## POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR <br> (B.A.)

https://cola.unh.edu/political-science/program/ba/political-sciencemajor

## Description

The study of government and politics, to which the courses and seminars of the Department of Political Science are devoted, includes the development of knowledge of political behavior by individuals and groups as well as knowledge about governments: their nature and functions, their problems and behavior, and their interactions-at the national and international levels as well as local, state and regional levels.

Much of the learning offered by the Department of Political Science can also be regarded as essential for good citizenship, since political knowledge helps to explain the formal and informal institutions by which we are governed and the forces that lead to policy decisions, and also seeks to clarify the issues and principles that encourage people toward political involvement. In addition, such learning is especially valuable to students planning to enter local or national government or other public service related fields, including the Foreign Service, and it will be of great help to those who intend to study law and enter the legal profession. For teaching, particularly at the college level, and for many types of government service, graduate work may be indispensable. An undergraduate major in political science will provide a helpful foundation for any further study of politics and related fields in the social sciences and humanities. Such an emphasis will also be valuable for students seeking careers in journalism, international organizations, and the public affairs and administrative aspects of labor, financial and business organizations.

## 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 major in political science consists of at least 10 courses (40 credits) and not more than 12 courses ( 48 credits). The minimum grade requirement is C - per course. Any grade lower than a C - will not count toward major. The required minimum overall GPA for major coursework is 2.0.

Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of the
major program. Bachelor of arts candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

Political Science majors may use one major-required course to satisfy one Discovery category requirement.

| Code | Title | Credits |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Required Courses ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |
| POLT 401 | Politics and Society | 4 |
| POLT 402 | American Politics and Government | 4 |
| POLT 403 | United States in World Affairs | 4 |
| Select Six 500-leve |  | 24 |
| Select 3 subfield courses, 1 from each of 3 different subfields below. |  |  |
| Select 3 elective courses from any of the 5 subfields below. ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |
| 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 588 | Selected Topics in Comparative Politics |  |
| 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 568 | International Security |  |
| 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 |  |
| Discovery Program |  | 4 |
| Select one 700-level POLT course |  |  |
| Total Credits |  | 40 |

${ }^{1}$ Once students declare the major, POLT 401, POLT 402, POLT 403 must be completed within the first calendar year.

Note: POLT \#407, POLT 440A, POLT 444, POLT 444B do not count toward the major
Students can take any POLT course at the intermediate level or higher (500-799) to count toward elective credit. ECON 402 Principles of Economics (Micro) or ECON 605 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis and ECON 401 Principles of Economics (Macro) or ECON 611 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis may also be used to fulfill the fifth or sixth elective in this sequence. Additional economics courses will be considered by petition. Only one economics course can count toward this requirement. If students substitute an economics course for a POLT 500-level course, the economics course cannot be used to satisfy Discovery Program category requirements.

## 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. Areas of strength include the study of public opinion, comparative politics and international relations, political economy, environmental politics, Latin American politics, Middle Eastern politics, and Asian politics. In this regard, the program fosters the development of a strong empirical foundation through multiple levels of courses.
- Research Skills: A second goal is to advance the students' abilities to understand and use basic political science research skills. These include computer literacy, 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 wellreasoned 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 700level 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, précis, 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.

