POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR, B.A.

Are you interested in politics in the U.S. and globally? Questions concerning how we ought to govern ourselves? Critical issues such as health, the environment, migration, and civil rights? Theories about how power and resources are allocated in society? Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career based on your interests? If so, you should consider studying political science.

As Harold Laswell famously noted, politics is "who gets what, when, and how." Political science focuses on the study of politics in the United States and around the world. As a political science major, you will take a broad range of courses across five subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and political methodology. The flexible major requirements also allow you to focus your coursework on the areas of political science that draw your interest.

Political science majors gain a versatile set of analytical and organizational skills that can be applied in a wide range of exciting careers in government, law, business, international organizations, nonprofit organizations, survey research, journalism, and teaching.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the political science program, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a command of at least one of the following areas of substantive knowledge:
  - Themes and concepts that have shaped the Western political tradition, as well as core contemporary political theoretical issues
  - Principles and processes of American political institutions, political behavior, and civic culture
  - Principles and processes of political institutions, political behavior, and civic culture in societies other than the United States
  - Fundamental structures and forces that shape relations between states
- Demonstrate competence in the identification, use, and development of theoretical explanations appropriate for the study of their respective areas of substantive focus. These skills may include:
  - Evaluating competing theories of political explanation
  - Reconstructing the logic of political theories
  - Constructing theoretical models intended to address specific questions in political analysis
- Demonstrate a working understanding of the methods appropriate for developing rigorous description and explanation of political phenomena. These may include one or more of the following, depending on the student's area of substantive interest:
  - Principles of textual interpretation and critical evaluation
  - Identification, collection, and organization of empirical data
  - Use of qualitative, quantitative, and other analytical techniques for analyzing data

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must

- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/).

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
Nine courses, including the following courses and including at least one 400-level political science (POLI) course:		
POLI 100	American Democracy in Changing Times [H, F]	3
POLI 150	International Relations and Global Politics [H, F]	3
One course in comparative politics chosen from:		3
POLI 130	Introduction to Comparative Politics [H, F]	
POLI 232	Politics of the United Kingdom [H]	
POLI 233	Comparative Politics of the Middle East [H]	
POLI 234	Comparative Politics of the Global South	
POLI 235	The Politics of Russia and Eurasia [H]	
POLI 236	Politics of East-Central Europe [H]	
POLI 237	The Politics of China	
POLI 238	Politics of the Global South: Latin America [H]	
POLI 239	Introduction to European Government [H]	
POLI 241	Comparative Political Behavior [H]	
One course in political theory chosen from:		3
POLI 265	Feminism and Political Theory	
POLI 270	Classical Political Thought [H]	
POLI 271	Modern Political Thought [H]	
POLI 272	The Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense	
POLI 275	Nationalism, Immigration and the Politics of Identity [H]	
POLI 276	Major Issues in Political Theory [H]	
POLI 280	American Political Thought [H]	
POLI 470	Social and Political Philosophy [H]	
POLI 471	Contemporary Political Thought [H]	
POLI 472	Problems of Modern Democratic Theory [H]	
POLI 475	Environmental Political Theory	
POLI 476	The Political Theory of the American Founding	
POLI 478	The Politics, Philosophy, and Economics of Education	
One course in research methods chosen from: [1]		3
POLI 209	Analyzing Public Opinion [H]	
POLI 281	Data in Politics I: An Introduction	

POLI 285	Applied Experimental Research: Politics in the US and Europe	
POLI 287	Strategy and International Relations	
POLI 288	Strategy and Politics	
POLI 381	Data in Politics II: Frontiers and Applications	
POLI 417	Advanced Political Psychology [H]	
POLI 488	Game Theory	
POLI 691H	Honors Seminar in Research Design	
ECON 400	Introduction to Data Science and Econometrics [H]	
GEOG 391	Quantitative Methods in Geography	
GEOG 392	Research Methods in Geography	
PHIL 140	Knowledge and Society [H]	
PHIL 154	Philosophy of the Social Sciences	
PHIL 335	Theory of Knowledge	
PHIL 357	Induction, Probability, and Confirmation	
PLCY 460	Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy [H]	
PSYC 270	Research Methods in Psychology	
SOCI 251	Research Methods	
SOCI 252	Data Analysis	
Four political science (POLI) electives at the 100 level or above [2,3]		12
Total Hours		**27**

[H] Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

[F] FY-Launch class sections may be available. A FY-Launch section fulfills the same requirements as a standard section of that course, but also fulfills the FY-SEMINAR/FY-LAUNCH First-Year Foundations requirement. Students can search for FY-Launch sections in ConnectCarolina using the FY-LAUNCH attribute.

[1] Whenever possible, students are encouraged to take a research methods course in political science. However, students with a second major in a related discipline may find it beneficial to fulfill this requirement with one of the alternative courses.

[2] First-year seminars, POLI 193, and POLI 291 may not count as electives for the political science major.

[3] Whenever possible, students should take an introductory course in a subfield (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory) before taking more advanced courses in the subfield.

Data in Politics

The Data in Politics track provides political science majors an opportunity to develop valuable data analysis skills and engage in cutting-edge political science research. As part of this track, students can take a two-course core sequence and additional applied data analysis courses. The Data in Politics core sequence teaches students how to work with and analyze social science data. Applied data analysis courses build on this foundation by providing students opportunities to actively use data skills as part of a research paper or other class project.

Code	Title	Hours
Data in Politics Core Sequence		
POLI 281	Data in Politics I: An Introduction	3
POLI 381	Data in Politics II: Frontiers and Applications	3
Applied Data Analysis Courses		
POLI 209	Analyzing Public Opinion [H]	3
POLI 350	Peace Science Research	3
POLI 395	Mentored Research in Political Science	1-3
POLI 416	Constitutional Policies and the Judicial Process	3
POLI 417	Advanced Political Psychology [H]	3
POLI 429	Diversity and Politics	3
POLI 447	Immigrant Integration in Contemporary Western Europe [H]	3
POLI 453	When Countries Go Broke: Political Responses to Financial Crises	3
POLI 692H	Honors Thesis Research	3
POLI 693H	Honors Thesis Research	3

[H] Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

American Politics

American politics courses examine political behavior and institutions in the United States at the federal, state, and local levels. These courses explore topics such as campaigns and elections, public opinion, Congress, the presidency, the judicial system, and state politics.

Code	Title	Hours
Introductory Course		
POLI 100	American Democracy in Changing Times [H,F]	3
Specialized Courses		
POLI 200	The President, Congress, and Public Policy	3
POLI 201	Politics of Bureaucracy [H]	3
POLI 202	The United States Supreme Court	3
POLI 203	Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty	4
POLI 204	Introduction to Southern Politics	3
POLI 205	Politics in the U.S. States [H]	3
POLI 206	Race and the Right to Vote in the United States	3
POLI 207	The Politics of Organized Interests	3
POLI 208	Political Parties and Elections [H]	3
POLI 209	Analyzing Public Opinion [H]	3
POLI 211	Religion and Politics	3
POLI 215	Political Psychology: An Introduction	3
POLI 217	Women and Politics	3
POLI 220	Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Representation in the United States	3
POLI 240	African American Politics	3

POLI 248	Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice	3
POLI 333	Race and Public Policy in the United States	3
POLI 345	Buying Influence: Interest Groups and Public Policy	3
Advanced Courses		
POLI 400	Executive Politics	3
POLI 401	Political Economy I: The Domestic System	3
POLI 404	Race, Immigration, and Urban Politics	3
POLI 406	State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy	3
POLI 409	Mock Constitutional Convention	3
POLI 410	The Constitution of the United States	3
POLI 411	Civil Liberties under the Constitution [H]	3
POLI 412	United States National Elections [H]	3
POLI 416	Constitutional Policies and the Judicial Process	3
POLI 417	Advanced Political Psychology [H]	3
POLI 418	Mass Media and American Politics	3
POLI 419	Race and Politics in the Contemporary United States [H]	3
POLI 420	Legislative Politics [H]	3
POLI 421	Framing Public Policies	3
POLI 422	Minority Representation in the American States	3
POLI 424	Legislative Procedure in Congress	3
POLI 428	Sexuality, Race, and Gender: Identity and Political Representation	3

[H]   Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

[F]   FY-Launch class sections may be available. A FY-Launch section fulfills the same requirements as a standard section of that course, but also fulfills the FY-SEMINAR/FY-LAUNCH First-Year Foundations requirement. Students can search for FY-Launch sections in ConnectCarolina using the FY-LAUNCH attribute.

Global Politics

Global politics courses explore politics beyond the United States through the study of comparative politics and international relations. Comparative politics courses examine domestic political institutions and processes in countries around the world, while international relations courses explore political and economic relations in the international system.

Code	Title	Hours
Introductory Courses		
POLI 130	Introduction to Comparative Politics [H, F]	3
POLI 150	International Relations and Global Politics [H, F]	3
Specialized Courses		
POLI 210	Global Issues and Globalization	3
POLI 231	Latin America and the United States in World Politics	3
POLI 232	Politics of the United Kingdom [H]	3
POLI 233	Comparative Politics of the Middle East [H]	3
POLI 234	Comparative Politics of the Global South	3
POLI 235	The Politics of Russia and Eurasia [H]	3
POLI 236	Politics of East-Central Europe [H]	3
POLI 237	The Politics of China	3
POLI 238	Politics of the Global South: Latin America [H]	3
POLI 239	Introduction to European Government [H]	3
POLI 241	Comparative Political Behavior [H]	3
POLI 252	International Organizations and Global Issues [H]	3
POLI 253	Problems in World Order	3
POLI 254	International Environmental Politics	3
POLI 255	International Migration and Citizenship Today [H]	3
POLI 256	The Politics of the First Era (1880-1914) of Globalization	3
POLI 257	Politics, Society, and Culture in Postwar Germany	3
POLI 260	Crisis and Change in Russia and Eastern Europe	3
POLI 350	Peace Science Research	3
Advanced Courses		
POLI 428	Sexuality, Race, and Gender: Identity and Political Representation	3
POLI 429	Diversity and Politics	3
POLI 430	Analysis of National Security Policy	3
POLI 431	African Politics and Societies	3
POLI 432	Tolerance in Liberal States	3
POLI 433	Politics of the European Union [H]	3
POLI 434	Politics of Mexico	3
POLI 435	Democracy and Development in Latin America [H]	3
POLI 438	Democracy and International Institutions in an Undivided Europe	3
POLI 440	How to Stay in Power When the People Want You Dead: The Politics of Authoritarian Survival	3
POLI 441	Israeli Politics and Society	3
POLI 442	International Political Economy	3
POLI 443	American Foreign Policy: Formulation and Conduct	3
POLI 444	Terrorism and International Peace	3
POLI 447	Immigrant Integration in Contemporary Western Europe [H]	3
POLI 448	The Politics of Multilevel Governance	3
POLI 449	Beg, Borrow, or Steal: How Governments Get Money and Its Effects on Accountability	3
POLI 450	Contemporary Inter-American Relations [H]	3
POLI 451	Race, Ethnicity, and Political Change in Comparative Perspective	3
POLI 452	Africa and International Conflict	3
POLI 453	When Countries Go Broke: Political Responses to Financial Crises	3
POLI 457	International Conflict Processes	3
POLI 458	International Conflict Management and Resolution [H]	3
POLI 459	Trans-Atlantic Security [H]	3

POLI 469	Conflict and Intervention in the Former Yugoslavia [H]	3
POLI 630	Political Contestation in Europe	3
POLI 631	European Security: The Enlarging European Union and the Trans-Atlantic Relationship	3
POLI 632	The European Union as a Global Actor	3

[H]   Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

[F]   FY-Launch class sections may be available. A FY-Launch section fulfills the same requirements as a standard section of that course, but also fulfills the FY-SEMINAR/FY-LAUNCH First-Year Foundations requirement. Students can search for FY-Launch sections in ConnectCarolina using the FY-LAUNCH attribute.

Political Theory

Political theory courses examine political ideas and values like justice, power, and democracy that we use to describe, understand, and assess political practices and institutions. These courses analyze the writings and ideas of political thinkers in the classical and modern worlds.

Code	Title	Hours
Introductory Courses		
POLI 270	Classical Political Thought [H]	3
POLI 271	Modern Political Thought [H]	3
Specialized Courses		
POLI 265	Feminism and Political Theory	3
POLI 272	The Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense	3
POLI 275	Nationalism, Immigration and the Politics of Identity [H]	3
POLI 276	Major Issues in Political Theory [H]	3
POLI 280	American Political Thought [H]	3
Advanced Courses		
POLI 470	Social and Political Philosophy [H]	3
POLI 471	Contemporary Political Thought [H]	3
POLI 472	Problems of Modern Democratic Theory [H]	3
POLI 476	The Political Theory of the American Founding	3
POLI 477	Advanced Feminist Political Theory	3
POLI 478	The Politics, Philosophy, and Economics of Education	3

[H]   Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Research Methods

Courses in political methodology examine the methods that political scientists use to conduct research. Empirical methods courses teach students how to collect and analyze data and evidence to understand political phenomena, while formal theory courses introduce students to the use of mathematical models to analyze political decision making.

Code	Title	Hours
Empirical Methods Courses		
POLI 209	Analyzing Public Opinion [H]	3
POLI 281	Data in Politics I: An Introduction	3
POLI 285	Applied Experimental Research: Politics in the US and Europe	3
POLI 381	Data in Politics II: Frontiers and Applications	3
POLI 417	Advanced Political Psychology [H]	3
POLI 691H	Honors Seminar in Research Design	3
Formal Theory Courses		
POLI 287	Strategy and International Relations	3
POLI 288	Strategy and Politics	3
POLI 488	Game Theory	3

[H]   Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans can be used as a guide to identify the courses required to complete the major and other requirements needed for degree completion within the expected eight semesters. The actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). Students should meet with their academic advisor to create a degree plan that is specific and unique to their interests. The sample plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UNC−Chapel Hill in the fall term. Some courses may not be offered every term.

First Year		Hours
First-Year Foundations Courses		
IDST 101	College Thriving	1
ENGL 105 or ENGL 105I	English Composition and Rhetoric or English Composition and Rhetoric (Interdisciplinary)	3
First-Year Seminar or First-Year Launch (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/ideas-in-action/first-year-seminars-launches/) [F]		3
Triple-I and Data Literacy (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/ideas-in-action/triple-i/)		4
Global Language through level 3 (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/ideas-in-action/global-language/)		varies
Additional General Education and elective courses		13
Major Courses		
POLI 100	American Democracy in Changing Times [H, F]	3
POLI 150	International Relations and Global Politics [H, F]	3
Hours		**30**
Sophomore Year		
POLI ---	Comparative politics course	3
POLI ---	Political theory course	3
Research methods course		3
Additional General Education and elective courses		21
Hours		**30**

Junior Year		
Two POLI elective courses [1]		6
Additional General Education and elective courses		24
Hours		**30**
Senior Year		
Two POLI elective courses [1]		6
Additional General Education and elective courses		24
Hours		**30**
Total Hours		**120**

H   Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

F   FY-Launch class sections may be available. A FY-Launch section fulfills the same requirements as a standard section of that course, but also fulfills the FY-SEMINAR/FY-LAUNCH First-Year Foundations requirement. Students can search for FY-Launch sections in ConnectCarolina using the FY-LAUNCH attribute.

1   At least one political science course must be at the 400 level.

Special Opportunities in Political Science

Political Science Major, NUS Joint Degree

Political science majors may wish to consider applying for the Joint Degree Program, an innovative joint undergraduate degree program joining the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the National University of Singapore. UNC−Chapel Hill undergraduates spend anywhere from two to four semesters at the National University of Singapore and receive a joint bachelor of arts degree from both institutions. For further information, contact the Study Abroad Office.

Honors in Political Science

The honors program provides political science majors the opportunity to pursue an independent research project over a two-semester period. Students begin the program by taking POLI 691H in the spring semester of their junior year. During this course they complete a thesis proposal.

If the proposal is acceptable, students continue their thesis research in the senior year under the supervision of the honors director and a faculty advisor in POLI 692H and POLI 693H. A maximum of two honors thesis courses can count as elective credit in the major. Upon successful completion of the program, which includes an oral defense of the thesis, students are awarded a degree with honors or with highest honors in political science.

To be admitted to the honors program, students must have at least a 3.3 overall grade point average and a 3.5 in political science courses. They should have completed at least four courses in the major. Students interested in participating in the honors program apply in the fall of their junior year when applications are requested. For further information on the honors program, please consult the department's website (http://politicalscience.unc.edu/undergraduate/honors-program/).

High-Impact/Experiential Education

Internship courses provide students with the opportunity to earn academic credit while obtaining practical work experience in agencies and organizations clearly related to the study of political science. Political science majors who would like to obtain credit for internship work in government or public service must enroll in POLI 193. While this course satisfies the high-impact/experiential education General Education requirement, POLI 193 is offered on a Pass/Fail basis only and does not count towards the nine courses required for the major. For specific information about the procedures and requirements for POLI 193, please consult the department's website (http://politicalscience.unc.edu/undergraduate/internships/).

Study Abroad

Because we live in an increasingly globalized society, students are encouraged to study abroad as they are able. Students interested in the fields of comparative politics and international relations are strongly urged to participate in a study abroad program; indeed, all students may find the experience to be transformational and helpful in choosing a career path. Students are advised to work with the Study Abroad Office and to contact the undergraduate advisor when planning their study abroad experience. For information about applying study abroad credit toward the political science major, please consult the department's website (http://politicalscience.unc.edu/undergraduate-programs/current-students/study-abroad/).

Undergraduate Research

Courses in political science often include a research component, and students may engage in directed research under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The honors program provides political science majors the opportunity to pursue an independent research project over a two-semester period, culminating in a senior thesis. See the section above for more information on the honors program.

POLI 395 Mentored Research in Political Science provides an opportunity for students to pursue a special research interest under the direction of a faculty member of the Department of Political Science. The research and writing entailed in a mentored research course must be equivalent to the workload of a regular course. For specific information about the procedures and requirements for POLI 395, please consult the department's website (http://politicalscience.unc.edu/undergraduate/independent-study/).

Undergraduate Awards

Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honorary society. Membership is restricted to those political science majors who have completed 15 hours of political science with an overall grade average of 3.3 or better and a political science grade average of 3.5 or better.

The Thad L. Beyle Research Award is given to undergraduate political science majors, with priority given to students writing a senior honors thesis.

The William Scott Bryant Award funds research and travel for undergraduate majors in the Department of Political Science, with priority given to seniors.

The D'Amico Endowment Fund for Honors Students funds academic research and activities for honors students in the Department of Political Science.

The Shepard Jones Undergraduate Award in International Relations is given to an undergraduate student for the best essay in international relations (any field and broadly defined).

The L. Richardson Preyer Award for Excellence in Political Science is given to a senior judged by a committee of the faculty to have the most

distinguished record of scholarship in political science and service to the community.

The Terry Sanford Award for Excellence is given to the undergraduate student judged to have written the best political science honors thesis.

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