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

https://cola.unh.edu/political-science-international-affairs/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 allow students to develop a network with students who share an interest in international security issues. Topics include: terrorism, ethnic conflict, nuclear weapons, drug-related violence, human security, technology and war, and much more.

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.

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<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>
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<tr>
<td>POLT 402</td>
<td>American Politics and Government</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLT 403</td>
<td>United States in World Affairs</td>
<td>4</td>
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Subfield Courses

Select three 500-level subfield courses, one from each of three different subfields below: 12

Subfield: Political Thought

- 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

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 565: United States Policy in Latin America
- POLT 566: Asian Challenge to Global Order
- POLT 569: The Rise of China
- POLT 592: Selected Topics in International Politics

Subfield: Methods

- POLT 595: Smart Politics

International Security Option Requirements

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLT 548</td>
<td>International Security</td>
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Electives

Select two courses from the following: 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 592: Selected Topics in International Politics

Capstone

Select one course from the following: 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.