Political Science

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The Department of Political Science offers a broad range of courses organized in six traditional subfields of political science, each with their own designated faculty members: comparative politics, formal theory and methodology, international relations, public policy, political theory, and United States politics. Faculty members employ varied theoretical and methodological approaches but share the pursuit of answers to questions with real-world implications. Political science majors or minors gain a thorough understanding of how power, politics, and people converge. To add depth and context to academic offerings, the department sponsors distinguished speakers—experts in fields such as foreign policy, political theory, and international relations.

Careers

An undergraduate degree in political science provides a strong foundation for any number of career choices. With the analytical and communication skills mastered while earning a political science degree, students may pursue a career in government at the local, state, or federal levels, at nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, or private industries. Recent surveys indicate that students who combine university studies with either work or internships in local government agencies are more likely than majors without such experience to obtain government employment after graduation.

Political science graduates may also continue on to graduate education, especially in the fields of law, international studies, business administration, or advanced studies in political science.

Faculty

Yvette Alex-Assensoh, professor (immigration, racial politics): vice president for equity and inclusion. BA, 1988, Columbia; MA, 1991, PhD, 1993, Ohio State; JD, 2006, Indiana, Bloomington. (2012)

Gerald Berk, professor (American politics, political development, political economy). BA, 1977, Clark; PhD, 1987, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (1994)

Erin Beck, assistant professor (Latin American politics; micropolitics; women, gender, and development). BA, 2004, Providence College; MA, 2007, PhD, 2012, Brown. (2012)

Anita Chari, associate professor (political theory). BA, 2001, Georgetown; MA, 2003, PhD, 2008, Chicago. (2010)

Jane K. Cramer, associate professor (international relations, international security, U.S. foreign policy). BA, 1986, Oberlin; PhD, 2002, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (2000)

Dennis C. Galvan, professor (Africa, development, comparative politics); vice provost for international affairs. See **International Studies**.

Alison Gash, associate professor (public law). BA, 1995, Vassar College; MPA-URP, 2000, Princeton; MA, 2004, PhD, 2010, California, Berkeley. (2010)

Burke Hendrix, associate professor (normative political theory, indigenous politics, global justice). BA, 1992, Linfield College; MA, 2000, PhD, 2002, Colorado, Boulder. (2012)

Daniel HoSang, associate professor (racial and ethnic politics, U.S. politics). See **Ethnic Studies**.

Craig Kauffman, assistant professor (environmental politics, global governance, democratization). BA, 1992, College of Wooster; MS, 1996, George Mason; PhD, 2012, George Washington. (2012)

Joseph E. Lowndes, associate professor (U.S. politics). BA, 1990, Antioch College; MA, 1996, New School for Social Research; PhD, 2004, New School University. (2003)

Ronald B. Mitchell, professor (environmental politics, international relations). BA, 1981, Stanford; MPP, 1985, PhD, 1992, Harvard. (1993)

Mikhail Myagkov, professor (comparative politics, formal political theory). BS, 1990, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology; MS, 1994, PhD, 1996, California Institute of Technology. (1996)

Craig Parsons, professor (comparative politics, European politics). BA, 1992, Stanford; CEP, 1993 Institut d'Etudes Politiques; MA, 1994, PhD, 1999, California, Berkeley. (2004)

Lars Skalnes, associate professor (international political economy, international relations). CandMag, 1984, Bergen; MA, 1989, PhD, 1993, California, Los Angeles. (1992)

Priscilla Southwell, professor (political behavior, U.S. and European politics). BA, 1974, MA, 1977, Colorado; PhD, 1983, North Carolina, Chapel Hill. (1981)

William Terry, assistant professor (U.S. politics, statistical analysis, formal political theory). BA, 2002, Washington (St. Louis); MS, 2004, California Institute of Technology; PhD, 2010, California, San Diego. (2012)

Daniel Tichenor, professor (American presidency, interest groups and social movements, US political institutions); Philip H. Knight Chair. BA, 1988, Earlham College; PhD, 1996, Brandeis. (2008)

Tuong Vu, professor (comparative politics, political economy of Southeast Asia). BA, 1987, Vietnam National, Ho Chi Minh City; BA, 1994, Minnesota, Twin Cities; MPA, 1997, Princeton; PhD, 2004, California, Berkeley. (2007)

Priscilla Yamin, associate professor (U.S. politics and history, gender studies, feminist theory). BA, 1990, Wisconsin, Madison; MA, 1996, PhD, 2005, New School for Social Research. (2007)

Emeriti

William H. Baugh, associate professor emeritus. SB, 1963, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; MS, 1965, Rochester; MA, 1971, PhD, 1973, Indiana. (1978)

Deborah Baumgold, professor emerita. BA, 1971, Oberlin; MA, 1975, PhD, 1980, Princeton. (1987)

Daniel Goldrich, professor emeritus. BA, 1955, Antioch; MA, 1957, PhD, 1959, North Carolina, Chapel Hill. (1963)

Arthur M. Hanhardt Jr., professor emeritus . BA, 1953, Rochester; M.A, 1958, Colgate; Ph.D, 1963, Northwestern. (1963)

Richard Kraus, professor emeritus. BA, 1966, Grinnell; certificate (East Asian Institute), 1969, MA, 1969, PhD, 1974, Columbia. (1983)

Jerry F. Medler, associate professor emeritus. BA, 1963, Northwestern; MA, 1965, PhD, 1966, Oregon. (1968)

John M. Orbell, professor emeritus. BA, 1957, MA, 1960, New Zealand; PhD, 1965, North Carolina, Chapel Hill. (1967)

Richard P. Suttmeier, professor emeritus. AB, 1963, Dartmouth; PhD, 1969, Indiana. (1990)

M. George Zaninovich, professor emeritus. BA, 1953, MA, 1959, PhD, 1964, Stanford. (1966)

The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

Participating

Stuart Chinn, law

Gordon Lafer, Labor Education and Research Center

- **Bachelor of Arts**
- **Bachelor of Science**
- **Minor**

Undergraduate Studies

The Department of Political Science offers a program leading to a bachelor of science (BS) or a bachelor of arts (BA) degree. This program is designed to

1. provide a systematic understanding of the political process
2. provide a basic background for students preparing for careers in local, state, and national government as well as in law, journalism, and teaching
3. prepare students for graduate work leading to professional careers in political science

Bachelor's Degree

Courses at the 100 and 200 levels are introductory, basic to building a major in political science. Courses at the 300 level introduce the chief areas and concerns of political science. Advanced and specialized courses are at the 400 level. A minimum of 32 credits must be upper division.

At the discretion of the instructor, certain 300- and 400-level courses may have prerequisites. Students are advised to have at least 8 credits in political science before taking 400-level courses.

Undergraduate majors focus their study in four subfields: comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and United States politics.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Lower division course in comparative politics		4
Lower division course in international relations		4
Lower division course in United States politics		4
Course in political theory (any level)		4
Upper division course in one subfield [1]		4
Upper division course in a second subfield [1]		4
Upper division course in a third subfield [1]		4
Upper division writing-intensive course [2]		4
Additional upper-division courses		16
Total Credits		**48**

1. A minimum of two 400-level courses are required. A complete list of courses and their assigned subfields is available on the department website. Course subfields are also indicated by notes in the class schedule.
2. A list of courses designated as "writing-intensive" is available on the department website and indicated by a note in the class schedule.

Additional Requirements

The 48 credits that satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades and passed with C– or better with the exception that one course (as many as 4 credits) may be taken pass/no pass (P/N). Courses such as Thesis (PS 403) and Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411) are offered pass/no pass only and may be applied to the 48 credits. Credits earned in Practicum: [Topic] (PS 409) may not be applied to the major.

No more than a total of 16 credits in Research: [Topic] (PS 401), Thesis (PS 403), Internship: [Topic] (PS 404), Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 405), Workshop: [Topic] (PS 408), Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411), and Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48-credit requirement. These courses do not fulfill a subfield requirement. Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) is subject to preapproval by the political science department.

No more than 8 credits of Internship: [Topic] (PS 404) or Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48 credits. This work must be done under the direction of a faculty member who, prior to registration, must approve and set up academic criteria to evaluate the work. Credit for these courses must be earned at the University of Oregon.

Work completed in Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 199) or Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 399), Seminar: [Topic] (PS 407), or Experimental Course: [Topic] (PS 410) may be included in the 48-credit requirement and counted toward a subfield requirement.

UO bachelor's degree requirements also apply.

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Lower division course in comparative politics		4
Lower division course in international relations		4
Lower division course in United States politics		4
Course in political theory (any level)		4
Upper division course in one subfield [1]		4
Upper division course in a second subfield [1]		4
Upper division course in a third subfield [1]		4
Upper division writing-intensive course [2]		4
Additional upper-division courses		16
Total Credits		**48**

[1] A minimum of two 400-level courses are required. A complete list of courses and their assigned subfields is available on the department website. Course subfields are also indicated by notes in the class schedule.

[2] A list of courses designated as "writing-intensive" is available on the department website and indicated by a note in the class schedule.

Additional Requirements

The 48 credits that satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades and passed with C– or better with the exception that one course (as many as 4 credits) may be taken pass/no pass (P/N). Courses such as Thesis (PS 403) and Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411) are offered pass/no pass only and may be applied to the 48 credits. Credits earned in Practicum: [Topic] (PS 409) may not be applied to the major.

No more than a total of 16 credits in Research: [Topic] (PS 401), Thesis (PS 403), Internship: [Topic] (PS 404), Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 405), Workshop: [Topic] (PS 408), Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411), and Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48-credit requirement. These courses do not fulfill a subfield requirement. Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) is subject to preapproval by the political science department.

No more than 8 credits of Internship: [Topic] (PS 404) or Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48 credits. This work must be done under the direction of a faculty member who, prior to registration, must approve and set up academic criteria to evaluate the work. Credit for these courses must be earned at the University of Oregon.

Work completed in Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 199) or Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 399), Seminar: [Topic] (PS 407), or Experimental Course: [Topic] (PS 410) may be included in the 48-credit requirement and counted toward a subfield requirement.

UO bachelor's degree requirements also apply.

Freshmen and Transfer Students

There are no departmental requirements for entering freshmen. Students planning to transfer to the university from two-year colleges should take the basic introductory political science courses offered at those institutions. At least 20 credits in upper-division graded political science courses must be completed in residence at the University of Oregon to qualify for a BA or BS degree in political science. Transfer students must meet the subfield distribution requirement.

Second Bachelor’s Degree or Second Major

Students who want to earn a second bachelor’s degree or a second or double major in political science must complete 48 credits in political science, as outlined under Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements (p. 2) or Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements (p. 2).
Students who are considering a second bachelor's degree and have prior political science credits should consult with the undergraduate advisor, John Davidson. Some of these prior credits may not be applicable to the second bachelor's degree.

Honors in Political Science

Political science majors who have reached junior standing and meet GPA minimums are eligible to graduate with honors. The honors program spans the spring term of a student’s junior year to the spring term of the senior year. GPA minimums must be maintained to participate—an overall grade point average for UO and transfer credits of at least 3.50, plus a 3.70 GPA or above in the political science major. Students must successfully complete Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411) during fall term of the academic year in which the thesis is completed, then complete 4 credits in Thesis (PS 403) in the following winter term. Honors students select a thesis advisor and reader; the advisor supervises and grades the thesis course. The thesis advisor and reader determines if the thesis is approved for honors distinction after eligibility is determined prior to graduation.

Minor Requirements

Political science courses	8
Upper-division political science courses [1]	16
Total Credits	**24**

[1] Only 6 credits may be in Research: [Topic] (PS 401), Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 405), and Workshop: [Topic] (PS 408).

All credits must be taken for letter grades and passed with grades of C– or better. As many as 8 credits may be transferred from another institution.

Thesis (PS 403), Internship: [Topic] (PS 404), Practicum: [Topic] (PS 409), Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411), and Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) do not count toward the minor. The minor in political science does not have a subfield requirement.

Kindergarten through Secondary Teaching Careers

Students who complete a degree with a major in political science are eligible to apply to the College of Education’s fifth-year licensure program in middle-secondary teaching or the fifth-year licensure program in elementary teaching. More information is available in the **College of Education** section of this catalog.

Four-Year Degree Plan

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
WR 121	College Composition I	4	

PS 100–200 level course	Students should ensure enrollment in subfield and writing-intensive requiremer Courses that apply to subfield and writing-intensive requiremer are indicated by notes in the Class Schedule. Meet with the political science academic advisor to be sure you are on target.	4
First term of first-year second-language sequence		4
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course		4
Credits		**16**
Winter		
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		4
WR 122 or 123		4
General-education science group-satisfying course		4
PS 100–200 level course		4
Credits		**16**
Spring		
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		4
General-education science group-satisfying course		4
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4
PS 100–200 level course		4
Credits		**16**
Total Credits		**48**

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
First term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course		4	
General-education social science group-satisfying course		4	
PS 100–400 political theory course		4	
Credits		**16**	
Winter			
Second term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course		4	
General-education social science group-satisfying course		4	
PS 300–400 level course		4	
Credits		**16**	
Spring			
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course		4	
General-education social science group-satisfying course		4	
PS 300–400 level course		4	
Credits		**16**	
Total Credits		**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
General-education science group-satisfying course		4	
PS 300–400 level course		4	
General-education social science group-satisfying course		4	
Elective course	Consider pursuing an internship. Students may receive credit for internship participatio in PS 406. See eligibility details at polisci.uore	4	u.
Credits		**16**	
Winter			
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures		4	
General-education science group-satisfying course		4	
PS 300–400 level course		4	
Elective course		4	
Credits		**16**	

Spring			
PS 300–400 level course		Consider applying for the honors program. See eligibility details at polisci.uoregon.edu.	4
PS 300–400 level course			4
Elective courses			8
	Credits		**16**
	Total Credits		**48**

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
PS 400-level course			4
Elective courses		Enroll in PS 411 if participatin in the honors program.	12
	Credits		**16**
Winter			
PS 400-level course			4
Elective courses		Enroll in PS 403 if participating in the honors program.	12
	Credits		**16**
Spring			
Elective courses		Apply to graduate by the fifth week	16
	Credits		**16**
	Total Credits		**48**

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
MATH 106	University Mathematics II		4
WR 121	College Composition I		4
PS 100–200 level course		Students should ensure enrollment in subfield and writing-intensive requirements. Courses that apply to subfield and writing-intensive requirements are indicated by notes in the Class Schedule. Meet with the political science academic advisor to be sure you are on target.	4
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course			4
	Credits		**16**
Winter			
MATH 107	University Mathematics III		4
WR 122 or 123			4
PS 100–200 level course			4
General-education science group-satisfying course			4
	Credits		**16**
Spring			
MATH 111	College Algebra		4
PS 100–200 level course			4
General-education science group-satisfying course			4
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures			4
	Credits		**16**
	Total Credits		**48**

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
PS 100–400 level political theory course			4
General-education social science group-satisfying courses			8
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course			4
	Credits		**16**
Winter			
PS 300–400 level course			4
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures			4
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course			4

General-education social science group-satisfying course			4
	Credits		**16**
Spring			
PS 300–400 level course			4
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course			4
General-education social studies group-satisfying course			4
Elective courses			4
	Credits		**16**
	Total Credits		**48**

Course	Title		Credits	Milestones
Third Year				
Fall				
Upper-division course with PS subject code			4	
PS 400-level course			4	
General-education science group-satisfying course			4	
Elective course		Consider pursuing an internship. Students may receive credit for internship participatio in PS 406. See eligibility details at polisci.uore	4	u.
	Credits		**16**	
Winter				
PS 400-level course			4	
General-education science group-satisfying course			4	
Elective courses			8	
	Credits		**16**	
Spring				
PS 300–400 level course		Consider applying for the honors program. See eligibility details at polisci.uore	4	u.
Elective courses			12	
	Credits		**16**	
	Total Credits		**48**	

Course	Title		Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year				
Fall				
PS 300–400 level course			4	
Elective courses		Enroll in PS 411 if participatin in the honors program.	12	
	Credits		**16**	
Winter				
PS 300–400 level course			4	
Elective courses		Enroll in PS 403 if participating in the honors program.	12	
	Credits		**16**	
Spring				
Elective courses		Apply to graduate by the fifth week	16	
	Credits		**16**	
	Total Credits		**48**	

- **Master of Arts**
- **Master of Science** (p. 7)
- **Doctor of Philosophy**

Graduate Studies

The Department of Political Science offers a graduate program of studies leading to the master of arts (MA), master of science (MS), and doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees. The program is designed to prepare students for teaching, research, and government or other public service, and to enable them to understand and participate in public affairs.

Members of the faculty offer advanced courses and seminars across the major fields of political science. Graduate student participation in joint faculty-student research and interdepartmental research projects is common on a wide range of topics.

Admission

Successful applicants usually meet or exceed the following admission requirements for the master's and doctoral degree programs:

1. Official transcripts showing a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher for all undergraduate and graduate academic work
2. Official scores on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) taken within the last five years, with a combined verbal and quantitative score of 300.
3. International students from non-English-speaking countries must submit results from one of the following standardized language tests: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 575 (paper-based) or 88 (Internet-based); International

English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum score of 7.0

4. A statement of purpose prepared by the student
5. Recommendations from at least three teachers from whom courses have been taken
6. Other evidence that may be helpful in reaching a decision. Although an undergraduate major in political science is not a prerequisite for admission, the committee takes into consideration previous academic work in political science

Application information and information about the graduate program and graduate employee appointments may be obtained by visiting the department's website. The deadline for fall term admission and graduate employee appointment applications is February 1.

Master's Degree Program

The master's degree program prepares students for professional careers in teaching and research. Two years is the typical period for completing the program.

Master of Arts Degree Requirements

- Completion of 45 credits of graduate course work
- Completion of required courses as specified by the department
- Demonstrated proficiency in qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Completion of a master's degree thesis

Master of Science Degree Requirements

- Completion of 45 credits of graduate course work
- Completion of required courses as specified by the department
- Demonstrated proficiency in qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Completion of a master's degree thesis

See the **Graduate School** section of this catalog for the distinction between MS and MA degree requirements.

Doctoral Program

This program is designed to allow the well-prepared student to complete course requirements for the PhD in two years of full-time study. Students complete a research paper in their second year and take comprehensive examinations during their third year, followed by preparation of a dissertation. Requirements for the PhD in political science include the following:

1. Completion of 100 credits (18 credits are for dissertation) beyond the bachelor's degree. Research: [Topic] (PS 601) and Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 605) may be taken pass/no pass. All other course work must be taken for letter grades
2. Completion of State of the Discipline (PS 620), to be taken the first time it is offered
3. Demonstrated proficiency in quantitative and qualitative research methods
4. Completion of a research paper no later than the sixth term of enrollment (excluding summer)
5. Completion of required seminars in the two area fields in which the student takes comprehensive examinations. Students should take these seminars as early as possible, and prior to examination
6. Passing two comprehensive examinations: one major field and one minor field, selected from the list below. Each field comprises several themes from which the student must choose a subset
    - classical and contemporary political theory
    - comparative politics
    - formal theory and methodology
    - international relations
    - public policy
    - United States politics
7. After passing the comprehensive examinations, completion of 18 credits in Dissertation (PS 603), to be taken while completing the PhD dissertation
8. Defense of the written dissertation in an oral examination

A complete description of graduate requirements, including an explanation of themes and field requirements, is available on the department website (http://polisci.uoregon.edu).