

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science does more than teach about politics – it empowers you with the skills needed to inquisitively question political systems. Questions like: How does a federal republic differ from a democracy? How does a party system affect governance? These are the types of questions that political scientists explore, but they also represent issues that require ordinary citizens to make informed judgments. Knowledge gained in this online program can be applied to the gaining and holding of elected positions, or to government and military service or other professions where strong interpersonal and communication skills are required.

Degree Program Objectives

In addition to the institutional and degree level learning objectives, graduates of this program are expected to achieve these learning outcomes:

Political Theory and Systems

- Analyze the fundamental theories and philosophies of government, governance, economy, and civil society.
- Compare and contrast the political elements of representative democracy and with other political systems.

The United States Political System

- Assess the three institutions of government that create and implement federal policy.
- Analyze the historical evolution and contemporary manifestations of the federal system.

Political Parties and Interest Groups

- Analyze the various roles of interest groups in the United States in both historical and modern democratic processes.
- Assess the impact of political parties on federal, state, and local government.
- Analyze the concept of diversity in American politics, to include gender, ethnicity, and age.

Degree at a Glance

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	General Education Requirements	30
	Major Required	27
	Select one of the following concentrations:	15
	American Government (p. 3)	
	International Relations (p. 3)	
	Political Theory (p. 4)	
	Final Program Requirements	3
	Elective Requirements	45
	Total Semester Hours	120

Degree Program Requirements

General Education Requirements (30 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Arts and Humanities (6 semester hours)¹		
	Select 2 courses from the following:	6
ARAB100	Arabic I	
ARAB101	Arabic II	
ARTH200	Art Appreciation	
ARTH240	Survey of Photography	
ARTH241	Film and Literature	
DSIN141	Image Enhancement using Adobe Photoshop®	
FREN100	French I	
FREN101	French II	
GERM100	German I	
GERM101	German II	
JAPN100	Introduction to Japanese	
LITR215	Literature of American Encounters, Revolution, and Rebellion	
LITR218	From Abolition to #MeToo: Literature of the American Civil Rights Movement	
LITR222	Pivotal Figures in Early British Literature	
LITR225	British Literature from Wordsworth through the Wasteland	
LITR231	Leadership in World Literature: Antiquity to the Early Modern Period	
LITR233	Literature of the Newly Globalized World: The Individual's Struggle to Adapt	
MUSI200	Music Appreciation	

MUSI212	Jazz and Rock
MUSI250	World Music and Cultures
PHIL101	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL110	Critical Thinking
PHIL200	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL202	Philosophy of Science
PORT100	Introduction to Brazilian Portuguese
RELS101	Introduction to the Study of Religion
RELS201	Introduction to World Religions
RUSS100	Russian I
SPAN100	Spanish I
SPAN101	Spanish II
STEM270	Thinking and Acting Ethically

Civics, Political and Social Sciences (6 semester hours)¹

Select 2 courses from the following: 6

ANTH100	Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH200	World Archaeology
ANTH202	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
CHFD220	Human Sexuality
COMM211	Social Media and Society
COMM240	Intercultural Communication
ECON101	Microeconomics
ECON102	Macroeconomics
EDUC200	Humane Education: A Global Interdisciplinary Perspective
GEOG101	Introduction to Geography
HOSP110	Practical Food Safety and Awareness
IRLS210	International Relations I
LITR212	Forgotten America—Under Represented Cultures in American Literature
POLS101	Introduction to Political Science
POLS210	American Government I
PSYC101	Introduction to Psychology
RELS250	Death and Dying
RELS260	Race & Religion
RELS270	Hope and Resilience
SOCI111	Introduction to Sociology
SOCI212	Social Problems
SOCI220	American Popular Culture
STEM280	Exploring Society and Cultures via Science Fiction

Communication: Writing, Oral, and Multimedia (9 semester hours)

COMM120	Information and Digital Literacy	3
ENGL110	Making Writing Relevant	3
Select 1 course from the following:		3

COMM200	Public Speaking
ENGL101	Proficiency in Writing
ENGL115	Argumentation and Rhetoric
ENGL210	Introduction to Literature
ENGL220	Technical Writing
ENGL221	Scientific Writing
ENGL226	Effective Business Communication
HRMT101	Human Relations Communication
ITCC231	Introduction to Information Technology Writing
MGMT100	Human Relations

History (3 semester hours)

Select 1 course from the following: 3

HIST101	American History to 1877
HIST102	American History since 1877
HIST111	World Civilization before 1650
HIST112	World Civilization since 1650
HIST121	Western Civilization before The Thirty Years War
HIST122	Western Civilization since The Thirty Years War
HIST221	African-American History before 1877
HIST222	African-American History since 1877
HIST223	History of the American Indian
HIST270	History of Science
STEM185	The History and Context of STEM

Mathematics and Applied Reasoning (3 semester hours)

Select 1 course from the following: 3

ACCT105	Accounting for Non Accounting Majors
ENTD200	Fundamentals of Programming
MATH110	College Algebra
MATH111	College Trigonometry
MATH112	Pre-Calculus
MATH120	Introduction to Statistics
MATH125	Math for Liberal Arts Majors
MATH225	Calculus

Natural Sciences (3 semester hours)

Select 1 course from the following: 3

BIOL180	Introduction to Biology
BIOL181	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology
CHEM180	Introduction to Chemistry
ERSC180	Introduction to Meteorology
ERSC181	Introduction to Geology
EVSP180	Introduction to Environmental Science
PHYS180	Introduction to Physics
SPST180	Introduction to Astronomy

STEM100	Introduction to STEM Disciplines	
Total Semester Hours		30

¹ All literature courses require successful completion of ENGL101 - Proficiency in Writing or ENGL110 - Making Writing Relevant.

Major Required (27 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
IRLS200	Information Literacy and Global Citizenship	3
POLS210	American Government I	3
POLS213	Political Theory	3
IRLS300	Comparative Political Systems	3
POLS301	Ethics in Politics	3
POLS311	Political Parties and Interest Groups	3
POLS312	State, Local, and Community Politics	3
SOCI311	Political Sociology	3
POLS410	Public Policy	3
Total Semester Hours		27

Students must choose a concentration for this degree program and may select from the Concentration in American Government, Concentration in International Relations, or Concentration in Political Theory.

Concentration in American Government (15 semester hours)

Expands on the fundamental elements introduced in POLS210 - American Government. Includes a more in-depth look into the American federal system, details on the U.S. judicial system and constitutional law, the operation of U.S. intelligence community, and the factors that affect political decision making in the U.S.

Objectives

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

- Analyze the interdisciplinary field of political psychology and how it relates to the study of American politics.
- Explain the philosophical basis and functioning of the American republic.
- Analyze threats against the United States from nation states, non-state actors, and transnational groups.
- Identify historical events and figures that have contributed to the present-day court system in America.

- Describe how and why the Constitution developed.

Concentration Requirements (15 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
POLS211	American Government II	3
LSTD204	Introduction to the Courts	3
INTL301	U.S. Intelligence Community	3
LSTD301	Constitutional Law	3
POLS401	The Psychology of American Politics	3
Total Semester Hours		15

Concentration in International Relations (15 semester hours)

Explores various international issues affecting the world today, such as human rights and the global economy. Topics include the United Nations, NATO, national and transnational justice, and international civil order. Completion of this concentration may lead to eligibility to obtain a Peace Operations Training Institute certificate.

Objectives

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

- Explain how global issues, such as globalization and human rights, affect international relations.
- Discuss how international organizations, such as the United Nations and NATO, define collective security, particularly regarding peacekeeping operations.
- Describe how international justice is established and enforced.
- Examine various global development initiatives to reverse failed and failing nation-states.

Concentration Requirements (15 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
IRLS211	International Relations II	3
IRLS301	International Organizations	3
IRLS302	International Development	3
IRLS405	National and Transnational Justice	3
IRLS417	International Civil Order	3
Total Semester Hours		15

Concentration in Political Theory (15 semester hours)

This concentration includes a heavy grounding in philosophy, which is designed to help describe how political theory has evolved through the centuries. Courses cover ancient philosophers, such as Aristotle, to more modern figures like Marx, as well as major contemporary political issues like capital punishment, abortion, and freedom of thought.

Objectives

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

- Discuss the development and evolution of political theory from their origins to contemporary times.
- Analyze and evaluate political theoretical arguments from historical to contemporary sources.
- Apply political theoretical inquiry to contemporary events.
- Evaluate how philosophy influences political theory over time.
- Critique current political theories for validity.

Concentration Requirements (15 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PHIL101	Introduction to Philosophy (This course is required as the first course in the concentration.)	3
PHIL302	Ancient Western Philosophy	3
PHIL400	Contemporary Issues in Philosophy	3
PHIL401	Modern Philosophy from Descartes to Kant	3
PHIL403	Continental and Post-Modern Philosophy	3
Total Semester Hours		15

Final Program Requirements (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
POLS497	Senior Seminar in Political Science (to be taken as the last course before graduation) ¹	3
Total Semester Hours		3

¹ Prerequisite: Senior Standing and completion of all major courses prior to enrollment.

Elective Requirements (45 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select any courses not already taken to fulfill the requirements listed above. Credits applied toward a minor or certificate in an unrelated field may be used to fulfill elective credit for the major.		
Total Semester Hours		45