

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Associate Professor Fabrizio, Chairperson
Associate Professor Bertrand

Mission and Goals:

The Department of Political Science has as its main goal preparing students for a variety of careers requiring expertise in politics and international relations as well as graduate and professional education, including law school. The department provides a broad education to majors in the four traditional fields of political science: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political philosophy. The department seeks to equip majors with the intellectual tools for understanding not only the American political system, but also other major foreign countries, international political interaction in an increasingly interdependent world, international economic issues, and different philosophical perspectives on politics.

Special Programs and Opportunities:

Departmental Honors. Please see the description of the Honors Program under the Special Program section earlier in the catalog.

Model U.N. Program. Please see the description of the Model U.N. Program on page 156.

Requirements for Degrees in Political Science follow the course descriptions.

Course Descriptions: (P SC)

2310 *American National Government (3-0)* Prerequisites: none. A required course for majors, minors, and students in teacher education programs. The course also fulfills the general education requirement in political science. An introductory course which surveys the historical origin, the constitutional basis, the forms, powers, and functions of the federal government. (Fall, Spring)

2320 *State Government (3-0)* Prerequisites: none. However, students in teacher education programs are advised to take PSC-2310 first. Optional for majors and minors. The course also fulfills the general education requirement in political science. An introductory course on state and federal relations. An intensive study of the government of Texas. (Fall, Spring)

3305 *Campaigns and Elections (3-0)* Prerequisites: PSC 2310. Optional for majors and minors. This course is offered every other fall semester coinciding with the federal election cycle. It will examine the elections as they unfold, studying historical trends and the current political situation. How candidates campaign for office will be an important focus of this class. (Fall even years)

3310 *Political and Cultural Geography (3-0)* Prerequisites: none. Cross listed as GEOG 3310. Optional for majors and minors. A required course for students in the composite social science teaching field. A study of the interaction between human culture and its environment, and including urban growth, national development, regions, economic development, and influence of geography on history. Focus at local, state, national, and global levels. (Fall)

3350 *Comparative Politics (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. A required course for majors and minors; optional for students in the composite social studies teaching field. This survey course analyzes similarities and differences across a variety of governing systems, through a survey of two countries within each of the following categories: established democracies (e.g., UK and France), communist and post-communist countries (e.g., Russia and China), and less developed countries. The US is used as a reference for comparison across all three categories. (Fall)

3355 *International Relations (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. A required course for majors and minors; optional for students in the composite social studies teaching field. This survey course analyzes various perspectives on inter-state behavior in the international system, with particular emphasis placed on understanding conditions under which war, or peace and cooperation, are more likely to occur. Topical issues also analyzed include: redefining security in the 21st century; the role of non-governmental entities in influencing inter-state behavior (e.g., terrorist organizations, or the UN); and conventional and nuclear weapons arms control. (Spring)

3360 *Modern Political Philosophy (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. A required course for majors and minors. This course surveys the contributions to modern political philosophy made by major political philosophers, political leaders, as well as noteworthy intellectuals from Machiavelli to Mill. The course focuses on the political theories of liberalism, conservatism, communism, and fascism. (Fall odd years)

3375 *Model United Nations (3-0)* Prerequisites: Permission of the Instructor. Intended for majors, minors, and all other students interested in Model UN program. This course also may be used as a major elective for Multidisciplinary Studies I, II, III. This course is designed to introduce students to the structure and functions of the United Nations, and to prepare students to role-play specific countries at local and national Model UN conferences. Students in this course are expected to attend the National Model UN in New York. (Spring)

4330 *Congress (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. Optional for majors and minors. A study of the power, roles, and institutional constraints of the legislative branch of the federal government. This course will examine how the Senate and the House of Representatives operate both as individual chambers and in tandem with other branches of government. (Fall odd years)

4335 *Presidency (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. Optional for majors and minors. This class is a study of the roles, powers, and institutional constraints of the chief executive of the federal government. This class will study the history of the presidency and how its powers have evolved since George Washington. Special attention will be paid to its relationship with other branches of government. (Spring even years)

4340 *American Foreign Policy (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310 and junior or senior standing. Optional for majors and minors. This course uses simulations and creations of alternative histories to convey the opportunities and costs associated with internationally focused and isolationist foreign policies. Particular emphasis is placed on historical and current US policies toward its neighbors in the Western Hemispheres, the rise and decline of the US as a global hegemon, the Cold War and the US - UN relationship. This is the *capstone* course for Political Science. (Fall odd years)

4350 *The Supreme Court and Constitutional Law (3-0)* Prerequisites: PSC 2310 and junior or senior standing. Optional for majors and minors. The study of the Supreme Court as an equal and independent branch of government with a focus on its members, both past and present, and its role as final interpreter of the Constitution. This is the *capstone* course for Political Science. (Spring odd years)

4360 *International Political Economy (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. Optional for majors and minors. This course examines the philosophical origins of and alternatives to economic and political liberalism, with particular emphasis on the creation and evolution of the international trading and

monetary system established by the US immediately following World War II. Contemporary topics include the WTO and regional trading blocks, and their impact on the global economy. (As needed)

- 4370** *Environmental Politics (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. Optional for majors and minors. This course will introduce students to the conceptual and practical interrelationships between politics and environmental degradation and management. It will also address environmental regulations at both the domestic and international policy levels. (Fall even years)
- 4388** *Internship (3-0)* Prerequisites: P SC 2310. A work-study program open to advanced majors in political science. This course fulfills the department's experiential learning requirement. Students are required to work a total of 150 hours, keep a daily journal, and write a feed-back report assessing their internship experience. Can be taken only once for credit towards the major, but can be repeated once for elective credit. With the approval of the department Chairperson. (Fall, Spring)
- 4X96** *Honors Tutorial (4-0)* Prerequisites: fifteen hours in political science and admission to the departmental honors program. Designed for the honors student in political science; includes intensive reading on a selected topic, analysis, and research. (Fall, Spring)
- 4X97** *Senior Thesis (4-0)* Prerequisites: eighteen hours in political science, admission to the departmental honors program, and approval of the research project by department and Honors Committee. Designed for the honors student in political science. An independent research project on a topic approved by the political science faculty; findings reported in writing and orally to the faculty of the department. Successful completion is required for graduation with honors in political science. (Fall, Spring)
- XX99** *Special Topics (3-0)* Prerequisites: none. Optional for majors and minors. A course of study offered occasionally to groups of students to broaden departmental curriculum, to meet student demand, or to observe special events. May be repeated for credit towards the major when topics vary.

BACHELOR OF ARTS POLITICAL SCIENCE

A MINOR IS REQUIRED FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

All degrees require a minimum of 126 credit hours, excluding remedial courses. A minimum of 40 credit hours must be advanced level.

<u>GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS</u>	HOURS	COMPLETED
FRESHMAN SEMINAR Required for first-time, fulltime Freshmen ACAD 1100	1	
UNIVERSITY CORE CORE 1300 CORE 2300 CORE 3300	3 3 3	
WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATION ENG 1310 ENG 1320 COMM 1310	3 3 3	
HEALTH FITNESS H F 1210	2	
RELIGION Select 3 hrs from REL 1330, 2330, 2340	3	
FINE ARTS Select 3 hrs from ART 1300,1310, 1313, 2310, THRE 1330, 2330, FA 2310, M LH 2301, 2350	3	
SCIENCE (8 hours) Select 4 hrs from BIOL 1401, 2401, GEOS 1405, 1410, 2420. Select 4 hrs from CHEM 1400, 1410, PHYS 1400, 1401, 1410.	4 4	
MATH Select 3 hrs from MATH 1311 or higher	3	
HUMANITIES (8-9 hours) Select 3 hrs from ENG 2311, 2312, 2321, 2322 Select 5-6 hrs from ENG 2311, 2312, 2321, 2322, 4309, SPAN 4311, 4312, 4313, ANY PHIL course, REL 2309, 2330, 2340, 3330, 3350, 3310, 3315, 3320, 3325, 4309, SLD1210	3 5-6	
SOCIAL SCIENCE (9 hours) Select 3 hrs from HIST 1310, 1320, 2310,2320. Select 3 hrs from PSC2310, 2320 Select 3 hrs from ECON 2310, 2320, HIST 1310, 1320, PSC 2310, 2320, 2320, PSYC 1340, 2360, SOC 2300, 3320	3 3 3	

MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE		
<u>POLITICAL SCIENCE</u>	HOURS	COMPLETED
PSC 2310 PSC 3350 PSC 3355 PSC 3360	3 3 3 3	
Select 9 hours from PSC 2000 or 3000 level	9	
Select 9 hours from PSC 4000 level	9	

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT:

This major requires 2 years of foreign language at the college level, or demonstration of proficiency by taking a CLEP exam or a foreign language proficiency exam.

MINOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (Not available for Political Science majors)		
<u>COURSE</u>	HOURS	COMPLETED
PSC 2310 PSC 3350 PSC 3355 PSC 3360	3 3 3 3	
Select 6 hrs from PSC 2320, 3305, 3310, 3375, 4330, 4335, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370	6	