

Political Science

Administered by the Department of Social Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The purpose of the Political Science program is to provide an in-depth study of American government and politics to give students a basic knowledge of political systems and how institutions of government operate to solve social and political problems. U. T. Permian Basin's Political Science program is oriented primarily toward the study of American government and politics and secondarily toward comparative government with supporting study in international relations. Students will be encouraged to develop a global perspective which will prepare them to assume leadership roles in shaping the future direction of society.

A wide variety of career opportunities are open to students majoring in political science, including the U. S. Foreign Service, specialized work in foreign countries, the federal government, foundations, private organizations, city management and other types of public administration and public service as well as others less directly related to government. Pre-Law students find the study of political science appropriate preparation for law school. A major in political science is suitable for students planning to teach government or social studies. Graduates in political science earn a Bachelors of Arts (BA) degree with a major in political science and a minor in a secondary field of study.

Degree Requirements

The minimum total credits required for a B.A. in Political Science is 120.

General Education

44 Credits

Complete the requirements shown in the General Education Requirements section.

Computer Use

All Political Science majors must demonstrate a basic use of computing through the completion of PLSC 3301 and PLSC 3302.

Political Science Major Requirements

36 Credits

PLSC 2305 American National Politics	3
PLSC 2306 State and Local Politics	3
PLSC 3301 Introduction to Political Science Research	3
PLSC 3302 Advanced Political Science Research	3

24 hours of upper-level political science courses

All Political Science majors must complete PLSC 3301 and PLSC 3302 before attempting their final 15 hours of upper-level political science courses.

Minor in Political Science

The purpose of the minor in political science is to provide students with some depth in a secondary field of study in American government and politics. Students will also have the option of taking courses in comparative and international politics which will give them a global perspective. A minor in political science will give students a basic knowledge of political systems and how institutions of government operate to solve social and political problems.

Political Science Minor Requirements: 18 credits

PLSC 2305 American National Politics	3
PLSC 2306 State and Local Politics	3
PLSC 3301 – Introduction to Political Science Research	3

9 hours of upper-level political science courses

All Political Science minors must complete PLSC 3301 before attempting their final 6 hours of upper-level political science courses.

TEXES Requirements

To meet Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requirements, students seeking certification to teach grades EC-6 or 4-8 must take at least 9 hours of math (may include statistics) at or above college-level algebra and at least 12 hours of science. They should plan accordingly when meeting general education and elective course requirements. Students seeking certification as a 4-8 Generalist must take at least 12 hours of math and 14-16 hours of science. (Students certifying to teach 4-8 Math or Science will have additional hours in their respective disciplines.)

Candidates for TEXES tests in 4-8 Social Studies must have completed the courses listed for each area below, or the equivalent courses from another college or university.

Social Studies 4-8: ECON 2301; GEOG 1301; GEOG 1302 or 1303; HIST 1301, 1302, and 3350; HIST (two upper level US history courses and one non-US course); PLSC 2305, 2306, and 4335 or 4336.

Social Studies 8-12: ECON 2301, 2302; GEOG 1301; GEOG 1302 or 1303; HIST 1301, 1302; two 2000-level non-US history courses; two upper-level non-US history courses; two 20th-Century US history courses; PLSC 2305, 2306; 4335 or 4336; 3321 or 4321.

Course Listing

PLSC 2305 American National Politics (3)†

An examination of American national political institutions and processes. Satisfies state requirement in U.S. government. FS

PLSC 2306 State and Local Politics (3)†

An examination of state and local political institutions and processes. Satisfies state requirement in Texas government. FS

PLSC 3301 Introduction to Political Science Research (3)

An introduction to the research process. Focus on formulating hypotheses, the process of data acquisition, basic methodology, literature reviews, and research proposals. Prerequisite: Successful completion of PLSC 2305 and PLSC 2306.

PLSC 3302 Advanced Political Science Research (3)†

Focus on conducting political analyses. Course includes basic components of correlation and linear regression, the basic components of multiple regression, and instruction in writing empirical research papers. Prerequisite: Successful completion of PLSC 3301.

PLSC 3321 Comparative Politics (3)

A comparative examination of the political systems of selected economically developed nations.

PLSC 3327 Introduction to American Foreign Policy (3)

Examines the factors and forces that shape the development and implementation of American foreign policy. Course includes consideration of presidential control of foreign policy and diplomacy, congressional oversight and interest group participation.

PLSC 3330 Judicial Politics (3)

An examination of the U.S. judicial system, focusing on the role of law and courts in society, judicial system structures and processes, and judicial policymaking.

PLSC 4321 Politics of Advanced Industrial Democracies (3)

Examines the problems, politics and policies among advanced industrial democracies, with a particular focus on comparative strategies, institutions and executive/legislative relations.

PLSC 4327 International Relations (3)

An introduction to the processes, theories, and institutions within international relations.

PLSC 4335 Constitutional Law (3)

An examination of American constitutional development focusing on U. S. Supreme Court decisions in the areas of governmental powers, federalism, and economic regulation.

PLSC 4336 Civil Liberties (3)

An examination of American constitutional development, focusing on U.S. Supreme Court decisions regarding freedom of speech and press, church and state, the right to privacy, criminal defendant rights, and class-based discrimination.

PLSC 4341 Environmental Policy (3)

An examination of contemporary issues in environmental policy.

PLSC 4342 Energy Policy (3)

An examination of contemporary issues in energy policy.

PLSC 4345 Public Policy (3)

An examination of the processes, theories and institutions of public policy making in the U.S. Specific policies include: economic policy, environmental policy, education policy and crime policy.

PLSC 4347 Public Administration (3)

A survey of American public administration and the role of the bureaucracy in the formulation and implementation of public policy.

PLSC 4351 Political Theory (3)

A topical examination of the enduring issues in western political thought. Consideration will be given to the nature of citizenship, the function of the state, the sources and structure of authority in society, the magnitude of states, and the external relations of states.

PLSC 4354 Congress and the Presidency (3)

An examination of Congress and the presidency in the U.S. political system. Topics include elections, public politics, institutional structures and processes, and congressional and presidential policymaking roles.

PLSC 4355 Political Behavior (3)

An examination of political participation, voting, and elections in the U.S.

PLSC 4389 Selected Topics (3)

Undergraduate courses which will be offered only once or will be offered infrequently or which are being developed before a regular listing in the catalog. May be acceptable for graduate credit.

PLSC 4391 Contract Study (3)

Advanced independent study or research (equivalent to senior level course). These courses will not count for graduate credit.

† Course fulfills general education requirements.