

Area: Behavioral & Social Sciences
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Degree: A.A. - Political Science
 A.A. for Transfer - Political Science

Political Science Degree

Major Code: 011312A01

This degree provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of political science. It stresses the systematic study of politics, political institutions and governmental processes, state and local government, public policy, foreign policy, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- describe the fundamentals of political science and governance.
- compare and contrast contemporary comparative systems and governance.
- evaluate the relationship between the governing process and public policy.
- examine how citizen and interest group participation influence political systems.
- analyze the role of culture and its influence on politics.
- assess how the design of political institutions and processes affect policy and stability.
- analyze politics and diplomacy in the international system.
- apply basic research methods to political science.
- analyze political and public policy making processes, and relate these to current issues and problems, for evaluating political events and their role in the political system.
- compare and contrast various theories of justice and the just state.
- evaluate various theories of the purpose of government and apply to a critical analysis of current political events.

Career Opportunities

This degree is designed to facilitate successful transfer to four-year programs. Career opportunities in political science include, but are not limited to, advocate/organizer, campaign worker, diplomat, educator/teacher, events planner, foreign affairs specialist, lawyer, legislative aide (state and federal), lobbyist, political consultant and public relations specialist.

Requirements for Degree	18 Units
POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States (3)	3
or POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States - Honors (3)	
POLS 302 Introduction to Government: Foreign	3
POLS 310 Introduction to International Relations	3
POLS 320 Introduction to Political Theory	3
And a minimum of 6 units from the following:	6
HIST 310 History of the United States (3)	
HIST 311 History of the United States (3)	
IS 310 Peace and Conflict (3)	
IS 312 Current Global Development Issues (3)	
POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California (3)	
POLS 330 Constitutional Rights (3)	
POLS 332 Law and Society (3)	
POLS 342 Women and Politics from a Global Perspective (3)	

Associate Degree Requirements: The Political Science Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

Political Science A.A. for Transfer Degree

Major Code, CSU GE: 011313A01

Major Code, IGETC: 011313A02

The Associate in Arts degree in Political Science for Transfer provides a clearly articulated curricular track for students who wish to transfer to a CSU campus, while also serving the diverse needs of students interested in the breadth and depth of the field of Political Science. Additionally, this degree exposes students to the core principles and practices of the field in order to build a foundation for their future personal, academic, or vocational paths.

The Associate in Arts degree in Political Science for Transfer provides students with a major that fulfills the general requirements of the California State University for transfer. Students with this degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system. The Associate in Arts degree in Political Science for Transfer (A.A.-T.) may be obtained by the completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program outlined below (earning a C or better in these courses) and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- describe the fundamentals of political science and governance.
- compare and contrast contemporary comparative systems and governance.
- evaluate the relationship between the governing process and public policy.
- examine how citizen and interest group participation influence political systems.
- analyze the role of culture and its influence on politics.
- assess how the design of political institutions and processes affect policy and stability.
- analyze politics and diplomacy in the international system.
- apply basic research methods to political science.
- analyze political and public policy making processes, and relate these to current issues and problems, for evaluating political events and their role in the political system.
- compare and contrast various theories of justice and the just state.
- evaluate various theories of the purpose of government and apply to a critical analysis of current political events.

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities in political science include, but are not limited to, advocate/organizer, campaign worker, diplomat, educator/teacher, events planner, foreign affairs specialist, lawyer, legislative aide (state and federal), lobbyist, political consultant and public relations specialist.

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(Political Science A.A. for Transfer Degree continued)

Requirements for Degree	18 Units
POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States (3) or POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States - Honors (3)	3
A minimum of 9 units from the following:	9
POLS 302 Introduction to Government: Foreign (3)	
POLS 310 Introduction to International Relations (3)	
POLS 320 Introduction to Political Theory (3)	
STAT 300 Introduction to Probability and Statistics (4)	
A minimum of 6 units from the following:	6
IS 310 Peace and Conflict (3)	
IS 312 Current Global Development Issues (3)	
POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California (3)	
POLS 330 Constitutional Rights (3)	
POLS 332 Law and Society (3)	
POLS 342 Women and Politics from a Global Perspective (3)	

Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree Requirements: The Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Political Science

POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F2; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course analyzes the U.S. government's historic origins, philosophical and theoretical justification, federal structure, and constitutional structures. The course studies the rights and liberties of individuals as articulated in the U.S. Constitution and federal court decisions. Further, it examines and describes the procedural aspects of the U.S. and California political systems including amending the U.S. and California constitutions, holding elections, campaigning, legislating, executing and adjudicating law. The course examines individual and group political behavior in voting, interest groups, political parties, and the media. It provides an analysis of contemporary problems and issues and looks at factors that shape politics and policy-making including diversity, political culture, political socialization, political ideologies, and public opinion. Finally, it also describes California state and local governments' constitutional base, structures and functions, political process, problems and issues, and federal-state relations. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 481. (C-ID POLS 110)

POLS 302 Introduction to Government: Foreign 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a comparative study and analysis of political systems, ideologies, institutions, policies, cultures, histories, and the development of selected foreign governments. Special emphasis is placed on the cultural and social dimensions of political behavior and attitudes in connection with governmental and political practices typical of particular geographical regions. Coverage includes an examination of selected developed and lesser developed nation-states from a global perspective. (C-ID POLS 130)

POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California 3 Units

Advisory: ENGWR 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better
General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F3
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course covers the essential organization, institutions, and processes of California state and local government. It fulfills the California State University requirement for state and local government, but not the requirement for the U.S. Constitution.

POLS 310 Introduction to International Relations 3 Units

Advisory: ENGWR 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces the academic field of International Relations. It surveys global issues as they relate to theories of international relations, the nation-state system, the role of state and nonstate actors, globalization, armed conflict and its causes, international law and conflict resolution, and international political economy. Special emphasis is placed on comparing global perspectives among developed and developing nations. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 480. (C-ID POLS 140)

POLS 320 Introduction to Political Theory 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a survey of the ideas that have shaped Western political development, covering important thinkers from the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. Topics include theories of just and unjust societies, social contract theory, justifications for government authority, and the rights of citizens versus the responsibilities of citizenship. (C-ID POLS 120)

POLS 330 Constitutional Rights 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a survey of American constitutional rights and civil liberties. Emphasis is placed on analysis of U.S. Supreme Court decisions and related materials dealing with issues arising under the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

POLS 332 Law and Society**3 Units***Same As: BUS 345**Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.**General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4 Course Transferable to UC/CSU**Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course is an introduction to the Anglo-American Common Law System with emphasis upon the nature and purpose of law. The evolution of legal concepts as a reflection of the social environment and the basic organization and functioning of the American judicial system are presented with an emphasis on the practical aspects, theory behind the law, and on the law as a reflection of society through analysis of selected cases and reading materials. Areas studied include the U.S. Constitution, the court system and legal process, the legal profession and requirements for eligibility to become a lawyer, along with the laws of administrative agencies, crimes, torts, contracts, family, landlord-tenant relationships, employment, and probate/estate planning. This course is not open to students who have completed BUS 345.

POLS 342 Women and Politics from a Global Perspective**3 Units***Advisory: ENGWR 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better.**General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D4; CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4D; IGETC Area 4H**Course Transferable to UC/CSU**Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course examines the impact of politics on women's lives and women's impact on politics from a global perspective. It explores past and current influences on the political and legal status of women as well as women's participation in the political process throughout the world.

POLS 480 Introduction to**International Relations - Honors****3 Units***Prerequisite: Placement into ENGWR 480 through the assessment process.**Advisory: ENGWR 300 or 480**General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4 Course Transferable to UC/CSU**Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course examines global issues as they relate to theories of international relations, the nation-state system, the role of state and non-state actors, globalization, armed conflict and its causes, international law and conflict resolution, and international political economy. Emphasis is placed on the comparison of global perspectives among developed and developing nations. This seminar-style honors course approaches the topical material through class discussion which encourages problem-solving techniques focusing on current international relations issues. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 310. (C-ID POLS 140)

POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States - Honors**3 Units***Prerequisite: Placement into ENGWR 480 through the assessment process.**General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F2; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H**Course Transferable to UC/CSU**Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course analyzes the U.S. government's historic origins, philosophical and theoretical justification, constitutional structures and how these institutions work. It examines and describes the procedural aspects of the political system including holding elections, campaigning, voting, lobbying, legislating, executing and adjudicating law. It provides an analysis of contemporary problems and issues. It also describes California state and local governments' constitutional base, structures and functions, political process, problems and issues. Conducted in a seminar format, this course emphasizes participatory classroom styles of learning and the material used is more substantial and sophisticated. In addition, there are extensive research projects on American institutions, political processes, and political behavior designed to challenge and motivate. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 301.

POLS 495 Independent Studies in Political Science**1-3 Units***Prerequisite: None**Course Transferable to CSU**Hours: 54-162 hours LAB*

Independent Study is an opportunity for the student to extend classroom experience in this subject, while working independently of a formal classroom situation. Independent study is an extension of work offered in a specific class in the college catalog. To be eligible for independent study, students must have completed the basic regular catalog course at American River College. They must also discuss the study with a professor in this subject and secure approval. Only one independent study for each catalog course will be allowed.