POLITICAL SCIENCE, MINOR

Program Requirements

To earn a minor in political science, a student must complete a minimum of 18 semester hours of political science courses beyond the requirements of the Core Curriculum Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 2318</td>
<td>Politics, Groups, &amp; Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3312</td>
<td>Campaigns and Elections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3314</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3315</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3313</td>
<td>The Legislative Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3316</td>
<td>The American Presidency</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 3317</td>
<td>Judicial Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3351</td>
<td>Civil Rights &amp; Liberties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>List 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 2319</td>
<td>Religion and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3321</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3331</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 4325</td>
<td>Politics in Latin America</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>List 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 3361</td>
<td>Western Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 3365</td>
<td>Political Theory and Ideologies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 4361</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Electives

The remaining 6 hours of unrestricted electives can be any political science course.

Total Hours 18

Courses

POLS 2304 Introduction to Political Science
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Introductory survey of the discipline of political science focusing on the scope and methods of the field, and the substantive topics in the discipline including the theoretical foundations of politics, political interaction, political institutions and how political systems function.
TCCNS: GOVT 2304

POLS 2305 U.S. Government and Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A basic survey of American government, including fundamental political institutions, with special attention to the United States and Texas Constitutions.
TCCNS: GOVT 2305

POLS 2306 State and Local Government
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The politics, government, and administration of American states, counties, cities, and special districts, with special emphasis on Texas.
TCCNS: GOVT 2306

POLS 2311 Mexican American and Latinx Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The study of Mexican American and Latinx politics within the American political experience. Topics include historical, cultural, socioeconomic, and constitutional issues that pertain to the study of Mexican Americans and other Latinx populations in the United States. Other topics such as political participation, governmental institutions, electoral politics, political representation, demographic trends, and other contemporary public policy debates will also be addressed.
TCCNS: GOVT 2311

POLS 2318 Politics, Groups, & Society
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course explores the role of groups in political and social change in society. In doing so, the course explores the formal and informal institutions which aid and constrain group effectiveness. An emphasis is placed on contemporary examples.

POLS 2319 Religion and Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The course will examine the intersection of religion and politics historically and during contemporary times with an emphasis on beliefs, behaviors, institutions, and policies.

POLS 3303 Contemporary Political Analysis
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Analysis of current problems in national and international politics. Emphasis is on methods of analysis, particularly the use of computers. Includes a segment on career opportunities for political science majors.

POLS 3311 Women and Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The course will examine public policies affecting women, political participation, women in public office, and political attitudes of women.

POLS 3312 Campaigns and Elections
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A survey of the literature on campaigns and elections including theories of voter choice; effects of mass media and campaign finance regulations on the conduct and outcome of elections; effects of elections on policy; emphasis on U.S. national elections.

POLS 3313 The Legislative Process
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Survey and description of the legislative process in the United States Congress with relevant comparisons to practices within the several states and foreign nations. Emphasis upon the law-making process explained in terms of structure, participants, groups, associations and power relationships.

POLS 3314 Public Opinion
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An analysis of the kinds and distributions of opinions and attitudes in the mass public and the effects of those opinions on activities of policy makers, with special attention to problems of linking public opinion to public policy.
POLS 3315 Political Parties
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Organization, history, and activities of political parties and functions they serve in national, state, and local politics in the United States and elsewhere.

POLS 3316 The American Presidency
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A study of the federal executive branch with an emphasis upon the American Presidency with its relationships to other American political institutions and processes.

POLS 3317 Judicial Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course examines the political factors that influence judicial selection, decision-making and the policy-making role of courts. Furthermore, attention is directed at the impact of court decisions and the structure of the judiciary.

POLS 3321 Comparative Politics
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Concepts, theories and analytical frameworks for comparing different types of political systems around the world. Emphasis is placed on learning about different political systems and using the comparative method to evaluate and develop a richer understanding of politics, political culture, political behavior, and political institutions.

POLS 3331 International Relations
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Examination of the structure and function of the international system focusing on the power relationships among states, international organizations, and the critical issues animating contemporary international relations.

POLS 3341 Introduction to Public Administration
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Study of organization and management theories and practices of public administration affecting federal and subnational governments. Bureaucratic structures and procedures will be examined for their effects on policy, program development and evaluation.

POLS 3342 Introduction to Public Policy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A survey of the policy process in the United States. The course will examine factors affecting the development, implementation and impact of public policies as well as a discussion of policy alternatives and controversies.

POLS 3343 Bureaucracy
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Examines the concept of the political role of the bureaucracy and the impact of other government institutions on bureaucratic structures, functions and behavior. The role of bureaucracy in public policy making and the influence of politics on implementation is analyzed.

POLS 3351 Civil Rights & Liberties
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course explores the provision of civil rights and liberties, including First Amendment freedoms and criminal rights, through the lens of Supreme Court decisions. While historical cases are examined, special emphasis is put on contemporary Court decisions.

POLS 3361 Western Political Theory
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The fundamental concepts and problems of political theory, as viewed by the major classical philosophers and contemporary theorists, including justice, power, authority, obligation, freedom, equality.
POLS 4361  American Political Thought
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A survey of the major developments in American political thought from the Colonial period to the present, followed by an analysis of important recent theoretical developments in American political thought.

POLS 4390  Topics in Political Science
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

POLS 4396  Directed Individual Study
1-3 Semester Credit Hours (1-3 Lecture Hours)
See College description.

POLS 4398  Applied Experience
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
NCD.