

POLITICAL SCIENCE, CERTIFICATE

There are many definitions of political science. But whether a definition focuses on the analysis of governmental structures, or influences on voter choice, or the relationship between national governments, or the best form of government, at base, political science is about the systematic study of power. Whether power is exercised formally, as is the case between government and the individual, or informally, as is the case between individuals, it is the systematic study of power relationships that provides the subject matter for the discipline. Students who pursue a certificate in political science obtain not only an understanding of the workings of government, but they also develop important skills in critical thinking and analysis. These skills make them ideal candidates for careers in law; in government at the state, national, and international levels; in business; in journalism; and in politics.

HOW TO GET IN

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DECLARING THE CERTIFICATE

There are no pre-requisites for declaring the Political Science certificate.

Students can declare at any time on the our website (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/politicalsciencecertificate/#requirements-and-declaration>). Political science majors are not eligible to declare the Political Science certificate.

REQUIREMENTS

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Only 4 credits of Introductory requirement coursework will count in the certificate. Students must take at least one 3 credit Reading and Writing in Political Science course. Students may take more than one Reading and Writing in Political Science course to meet the certificate requirements; additional Reading and Writing in Political Science courses after the first count toward the required Intermediate and Advanced level Elective courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Course (complete one)		3-4
POLI SCI 104	Introduction to American Politics and Government	
POLI SCI 120	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POLI SCI 140	Introduction to International Relations	
POLI SCI 160	Introduction to Political Theory	
POLI SCI 182	Introduction to Comparative Politics (Honors)	
POLI SCI 184	Introduction to American Politics	
Reading and Writing in Political Science (complete one)		3-4
POLI SCI 206	Introduction to Political Psychology	
POLI SCI 305	Elections and Voting Behavior	

POLI SCI 306	American Political Parties
POLI SCI 324	Chinese Politics
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 327	Indian Politics in Comparative Perspective
POLI SCI 330	Political Economy of Development
POLI SCI/ JEWISH 341	Israeli Politics and Society
POLI SCI 344	The Russian War on Ukraine: Causes and Consequences
POLI SCI 345	Conflict Resolution
POLI SCI 347	Terrorism
POLI SCI 354	International Institutions and World Order
POLI SCI 359	American Foreign Policy
POLI SCI 360	History of American Political Thought
POLI SCI 364	Christian Political Thought
POLI SCI 377	Nuclear Weapons and World Politics
POLI SCI 408	The American Presidency
POLI SCI 414	The Supreme Court as a Political Institution
POLI SCI/ PUB AFFR 419	Administrative Law
POLI SCI 460	Topics in Political Philosophy
POLI SCI 470	The First Amendment
POLI SCI 481	Honors Seminar on Race and Politics in the United States
POLI SCI 529	Arab-Israeli Conflict
POLI SCI 601	Proseminar: Topics in Political Science

Electives 8-10

Any additional "Reading and Writing in Political Science" course from the list above, or any of the following courses:

POLI SCI 205	Introduction to State Government
POLI SCI/ CHICLA 231	Politics in Multi-Cultural Societies
POLI SCI 272	Introduction to Public Policy
POLI SCI/ CHICLA 302	Mexican-American Politics
POLI SCI 304	The Political Economy of Race in the United States
POLI SCI 311	United States Congress
POLI SCI 314	Criminal Law and Justice
POLI SCI 315	Legislative Internship
POLI SCI 320	Governments and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 325	Social Movements and Revolutions in Latin America
POLI SCI 328	Politics of East and Southeast Asia
POLI SCI 329	African Politics
POLI SCI 332	German Politics
POLI SCI 334	Russian Politics
POLI SCI 335	Social Identities
POLI SCI 336	Democracy (and Its Uncertain Future)

POLI SCI 338	The Civil-Military Paradox in U.S. Politics and Society
POLI SCI 339	Non-Democracies
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy
POLI SCI 343	Theories of International Security
POLI SCI 346	China in World Politics
POLI SCI 349	Global Access to Justice
POLI SCI 350	International Political Economy
POLI SCI 356	Principles of International Law
POLI SCI 361	Contemporary American Political Thought
POLI SCI/ CLASSICS/ HISTORY 362	Athenian Democracy
POLI SCI 363	Literature and Politics
POLI SCI 370	Islam and Politics
POLI SCI 390	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: International Relations
POLI SCI 400	Topics in Political Science
POLI SCI 401	Selected Topics in Political Science
POLI SCI 402	Wisconsin in Washington Internship Course
POLI SCI 405	State Government and Public Policy
POLI SCI 411	The American Constitution : Powers and Structures of Government
POLI SCI 412	The American Constitution: Rights and Civil Liberties
POLI SCI 416	Community Power and Grass Roots Politics
POLI SCI 417	The American Judicial System
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 431	Contentious Politics
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 434	The Politics of Human Rights
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 439	The Comparative Study of Genocide
POLI SCI 463	Deception and Politics
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 469	Women and Politics
POLI SCI 490	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: American Government
POLI SCI 511	Campaign Finance
POLI SCI 515	Public Opinion
POLI SCI/ AFROAMER 519	African American Political Theory
POLI SCI 590	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: Political Theory
POLI SCI 659	Politics and Society: Contemporary Eastern Europe

POLI SCI 690	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: Comparative Politics
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Total Credits**16**

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- Minimum 2.000 GPA in all certificate courses
- At least 12 certificate credits must be completed on campus

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Develop an understanding of and appreciation for the methods and approaches in Political Science and their relevance to important theoretical and pragmatic questions.
2. Analyze different forms and practices of governance both democratic and non-democratic.
3. Argue effectively and defend propositions with intellectual integrity, while considering a range of alternative points of view and evidence.
4. Analyze relations among individuals, civil society, political institutions, and states.
5. Analyze the motivations and consequences of political decision-making and activities.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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Students who are declared or interested in the political science certificate have numerous advising resources available to them. The political science advising team is composed of professional and peer advisors who are excited to talk with students about everything from academic planning to professional development for future careers. Information on the political advising team, how to contact an advisor, and how to schedule an appointment hours can be found on this website (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/politicalsciencecertificate/>).

INTERNSHIPS

The Department of Political Science recognizes the importance of internships in helping students develop professional skills and explore potential career paths. Positions can vary depending on availability and students' interests, but recent sponsors have included the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Office of the Governor, Sierra Club, and numerous non-profit, media, lobbyist, and policy organizations in Wisconsin and throughout the country. Please see our internship board (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/internship-board/>) for examples of the wide array of opportunities. Political Science certificate students can also get academic credit in conjunction with an internship by taking Poli Sci 315.

ALUMNI MENTORING

Like internships, networking can be a valuable tool in opening professional doors and learning more about the professional value of the political certificate. The department often matches students with alumni mentors drawn from our Board of Visitors (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/board-of-visitors/>) and other graduates who can help them get started building a professional network, answer questions about a specific field, provide guidance in applying for jobs or preparing for interviews, and provide general career advice.

PEOPLE

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PROF. JON PEVEHOUSE, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

jcpevehouse@wisc.edu

AMY GANGL, DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

agangl@wisc.edu

CASSIE CHULICK, ACADEMIC ADVISOR

cassie.chulick@wisc.edu

RACHEL MARGOLIES, UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR, UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATOR

rachel.margolies@wisc.edu