POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR
(B.A.)

https://cola.unh.edu/political-science-international-affairs/program/ba/political-science-major

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.

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

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 the major. The required minimum overall GPA for major coursework is 2.0.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLT 401</td>
<td>Politics and Society</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLT 402</td>
<td>American Politics and Government</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLT 403</td>
<td>United States in World Affairs</td>
<td>4</td>
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Select Six 500-level Courses

Select three (3) subfield courses, one course from each of three different subfields below. 12

Select three (3) elective courses from any of the five subfields below. 12

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 511 | Women & Politics |
POLT 512 | Public Opinion in American Politics |
POLT #513 | Civil Rights and Liberties |
POLT #580 | Selected Topics Am Politics |
POLT 701 | Courts and Public Policy |
POLT 705 | Elections in the United States |
POLT 709 | Reforming American Government |
POLT 797B | Seminar in American Politics |
POLT 798B | Seminar in American Politics |

Subfield: Comparative Politics

POLT 522 | Dissent and the Political Community |
POLT 523 | American Political Thought |
POLT 524 | Politics and Literature |
POLT 584 | Selected Topics in Political Thought |
POLT #721 | Feminist Political Theory |

Subfield: International Politics

POLT 549 | The Politics of Markets |
POLT 550 | Comparative Government and Society |
POLT 551 | Ethnicity, Violence, Democracy |
POLT 552 | Contemporary European Politics |
POLT 564 | Revolution and Protest in Latin America |
POLT 566 | Politics in China |
POLT 569 | Comparative Politics of the Middle East |
POLT 740 | States and Societies in the Middle East |
POLT 742 | Politics of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India |
POLT 748 | Food and Wine Politics |
POLT #750 | Politics of Poverty |
POLT #751 | Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy |
POLT 797C | Seminar in Comparative Politics |

Subfield: Specific Topics

POLT 560 | World Politics |
POLT 562 | Strategy and National Security Policy |
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 592 | Selected Topics in International Politics |
POLT 760 | Theories of International Relations |
POLT 762 | International Political Economy |
POLT 778 | International Organization |
Political Science Major (B.A.)

POLT 797E Seminar in International Politics

Subfield: Methods
POLT 595 Smart Politics
POLT 700 Political Science Pro-Seminar

Discovery Program Capstone
Select one 700-level POLT course

<table>
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<th>Total Credits</th>
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<td>40</td>
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1 Once students declare the major, POLT 401, POLT 402, POLT 403 must be completed within the first calendar year.
Note: POLT 440A, POLT 444, POLT 444B do not count toward the major.

2 Students can take any POLT course at the intermediate level or higher (500-799) to count toward elective credit.
ECON 402 or ECON 605 and ECON 401 or ECON 611 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 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, 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.