Government	4
POLT 403	United States in World Affairs	4
Three 500-level Subfield courses		12
Select 3 subfield courses, 1 from each of 3 different subfields below.		
Subfield: American Politics		
POLT 500	American Public Policy	
POLT 502	State and Local Government	
POLT 504	American Presidency	
POLT 505	American Congress	
POLT 506	Parties, Interest Groups, and Voters	
POLT 507	Politics of Crime and Justice	
POLT 508	Supreme Court and the Constitution	

POLT 509	Managing Bureaucracy in America
POLT #510	Media and Politics
POLT 511	Women & Politics
POLT 512	Public Opinion in American Politics
POLT 513	Civil Rights and Liberties
POLT 580	Selected Topics Am Politics
Subfield: Political Thought	
POLT #520	Politics, Justice, and Morality
POLT #521	Rights and the Political Community
POLT 522	Dissent and the Political Community
POLT 523	American Political Thought
POLT 524	Politics and Literature
POLT #524W	Politics and Literature
POLT 584	Selected Topics in Political Thought
Subfield: Comparative Politics	
POLT 544	Of Dictators and Democrats
POLT #545	People and Politics in Asia
POLT 546	Wealth and Politics in Asia
POLT 548	Drug Wars
POLT 549	The Politics of Markets
POLT 550	Comparative Government and Society
POLT 551	Ethnicity, Violence, Democracy
POLT 552	Contemporary European Politics
POLT 554	Revolution and Protest in Latin America
POLT 556	Politics in China
POLT 559	Comparative Politics of the Middle East
POLT 584	Selected Topics in Political Thought
Subfield: International Politics	
POLT 560	World Politics
POLT 562	Strategy and National Security Policy
POLT #563	The Global Information Grid's Disruptive Impact on Government, Politics, and Society
POLT 565	United States Policy in Latin America
POLT 566	Asian Challenge to Global Order
POLT 569	The Rise of China
POLT #570	Counterterrorism: Nation states' responses to terrorist activity
POLT 592	Selected Topics in International Politics
Subfield: Methods	
POLT 595	Smart Politics

International Security Option Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
POLT 568	International Security	4
Electives - select two courses:		8
POLT 548	Drug Wars	
POLT 551	Ethnicity, Violence, Democracy	
POLT 554	Revolution and Protest in Latin America	
POLT 559	Comparative Politics of the Middle East	
POLT 562	Strategy and National Security Policy	
POLT 565	United States Policy in Latin America	
POLT 566	Asian Challenge to Global Order	
POLT 569	The Rise of China	
POLT #570	Counterterrorism: Nation states' responses to terrorist activity	
POLT 592	Selected Topics in International Politics	
Capstone - select one course:		4
POLT 740	States and Societies in the Middle East	
POLT 742	Politics of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India	
POLT 751	Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy	
POLT 797C	Seminar in Comparative Politics	
POLT 797E	Seminar in International Politics	

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Knowledge Base:** a proficient knowledge base of the five subfields of Political Science including American Government, Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Methods. The program fosters the development of a strong empirical foundation through multiple levels of courses. The option in major allows students to focus their elective coursework on critical international security issues.
- **Research Skills:** A second goal is to advance the students' abilities to understand and use basic political science research skills. These include knowledge of credible sources of information, basic statistical applications, and support for foreign language proficiency. We also strive to help students identify interesting and important research questions clearly and concisely, gather and assess various types of information, and come to well-reasoned conclusions.
- **Critical Thinking:** The third objective involves enhancement of student cognitive abilities and critical thinking. We hone the ability to analyze, assess, and reconstruct findings in written, oral, and graphical form. We strive to promote students who are self-disciplined thinkers who understand the rigorous standards of research, are intelligent consumers of political information, and are able to understand and weigh multiple perspectives and interpretations.
- **Communication Skills:** Another aim is to enhance the written and oral communication skills of our students. We support the goals of the writing intensive requirement and expose students to different genres and conventions in academic writing. Most 500 and 700-level courses emphasize cultivating strong writing and reading skills, while at the 700-level, student engagement in sustained discussion becomes the centerpiece of instruction in many seminars. Writing instruction includes emphasis not only on research papers but on short analytical essays, and reviews that ask students to synthesize complex information, develop arguments, and delve more deeply into interpretation. In some courses, part of this work includes iterated practice of grammar and stylistic choices through revision and proposal assignments.
- **Professional Socialization and Support for Post-Graduate Training and Placement:** The sixth aim of the program is to give students the requisite skills, preparation and knowledge base to become capable and responsible political actors in their chosen professional careers and future goals. We expect our students to be exposed to the ethics and organizational culture of political science specifically and the social sciences generally. We aim to provide a foundation of professionalism for students who enter both the private and public sectors upon graduation and for those who continue their studies beyond the B.A.
- **Inspire Curiosity and Enthusiasm for Inquiry:** A final goal is to foster a spirit of inquiry. Faculty in the Department hope to stimulate curiosity about the political world and inspire life-long learners who are engaged in the political process at the local, national and global levels.