

# 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.

The certificate in political science requires sixteen (16) political science (Poli Sci) credits, of which twelve (12) credits must be taken on campus. Students can explore the certificate by taking one of our introductory courses in American Politics (Poli Sci 104), Comparative Politics (Poli Sci 120), International Relations (Poli Sci 140) or Political Theory (Poli Sci 160). The certificate pairs well with any major and provides political context to many areas of study.

Please consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Amy Gangl ([agangl@wisc.edu](mailto:agangl@wisc.edu)), with any questions about the certificate in political science.