



# Political Science

Political science is the study of political systems and how they function. It has its origins in the fourth century B.C., when Aristotle set out to classify governments. Today it encompasses four major focus areas: International Politics, including the behavior of countries, trade regimes, and theories of war; American Politics, including political parties, interest groups, and legislative, judicial, and executive powers; Comparative Politics, including the nature of democracy and comparison of parliamentary and other political systems; and Political Theory, including philosophical considerations such as what constitutes a good society.

Students of political science gain an understanding of the political nature of the contemporary world, from simple acts such as choosing products as consumers to the complexity of global politics in the information age. As governments and the private sectors of society become more intermingled, political scientists become more valued for their understanding of how both systems work and for their reasoning and analytical skills. Majors in political science are prepared for entry level positions in a variety of fields and for graduate study. Advanced degrees in political science offer the applied skills often necessary for professional advancement.

Note: Good communication and computer skills are essential to political scientists. Students are encouraged to develop their communication skills by taking ENGL 3150 Writing in the Disciplines and COMM 1100 Public Speaking and to develop their computer skills by taking BUAD 2280 Computer Business Applications.

## Programs

- Political Science, B.A. *major*
- Social Studies, B.A. (Political Science Emphasis) *major*
- International Relations *minor*
- Political Science *minor*
- Public and Non-Profit Management *cert*

## Career Directions

- Business
- Government
- Interest Groups
- International Organizations
- Journalism
- Law
- Also: Graduate Study

## Preparation

### Recommended High School Courses

- English
- History
- Social Studies
- Speech
- Computers
- Languages
- Recommended Activities
- Reading Diverse News Sources
- Attention to News Events
- Civic Engagement

## Political Science, B.A. *major*

Required Credits: 42  
Required GPA: 2.25

### I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

#### A. GENERAL

Select 21 semester credits of guided electives from Political Science courses numbered above 3000 with consent of advisor:

Complete one of the following courses:

- COMM 3000 Applied Research Methods (3 credits)
- CRJS 3201 Research Methods and Statistics for Criminal Justice (3

credits)

- PSY 3401 Basic Statistics for Research (4 credits)
- SOC 3001 Quantitative Research Methods in the Social Sciences (3 credits)
- STAT 2610 Applied Statistics (4 credits)

### B. PRE-LAW EMPHASIS

Complete the following courses:

- POL 2800 Introduction to Law and Law School (3 credits)  
*or* POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)
- POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)  
*or* POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)

Select 18 semester credits of guided electives from appropriate courses numbered above 3000 with consent of advisor. Up to 6 credits from law school early admission programs and/or from pre-law partners may be applied here subject to program approval.

### Program Learning Outcomes | Political Science, B.A.

1. An understanding of American government and politics: Students will be able to develop an in depth understanding of American governmental institutions and policy-making processes; with an

appreciation of the role of the citizen and the motivations of public officials.

2. Develop thinking, leadership and communication skills: Students will be able to develop student abilities in critical thinking, analytical reasoning, leadership, writing, presentation, and research.
3. Effectively present paper to college community: Students will be able to effectively present their senior paper in a roundtable or panel format to the college community.
4. Evaluate political beliefs and tolerance of diversity: Enable students to evaluate political structures in terms of their beliefs about the proper relationship between the individual and the state. To encourage students to appreciate the diversity of political perspective, and to encourage understanding and tolerance of differing point of view.
5. Evaluating politicians from a comparative perspective: Enable student to evaluate differing governmental systems and policy outputs from a comparative perspective.
6. Foundation for career, learning and participation: Student will be able to provide the foundations for a career in the public or private sector and for a lifetime of learning and participation in politics.
7. Produce a quality senior paper: Students will be able to write a senior paper of approximately 20 pages that is tightly focused, persuasive, well documented and clearly presented. The papers should contain an abstract, literature review, original analysis, and a discussion and conclusion.
8. Students should participate in politics: Student will be able to participate in politics in some form either on or off campus either for credit or not. (e.g., Model UN, Student government, political campaigning, community volunteer work, internship, etc.)
9. Understand and utilize research methodologies: Students will be able to understand and utilize the major research methodologies of the discipline.
10. Understand theories explaining international actors: Students will be able to understand the various theories useful in explaining the behavior of nation-states and other international actors.

#### SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR B.A.

The following is a list of required Political Science Major, B.A. courses arranged by year. This schedule is intended to help students plan their courses in an orderly fashion; however, these are only suggestions and this schedule is flexible.

##### Freshman

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements

##### Sophomore

- POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Electives in Political Science

##### Junior

- POL 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)
- POL 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
- Liberal Education Requirements
- Electives in Political Science
- Courses needed for minor

##### Senior

- POL 4100 Political Inquiry (3 credits)
- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)
- Electives in Political Science
- Courses needed for minor

## Social Studies, B.A. *major* Political Science Emphasis

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Required Credits: 48

Required GPA: 2.50

Note: A minimum of 22 semester credits used to meet course requirements in I and II must be completed at Bemidji State University. No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.50 in this major is required for graduation. Students who desire a second field of emphasis are to consider a completion of a minor or a second major in that field. Such action may complement and increase the marketability of this major.

### I REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM

#### CAPSTONE COURSE

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:

- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

#### ECONOMICS COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- ECON 2000 Principles of Microeconomics (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 credits)

#### GEOGRAPHY COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- GEOG 2100 Introduction to Physical Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography (3 credits)

#### GEOGRAPHY COURSES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- GEOG 3410 Geography of North America (3 credits)
- GEOG 3800 Regional Geography (1-3 credits)
- GEOG 3810 Geography of Europe (3 credits)
- GEOG 3820 Geography of East, South, and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- GEOG 3840 Geography of Africa (3 credits)

#### WORLD HISTORY

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2219 Medieval European Culture (3 credits)
- HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)

- HST 3208 Greece And Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
- HST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

#### U.S. HISTORY

##### SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
- HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
- HST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Antebellum America, 1787-1865 (3 credits)
- HST 3137 The American Civil War (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3187 American West (3 credits)

#### POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

##### SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

#### POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

##### SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- POL 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
- POL 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
- POL 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)
- POL 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)
- POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)
- POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)
- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)

#### SOCIOLOGY COURSES

##### COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- SOC 3010 Sociological Theory (3 credits)
- SOC 3210 Social Movements - How to Change the World (3 credits)

#### II REQUIRED FIELD OF EMPHASIS

##### SELECT 18 SEMESTER CREDITS OF ELECTIVES FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE:

### **International Relations** *minor*

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Required Credits: 18

Required GPA: 2.00

#### I REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

#### II ELECTIVE CREDITS

Elective credits, you must complete 12 credits from groups A and B, with at least 3 coming from group B.

Group A: Political Science Electives (at least 6 credits)

- POL 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
- POL 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)
- POL 3140 Canadian Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)
- POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)

Group B: Other Electives (at least 3 credits)

- ANTH 1110 Cultural Anthropology (3 credits)
- BUAD 3751 International Marketing (3 credits)
- COMM 1090 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
- ECON 3400 International Trade and Finance (3 credits)
- ENGL 2357 British Literature to 1800 (3 credits)
- ENGL 2358 Diverse British Literatures from 1800 to Present (3 credits)
- ENGL 2370 World Literature to 1600 (3 credits)
- ENGL 2377 World Literature from 1600 to Present (3 credits)
- GEOG 1400 World Regional Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 3800 Regional Geography (1-3 credits)
- GEOG 3810 Geography of Europe (3 credits)
- GEOG 3820 Geography of East, South, and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- GEOG 3840 Geography of Africa (3 credits)
- GEOG 3850 Geography of the Middle East (3 credits)
- GEOG 3860 Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean (3 credits)
- GEOG 3870 Planning for Sustainable Cities (3 credits)
- HST 1304 World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
- HST 1305 World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)
- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2219 Medieval European Culture (3 credits)
- HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3208 Greece And Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
- HST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)
- HST 3799 Tudor and Stuart England, 1485-1714 (3 credits)
- INTL 1130 Education Abroad Basics (3 credits)
- INTL 2100 Instructed International Tour (1-3 credits)
- INTL 2200 International Study Experience - Humanities (1-3 credits)
- INTL 2300 Comparative International Study Project (1-3 credits)
- SOWK 2110 Intercultural Communication (3 credits)
- SPAN 1111 Elementary Spanish I (4 credits)
- SPAN 1112 Elementary Spanish II (4 credits)
- SPAN 2211 Intermediate Spanish I (3 credits)
- SPAN 2212 Intermediate Spanish II (4 credits)

## Political Science *minor*

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Required Credits: 24

Required GPA: 2.00

### REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- PHIL 3380 Political Philosophy (3 credits)  
*or* POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

### GUIDED ELECTIVES

SELECT 12 SEMESTER CREDITS FROM POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES NUMBERED ABOVE 3000 WITH CONSENT OF ADVISOR. MAY INCLUDE INTERNSHIP UP TO 4 CREDITS.

## Public and Non-Profit Management *cert*

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Required Credits: 18

Required GPA: 2.50

Admission requirement: Sophomore status or prior work experience in the non-profit or public section. See program coordinator for additional details.

### REQUIRED COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)  
*or* POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)  
*or* INST 4000 Nation Building and Leadership (3 credits)
- POL 3310 Intersection of Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3 credits)
- POL 3320 Non-Profit Management (3 credits)
- POL 3330 Non-Profit Financial Management (3 credits)

Complete one of the following for 3 credits:

- POL 3940 In-Service Course (3 credits)
- POL 3970 Internship (3 credits)
- SOWK 4970 Internship (6-12 credits)

## Political Science Courses

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### POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)

An introduction to the basic ideologies, concepts, processes and institutions of modern government and politics. [Core Curriculum Goal Areas 6 & 9]

### POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)

An introductory survey to the institutions and actors, such as the media, interest groups, political parties, congress, and presidency of contemporary American government and politics. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 7]

### POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)

Surveys various theories explaining the behavior of nation-states, the causes of war and peace as well as the role of multinational corporations and international organizations in international politics. [Core Curriculum Goal Areas 8 & 9]

### POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)

A comparative analysis of political systems and their functions in the context of unique cultures and histories. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 7 & 8]

### POL 2800 Introduction to Law and Law School (3 credits)

Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of law and society as well as introducing students to the process of entering the legal profession. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 9]

### POL 2925 People of the Environment: Political Science Perspective (3 credits)

An introduction to political processes and institutions involved in making environmental policy. Might not be offered every year.

### POL 2953 Study-Travel, History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences (1-6 credits)

Study Travel course in Political Science.

### POL 3100 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)

Traces the development of American foreign policy: its objectives, limitations, domestic and international factors influencing foreign policy. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3130 Asian Political Development (3 credits)

Course investigates the unique political and economic challenges facing the countries of Asia and South Asia. Prerequisite: POL 1400. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3140 Canadian Politics (3 credits)

Explanation of Canada's history, political and economic systems, and regional variations within the nation-state. Special attention to political parties, ideologies, policy processes, and outcomes. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3150 Topics in Political Science (1-3 credits)

Course explores underlying political dimensions of topical issues. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3160 Comparative European Politics (3 credits)

Course includes an analysis of political structures and processes in Europe. The mechanisms of parliamentary governments, political parties, interest groups and ideologies are included. Prerequisite: POL 1400. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3170 International Relations (3 credits)

The study of conflict and cooperation in international relations, the foreign policies of the great powers, international organizations, and the United Nations. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3180 International Law and Organization (3 credits)

Explores the role of international organizations such as the United Nations, economic alliances, international law, and regional consolidation in international politics. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3190 International Political Economy (3 credits)

Analyzes how economic policy decisions are made within and between countries and the effect those decisions have on affected interests in domestic and international politics. Prerequisite: POL 1300. (Might not be offered every year.)

### POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)

Using Minnesota politics as a central focus, the role of and function of state and local governments in the context of American federalism is examined. (Might not be offered every year.) [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 9]

### POL 3210 Public Administration (3 credits)

An introduction to the field of public administration. Emphasis is on the political dimensions of management in the public sector. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

**POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)**

Surveys the dynamics of the policy process that produce our environmental policies. An analysis of actors, institutions, and organizations that shape U.S. environmental law and policy. Prerequisite: POL 1200 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)

**POL 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)**

Examines the application of political science research methodology to current questions of politics and public policy. Prerequisite: Completion of Core Curriculum mathematics requirement (Goal Area 4) or consent of instructor.

**POL 3310 Intersection of Public and Non-Profit Sectors (3 credits)**

Studies federal, state and local agency policy domains and interactions; government agency grant making policies and procedures, ideological and partisan views of the public and non-profit sectors. Prerequisite(s): none.

**POL 3320 Non-Profit Management (3 credits)**

This course deepens students' understanding of the role of management and leadership in today's nonprofit sector. Topics covered include: the responsibilities and challenges facing today's non-profit managers, the role of the board of directors, planning, funding and staffing programs, financial accountability, and ethical decision making. Prerequisite(s): none.

**POL 3330 Non-Profit Financial Management (3 credits)**

This course examines the critical financial considerations of nonprofit organization, including sources of funds and fundraising, grant writing and management and financial accountability. The students will consider the key financial measures and strategies required to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the organization. The course will also consider nonprofit financial statements as indicators of financial health and sound management. Prerequisite(s): none.

**POL 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)**

This course surveys the development of western political thought. Included is an examination of some of the ideas and values associated with major social and political movements in Europe and the United States. Topics will vary and may include liberalism, conservatism, populism, democracy, communism, nationalism, fascism, environmentalism, realism, and feminism. POL 1100 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)

**POL 3410 Legislative and Executive Relations (3 credits)**

Explores the legislative process by analyzing the motives and evolving legislative styles of legislators in relation to the evolution and powers of the modern presidency and executive establishment. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

**POL 3420 Campaigns and Elections (3 credits)**

Includes analysis of the congressional and presidential electoral process, including the role of political parties, interest groups, and the media. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

**POL 3910 Directed Independent Study: Student Leadership (1 credit)**

Directed Independent Study

**POL 3940 In-Service Course (3 credits)**

A course for practitioners seeking additional training or expertise in their current vocation or profession. The in-service format typically includes an educational experience in which a University faculty member and a group of students concentrate on working toward the resolution of a specific problem.

**POL 3970 Internship (3 credits)**

Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only. Student internships may be either full-time or part-time in a public or private agency appropriate to the degree objective. Internships consist of closely supervised periods of service that are arranged in advance of the course registration. Students should consult their advisor concerning prerequisites.

**POL 4100 Political Inquiry (3 credits)**

Students will learn the theory and practice of quantitative political analysis through the completion of original research projects.

**POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)**

An examination of legal interpretations of the constitution regarding the separation of powers and the Bill of Rights. Prerequisite: POL 1200. (Might not be offered every year.)

**POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)**

This is a senior year capstone course. In a seminar format, students discuss progress on their individual research projects and develop career plans and skills. Prerequisite: POL 4100 or consent of instructor.

**POL 4917 DIS Tchg Assoc | (1-2 credits)**

Directed Independent Study | Teaching Associate

**All-University Courses**

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY  
 1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY  
 1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE  
 1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE  
 1950, 2950, 3950, 4950 WORKSHOP, INSTITUTE, TOUR  
 1960, 2960, 3960, 4960 SPECIAL PURPOSE INSTRUCTION  
 1970, 2970, 3970, 4970 INTERNSHIP  
 1980, 2980, 3980, 4980 RESEARCH  
 1990, 2990, 3990, 4990 THESIS