

POLITICAL SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF ARTS

The major in political science leads to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS). The political science curriculum focuses heavily on the development of analytical and communication skills – along with comprehensive knowledge of public policy, politics, current events, and history – and as such prepares undergraduates for a wide range of in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Courses in political science also serve to complement the liberal arts core at CSU Pueblo and to prepare students for acceptance into graduate programs leading to professional degree Programs.

Program Goals

To prepare students majoring in the discipline to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of historical, philosophical and empirical foundations of political science;
- Demonstrate a general command of knowledge about the American political system, global studies, the history of political thought, and standard political science research approaches; and
- Demonstrate an ability to continue personal study and learning on an independent basis about specific subjects in the discipline.

To prepare students minoring in the discipline to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the nature of the discipline, and
- Demonstrate a general knowledge and understanding of the American political system and of global studies.

Expected Student Outcomes for the Political Science Program

Knowledge Outcome

(K01) Students should have factual knowledge of many aspects of politics and government that are central objects of study in each of the subfields in political science (American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory).

(K02) Students should be able to explain core debates (or scholarly theories and perspectives) in the subfields of political science.

Writing Outcome

(W01) Students should be able to write papers on topics in political science that (a) exhibit clear prose and correct grammar and (b) present a central argument in a clear and coherent structure or fashion.

Critical Thinking Outcome

(CT01) Students should be able to identify and critique the assumptions, logic, and evidence in both scholarly and lay political arguments.

(CT02) Students should be able to use empirical observations and analytical reasoning to articulate and defend compelling, non-fallacious arguments.

Outcomes Assessment Activities for the Political Science Program

The faculty of the Political Science program use a variety of methods for evaluating the student learning outcomes. These include an assessment of each student learning outcome in the political science senior seminar and a completed student exit survey in the senior seminar.

Specific Program Requirements

Students who major in Political Science must complete a minimum of 42 semester credit hours in political science. They must earn a grade of C or better in each of those courses, except POLS 498, which is graded S/U. A maximum of six credit hours of POLS 498 can be applied towards the 42 hours required for the major.

- Students seeking the Bachelor of Arts should consult the catalog for the options to complete the foreign language requirement.

Course	Title	Credits
Category		
General Education		35
Political Science Core Requirements		42
Certificate or Minor		18
General Electives		25
Total Credits		120

Specific Core Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
POLS 101	American National Politics (GT-SS1)	3
POLS 201	International Relations (GT-SS1)	3
POLS 202	Comparative Politics	3
POLS 250	Political Analysis & Methods I	3
POLS 251	Political Analysis & Methods II	3
POLS 370	Western Political Thought	3
POLS 493	Seminar	3
American Politics		3
Select one of the following:		
POLS 340	Public Policy	3
POLS 350	Political Attitudes & Behavior	3
POLS 360	Media, Politics, & Power	3
POLS 411	Congress & the Presidency	3
International Relations		3
Select one of the following:		
POLS 305	International Conflict	3
POLS 306	Peace Studies	3
POLS 430	War & Film	3
POLS 460	U.S. Foreign & Security Policy	3
Comparative Politics		3
Select one of the following:		
POLS 440	Nationalism & Ethnic Conflict	3
POLS 445	Economic Development	3
POLS 450	Democracy & Dictatorship	3
Internship/Research Requirement		3

Select 3 credit hours from one of the following:

POLS 498	Internship	3
POLS 492	Research	3
Elective Courses		9
Select three Political Science Electives You may take any lower or upper division Political Science courses that were not taken to meet the above requirements.		
Total Credits		42

Planning Sheet

Disclaimer: The Planning Sheet is designed as a guide for student's planning their course selections. The information on this page provides only a suggested schedule. Actual course selections should be made with the advice and consent of an academic advisor. While accurately portraying the information contained in the college catalog, this form is not considered a legal substitute for that document. Students should become familiar with the catalog in effect at the time in which they entered the institution.

Note: In addition to requirements for the major and general education, students must complete either:

1. Any minor degree program listed in the catalog other than their major; or
2. 18 credit hours outside of the major.

Students may not use the same credits to satisfy requirements for both major and minor degrees, or use credits taken to satisfy general education requirements.

Course	Title	Credits
Year 1		
Fall		
ENG 101	Rhetoric & Writing I (GT-CO1)	3
POLS 101	American National Politics (GT-SS1)	3
General Education	3 credits must be World Language course.	9
Credits		15
Spring		
ENG 102	Rhetoric & Writing II (GT-CO2)	3
General Education	3 credits must be World Language course.	9
POLS 201	International Relations (GT-SS1)	3
Credits		15
Year 2		
Fall		
POLS 250	Political Analysis & Methods I	3
POLS 202	Comparative Politics	3
General Education		4
Elective	Must be outside the major.	5
Credits		15
Spring		
General Education		7
Elective	3 credits must be Political Science course.	8
POLS 251	Political Analysis & Methods II	3
Credits		18
Year 3		
Fall		
POLS 370	Western Political Thought	3
Elective	3 credits must be upper division Political Science course. 9 credits must be outside the major; 3 credits must be upper division.	12
Credits		15

Spring		
Elective	9 credits must be upper division Political Science course. 6 credits must be outside the major; 3 credits must be upper division.	15
Credits		15
Year 4		
Fall		
Elective	15 credits must be upper division; 9 credits must be Political Science course. 3 credits must be outside the major.	15
Credits		15
Spring		
POLS 493	Seminar	1-3
Elective	9 credits must be upper division; 3 credits must be outside the major	12
Credits		13-15
Total Credits		121-123