

Political Science

Political Science

Politics and government have a major impact on our everyday lives and on the fate of the world. At stake are international peace, economic prosperity, social well-being, the state of the environment and political freedoms. Political science examines conflict and cooperation regarding these issues among government organizations, individuals and groups.

Political science is a vital part of a liberal arts education. It generates skills and knowledge that are essential for effective citizenship. It is excellent preparation for graduate study in law, history or social studies, and for careers in public service, business, communications media and teaching.

Major Program Requirements

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (32 hours)

Political Science Core (20 hours)

PSCI 101	American National Government (4)
PSCI 137	Political Theory and Philosophy I (4)
or PSCI 138	Political Theory and Philosophy II (4)
PSCI 220	United States Presidency (4)
PSCI 335	International Relations (4)
PSCI 409	Seminar (4)

Political Science Electives (12 hours)

Bachelor of Arts with Teacher Certification in Political Science. See the Teacher Education section of the catalog, page 239.

Majors are encouraged, depending on their individual backgrounds, to consider the following courses related to political science: Earth Science 104, Economics 201 and 202, History 103 and 104 or 107 at least 8 hours of modern languages and at least one course in sociology or anthropology.

Minor and Associate Program Requirements

The **Associate's Degree** and the minor in political science requires completion of 20 semester hours in the discipline, including Political Science 101; 137 or 138; and 12 hours of electives in the department.

Sophomore standing and a 100- or 200-level course or the instructor's permission are prerequisites for 300-level courses. Junior standing is required to take 400-level courses.

All prospective candidates in teacher education must seek the guidance of the department of teacher education before beginning their sophomore year.

The semesters listed after course descriptions indicate when courses are expected to be offered. Schedules are subject to change; students should confirm semester offerings with the department when planning degree programs.

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- 101. American National Government (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** Political analysis with a focus on the interactions of individuals, institutions, issues and influences which comprise the national political process. Fall, spring.
- 102. State and Local Government (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** How state and local governments function, issues they face and how they relate to the federal government, with special emphasis on Michigan. Attendance at governmental meetings, interviews of public officials and presentations by governmental guest speakers are included. Fall.
- 137. Political Theory and Philosophy I (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** Survey of classical and medieval political philosophy.
- 138. Political Theory and Political Philosophy II (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** Survey of modern and postmodern political philosophy.
- 200. Law and Society (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** The law, with primary focus on the United States and some references to Great Britain and other countries. Includes reading and discussion of selected court decisions, emphasizing the increasingly important role that law plays in social systems. (Open to freshmen.) Spring.
- 205. Introduction to Public Policy (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** The public policy process is the heart of politics, where decisions are made about who gets taxed, who gets that money, and who determines what rules we have to live by. Investigates how policy is made, who the players are, and the effects of different types of policies. (Open to Freshman.)
- 220. United States Presidency (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** Examines the role and function of the Presidency in the American political system. Focus areas include presidential elections, the growth of presidential power, relations between President and Congress, and the President's role in foreign affairs.
- 225. Islam & Global Affairs (NON-WESTERN) (4).** The implications of Islamic resurgence for world politics, and the role of Islam in contemporary society and its politics. Issues pertaining to Islam and nationalism, globalization, political violence, and democracy. Offered occasionally.
- 235. International Ethics, Law, and Organizations (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** The sources and principles of international law and its development, principles of ethics in global politics and barriers to their realization. Struggles between international relations theorists and activists regarding ethics and world politics. Spring.
- 245. Environmental Politics (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** The environmental "crisis," including the impact of human activities on natural and social environments and the psychological, historical, economic and political causes of the crisis, as well as what governments and citizens can do and have done about it. Participation in outdoor projects related to environmental issues is required. Fall.

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- 301. Special Topics in Political Science (4).**
- 305. Politics and Economics (4).** Should government regulate the economy? How effective are these regulations and who really benefits? Analyzes the interaction of politics and markets, examines theories of political economy, and considers issues of equity and efficiency in both markets and politics. (Prerequisite Political Science 101, Economics 201 or Economics 202.)
- 315. International Political Economy and Globalization (4).** Central issues of the global political economy: global governance, international organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization, and the phenomenon of globalization and its implications. Offered occasionally.
- 321. Race in American Law and Politics (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** Reading and discussion focused on the moral and political assumptions and implications of racism. Materials from fiction, political science and law; comparative, historical and analytical approaches. The course seeks to help students think about the race relations problems which are clearly critical in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. (Prerequisite: Sophomore status or higher.) Offered occasionally.
- 325. United States Foreign Policy (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** How foreign policy is made; how and why the U.S. has been involved in recent world affairs, including trade, foreign aid, alliances, diplomacy, terrorism, wars and revolutions, and arms control. Offered occasionally.
- 328. Politics in the Third World (SOCIAL SCIENCE, NON-WESTERN) (4).** Politics and problems of selected third and fourth world nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America and their relations with the United States and the rest of the world. Offered occasionally.
- 330. Public Opinion, Parties and Elections (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** The nature, sources and effects of public opinion; techniques, strategies and effects of propaganda; and membership, beliefs and campaigns of political parties. Coursework will include analysis and creation of propaganda and working for political parties or candidates. Offered occasionally.
- 335. International Relations (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** Analysis of current world politics in terms of biological, psychological, institutional, technical and geographical factors. Emphasizes the United States role in major world issues. Spring.
- 340. Constitutional Law (4).** Select topics of Constitutional law, including civil rights and criminal law. Explores legal reasoning and the procedures of the Supreme Court. Students will engage in a Supreme Court simulation involving a current case. (Prerequisite: One prior Political Science or SOC 221.)
- 402. Modern Political Theories (SOCIAL SCIENCE) (4).** Theories of politics developed during the 19th and 20th centuries in Europe and America. Offered occasionally.

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- 405. Political Behavior (4).** Examines the foundations of social and political behavior, considering such issues as the evolutionary basis of cooperation, the foundations of racism and violence, the confluence of power and sex, the strategic value of deception, and what it means to behave rationally in a complex political world. (Prerequisite: Junior standing.)
- 409. Seminar (4).** An exploration of research methodology and issues in political science, culminating in a comprehensive paper. (Prerequisite: Junior or senior status) Spring.

Special and Advanced Courses

- 199. Exploratory Internship (1-3).** Arrangements may be made for internships fulfilling individual needs and interests. The Lenawee County Pre-Law Internship offers an introductory look at the field through visits and interviews with persons at a dozen or more agencies related to the legal process. Fall, spring, summer.
- 222. Washington Symposium (2-3).** On-campus study combined with study at the Washington Center in Washington, D.C. Topics may include the presidency, Congress, leadership for women, foreign policy, or the news media in politics. Study in Washington includes lectures by government leaders, field trips to government agencies and one-day internships in government offices. May and August.
- 299. Experimental Course (1-4).**
- 399. Professional Internship (1-12).** Political science interns have been placed with judges, private and prosecuting attorneys, city and county managers, police departments, probate and district courts, newspapers, social service agencies, political campaigns and state and national legislators. Fall, spring, summer.
- 451. Independent Study (1-4).** Supervised reading, research or work in an area of special interest to the student. (Prerequisite: departmental permission.) Fall, spring, summer.
- 499. Advanced Experimental Course (1-4).**