Political Science

Overview

The study of political science and international relations involves not only the examination of the structure of government and political systems but the examination of the interaction of individuals and institutions within those systems. These courses offer valuable insight into events on the local, state, national and international levels and they also encourage involvement of the citizenry.

Degrees Offered

A.A.-T. in Political Science

Note: It is highly recommended that students consider an internship offered by a participating agency or department.

Associate Degree for Transfer

A.A.-T. in Political Science

The Associate in Arts for Transfer degree in Political Science provides a clearly articulated curricular track for students who wish to transfer to a UC or 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.

Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

Degree Requirements

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<tr>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 301</td>
<td>Introduction to Government: United States (3)</td>
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<td>or POLS 481</td>
<td>Introduction to Government: United States - Honors (3)</td>
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<td>or HONOR 367</td>
<td>Introduction to Government: United States – Honors (3)</td>
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<td>POLS 302</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 310</td>
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<td>POLS 320</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Theory</td>
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<td>POLS 382</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Science</td>
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A minimum of 3 units from the following:

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<td>International Political Economy (3)</td>
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<td>POLS 312</td>
<td>Politics of the Middle East (3)</td>
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<td>POLS 313</td>
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<td>POLS 314</td>
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<td>POLS 317</td>
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<td>POLS 319</td>
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COURSE CODE | COURSE TITLE | UNITS
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POLS 324 | Revolutions & Ideologies (3) | 3

Total Units: 18

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe the fundamentals of political science and governance. (PSLO 1)
- Compare and contrast contemporary comparative systems and governance. (PSLO 2)
- Evaluate the relationship between the governing process and public policy. (PSLO 3)
- Examine how citizen and interest group participation influence political systems. (PSLO 4)
- Analyze the role of culture and its influence on politics. (PSLO 5)
- Assess how the design of political institutions and processes affect policy and stability. (PSLO 6)
- Analyze politics and diplomacy in the international system. (PSLO 7)
- Apply basic research methods to political science. (PSLO 8)
- 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. (PSLO 9)
- Compare and contrast various theories of justice and the just state. (PSLO 10)
- Evaluate various theories of the purpose of government and apply to a critical analysis of current political events. (PSLO 11)

Career Information

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.

Political Science (POLS) Courses

**POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States**

Units: 3  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGW 101 with a grade of "C" or better; or equivalent skills demonstrated through the assessment process for eligibility for ENGW 300.  
Transferable: CSU; UC  
General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area U2; CSU Area U3; IGETC Area 4H  
C-ID: C-ID POLS 110  
Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

An introduction to Political Science, American government and politics. Structured to promote political and analytical understanding and thinking regarding American politics and government. Areas of concentration include principles, institutions, problems, processes, theory, philosophy, and ideology. Satisfies the State requirement regarding the Constitution, American Institutions, and State and Local Government.

**POLS 302 Comparative Politics**

Units: 3  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
Prerequisite: None.  
Transferable: CSU; UC  
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H  
C-ID: C-ID POLS 130  
Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

This 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.

**POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California**

Units: 3  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGW 300  
Transferable: CSU; UC  
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; CSU Area U3; IGETC Area 4  
Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

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

This is an introduction to international relations and a survey of the nation-state system, techniques of interaction, the issue of war, nationalism, power alignments, international actors, transnational movements, diplomacy, political economy, and perceptions in world politics. Particular emphasis is placed on an analysis of the world outlook of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, the United States, the major western allies, China, and the lesser developed world.

POLS 311 International Political Economy

This course is designed to introduce students to the major theories, institutions and issues in international political economy. International political economy examines the interaction between politics and economics on a global scale; in particular, how political forces influence markets, and how market forces influence politics. In this course of study, students will examine the major theoretical perspectives on political economy, such as mercantilism, liberalism, Marxism and statism. Students are then introduced to the major components of the international economy: multilateral trade, domestic trade policy, international finance and currency policy. Last, this course focuses on several major issues in international political economy. Examples might include the gap between the developed and developing world, the globalized economy, the role of transnational corporations, the political economies of oil, migration, food, or the environment.

POLS 312 Politics of the Middle East

Area Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Area Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of the Middle East. It covers the region in biblical times, its history as part of the Ottoman Empire, its independence and inclusion in the Mandate system and its modern day existence through the twentieth century. The impact of religion, colonialism, the natural resource situation, socio-economics, ideology, conflict and resolution and foreign and domestic policies will be examined in the region on a country-by-country basis. The Palestinian Question, from both the Israeli and Palestinian perspectives will also be analyzed. The course includes an examination of dominant political institutions, actors, processes and belief systems within the context of political culture and history and an analysis of area political economy and foreign policy in the environment of global interdependence. Countries to be covered include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. The course concludes with a summation of the region as it stands today and an assessment of where it is likely to go in the near future.

POLS 313 Latin America

Area Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Area Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of Latin America. It covers the region in the pre-Columbian era, its history as part of the Spanish Empire, the independence movements of the nineteenth century and the modern day existence of each nation state in the area to the twenty-first century. The impact of religion, colonialism, the natural resource situation, socio-economics, ideology, conflict and resolution and foreign and domestic policies will be examined in the region on a country-by-country basis. The course includes an examination of dominant political institutions, actors, processes and belief systems within the context of political culture and history and an analysis of area political economy and foreign policy in the environment of global interdependence. Countries to be covered include but are not limited to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. The course concludes with a summation of the region as it stands today and an assessment of where it is likely to go in the near future.

POLS 314 Modern Europe and the Unification Process

Area Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Area Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of Modern Europe and the Unification Process. In the course of study, students are introduced to the major theoretical perspectives on political economy such as mercantilism, liberalism, Marxism and statism. Students are then introduced to the major components of the international economy: multilateral trade, domestic trade policy, international finance and currency policy. Last, this course focuses on several major issues in international political economy. Examples might include the gap between the developed and developing world, the globalized economy, the role of transnational corporations, the political economies of oil, migration, food, or the environment.
The Area Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Area Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of modern Europe and the trends, processes and issues surrounding unification.

**POL 315 Pacific Rim**

**Units:** 3  
**Hours:** 54 hours LEC  
**Prerequisite:** None.  
**Advisory:** ENGWR 101  
**Transferable:** CSU; UC  
**General Education:** AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4  
**Catalog Date:** January 1, 2022

Global Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Global Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of the Pacific Rim and its trends, processes and issues.

**POL 317 Global Studies: Africa**

**Units:** 3  
**Hours:** 54 hours LEC  
**Prerequisite:** None.  
**Advisory:** ENGWR 101  
**Transferable:** CSU; UC  
**General Education:** AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4  
**Catalog Date:** January 1, 2022

Global Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Global Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of Africa. It covers the region's history, its independence movements and the modern day existence of nation states in the area to the twenty-first century. The impact of history, colonialism, the natural resource situation, socio-economics, ideology, conflict and resolution and foreign and domestic policies will be examined in the region on a country-by-country basis. The course includes an examination of dominant political institutions, actors, processes and belief systems within the context of political culture and history and an analysis of area political economy and foreign policy in the environment of global interdependence. The course concludes with a summation of the region as it stands today and an assessment of where it is likely to go in the near future.

**POL 318 Global Studies: Central Asia**

**Units:** 3  
**Hours:** 54 hours LEC  
**Prerequisite:** None.  
**Advisory:** ENGWR 300  
**Transferable:** CSU; UC  
**General Education:** CSU Area DB; IGETC Area 4H  
**Catalog Date:** January 1, 2022

Global Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Global Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of Central Asia. It covers the region's history, its natural resource situation, socio-economics, ideology, conflict and resolution and foreign and domestic policies on a country-by-country basis. The course includes an examination of dominant political institutions, actors, processes and belief systems within the context of political culture and history and an analysis of area political economy and foreign policy in the environment of global interdependence. The course concludes with a summation of the region as it stands today and an assessment of where it is likely to go in the near future.

**POL 319 Global Studies: Southeast Asia**

**Units:** 3  
**Hours:** 54 hours LEC  
**Prerequisite:** None.  
**Advisory:** ENGWR 300  
**Transferable:** CSU; UC  
**General Education:** CSU Area DB; IGETC Area 4H  
**Catalog Date:** January 1, 2022

Global Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to gain understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Global Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of Southeast Asia. It covers the region's history, its natural resource situation, socio-economics, ideology, conflict and resolution and foreign and domestic policies on a country-by-country basis. The course includes an examination of dominant political institutions, actors, processes and belief systems within the context of political culture and history and an analysis of area political economy and foreign policy in the environment of global interdependence. The course concludes with a summation of the region as it stands today and an assessment of where it is likely to go in the near future.

**POL 320 Introduction to Political Theory**

**Units:** 3  
**Hours:** 54 hours LEC  
**Prerequisite:** None.  
**Transferable:** CSU; UC  
**General Education:** AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4H  
**C-ID:** C-ID POLS 120  
**Catalog Date:** January 1, 2022

In this course, students will examine theoretical approaches to politics and ways of thinking about politics, covering important thinkers and topics during the ancient, medieval, and modern periods.

**POL 324 Revolutions & Ideologies**
This course seeks to study ideologies and revolutions. Revolutions herald change in political systems. They can be based on ideologies or economic, religious or other differences.

POLS 382 Statistics for Social Science

Units: 3
Hours: 54 hours LEC
Prerequisite: MATH 120 or 125 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement through the assessment process.
Transferable: CSU; UC (POL 382, ECON 310, PSYC 330, STAT 300 and STAT 480 combined: maximum credit, 1 course)
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area B4; IGETC Area 2
C-ID: C-ID MATH 110
Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

This course focuses upon the concepts and applications of descriptive and inferential statistics in political science and other social sciences. Topics include data collection, descriptive statistics, probability and sampling distributions, hypothesis testing, statistical inference, correlation and regression, chi-square, t-tests, and analysis of variance procedures. This course will analyze and interpret social data sets from at least two of the following disciplines: business, economics, social science, psychology, political science, administration of justice, and education. The course will utilize both hand computation and statistical software.

POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States - Honors

Same As: HONOR 367
Units: 3
Hours: 54 hours LEC
Prerequisite: None.
Enrollment Limitation: Enrollment is limited to Honors Program students. Details about the Honors Program can be found in the front of the Catalog and on the CRC website.
Transferable: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D; CSU Area U2; CSU Area U3; IGETC Area 4
C-ID: C-ID POLS 110
Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

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. Enrollment is limited to Honors Program students. Details about the Honors Program can be found in the front of the Catalog and on the CRC website. This course is the same as Honor 367. This course, under either name, may be taken only once for credit.

POLS 495 Independent Studies in Political Science

Units: 1 - 3
Hours: 54 - 162 hours LAB
Prerequisite: None.
Transferable: CSU
Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

An independent studies project involves an individual student or small group of students in study, research, or activities beyond the scope of regularly offered courses. See the current catalog section of “Special Studies” for full details of Independent Studies.

POLS 499 Experimental Offering in Political Science

Units: 0.5 - 4
Prerequisite: None.
Catalog Date: January 1, 2022

This is the experimental courses description.