Majoring in Political Science at The University of Memphis is a rich, intellectually challenging experience. The mission of our Bachelor of Arts Program in Political Science is to equip you with an understanding of the principal underlying political systems, both in the United States and abroad, and to sharpen skills in written expression, oral communication, critical thinking and leadership.

We offer coursework in four subfields:

- American Politics
- International Relations
- Comparative Politics
- Political Theory

Through the pursuit of a minor as well—such as in economics, business, marketing or journalism—you will better position yourself for your chosen career path, or for applying for an advanced degree.

More about careers …

Political Science students develop many skills that employers in many fields desperately need:

- Analytic skills, to formulate and solve problems
- Argumentative skills, to construct useful analogies and elicit hidden assumptions
- Research skills, to integrate diverse data
- Communication skills, to express thoughts clearly and precisely

… and Opportunities

- Participating in our internship program, which can help direct a career in government service
- Participating in our pre-law program, designed specifically for those planning to apply to law school. Also available is specialized advising from the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Advisor Ms. Ebony Dawkins and Pre-Professional Advisor, Ms. Jessica Kelso (jgclffrd@memphis.edu); http://www.memphis.edu/cas/pre_law/index.php
- Joining Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, for networking and socializing
# POLITICAL SCIENCE
## SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

### Freshman Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE MATH</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 1030- GE Social/Behav. Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Foreign Lang. 2010</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1020</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 1501- GE Social/Behav. Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Foreign Lang. 2020</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Totals**: 15-16 hrs.  
**Total Hours**: 15 hrs.

### Sophomore Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2201 or 2202</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 1301 (or Comparative Pol.)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Nat. Science w/lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Fine Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2381</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Nat. Science w/lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Totals**: 16 hrs.  
**Total Hours**: 16 hrs.

### Junior Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD POLS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 4101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD POLS Comp. Pol.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD POLS Amer. Gov. &amp; Pol.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD POLS International Rel.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Totals**: 15 hrs.  
**Total Hours**: 15 hrs.

### Senior Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 4212 or 4405 (GE History)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Totals**: 15 hrs.  
**Total Hours**: 13 hrs.

---

**GE = General Education Requirements**  
**BA = Bachelor of Arts college requirements**  
**UD = Upper division**

**Foreign Language Requirement – See the Undergraduate Catalog: [http://catalog.memphis.edu](http://catalog.memphis.edu)**

**Political Science majors must select at least 6 hours in each of the four subfields listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.**

**Degree hours = 120**  
**42 Upper Division hours required for graduation**

**No more than 2 hours of physical education courses may be counted toward a degree.**

**Residence – 30 of the last 60 hours must be taken at University of Memphis; at least 60 hours must be at a four-year institution; transfer students must earn at least 6 hours of a major at UM and at least 3 hours of a minor at UM.**
POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

POLS 1101. Introduction to Ancient Political Thought. Inquiry into fundamental questions of ancient political thought.
POLS 1102. Introduction to Modern Political Thought. Inquiry into fundamental questions of modern political thought.
POLS 1301. Introduction to Comparative Politics. Comparison of institutions, issues, processes and policies.
POLS 1501. International Relations. Forms of political interaction between and among global actors in world arena.
POLS 3211. State and Local Governments. Role of state governments in Federal System, political institutions, elections.
POLS 3213. Introduction to the Study of Public Policy. Public policy formulation process and some of the major.
POLS 3215. Interest Groups in American Politics. Role and impact of interest groups within American political system.
POLS 3216. Political Parties and Elections. Political parties and elections in the American political system.
POLS 3217. The Political Media. Interactions between the political world and the commercial media.
POLS 3221. Public Opinion. Exploration of political attitudes and behavior.
POLS 3302. Western European Government and Politics. Comparative study of Western European States.
POLS 3306. Latin American Government and Politics. Functions and operations of government in Latin America.
POLS 3325. Politics of the Developing World. Politics of regions and countries typically labeled as “developing”.
POLS 3340. Power, Politics and the State. Examination of major conceptual traditions in analysis of the state.
POLS 3401. Legal/Political Thought: Classical. Question of justice and its relation to law and politics.
POLS 3402. Legal/Political Thought: Modern. Question of justice and its relation to law and politics.
POLS 3405. Introduction to Law and Jurisprudence. Sources, functions, and processes of law.
POLS 3410. Contemporary Political Thought. Study of political thought in 20th and 21st centuries.
POLS 3420. Race and Politics in the U.S. Complex and contested politics of race and racism in the United States.
POLS 3415. Feminist Political Theory. Fundamental questions, concepts, schools of thought in feminist political thought.
POLS 3506. American Foreign Policy. Domestic sources, implementation, and content of U.S. foreign policy.
POLS 3507. Terrorism. Evolution and impact of terrorism on America and the global community.
POLS 3509. Contemporary Problems in International Relations. Studies or problems in area of world politics.
POLS 3700-09. Special Topics in Contemporary Politics. Topics of contemporary significance in politics.
POLS 4101. Political Statistics. Introduction to analysis of quantitative data, and statistical hypothesis testing.
POLS 4200. Environmental Law, Policy and Regulation. Principal laws, policies and regulations concerning environment.
POLS 4223. Issues in Urban Politics. Selected issues in urban politics and policy.
POLS 4230. Legislative Internship. Supervised internship.
POLS 4231. Administrative Internship. Supervised internship.
POLS 4315. Revolution and Political Violence. Forms and causes of political violence within nations.
POLS 4317. Transitions to Democracy. Comparison of transition from authoritarian rule to democracy.
POLS 4399. Research and Studies Abroad. Supervised field research and studies in selected foreign countries.
POLS 4405. Origin and Development of American Political Thought. Origin and development of political thought in U.S.
POLS 4415. African-American Political Thought to 1900.
POLS 4416. African-American Political Thought from 1900.
POLS 4506. Problems of American Foreign Policy. Studies or problems of American foreign policy.
POLS 4508. Theories and Concepts in International Relations. Theoretical approaches to international politics.
POLS 4510. Politics of the Global Economy. How political process affects/is affected by economic processes at global level.
POLS 4512. Global Environmental Politics. Politics of the global environment.
POLS 4701. Policy Perspectives. Senior capstone seminar requiring students to analyze and solve problems in public policy.
POLS 4709. Mock Trial Competition. Experiential learning about the U.S. legal system.
POLS 4820. Political History of Israel. Interdisciplinary study of political stages in the development of the State of Israel.
POLS 4999. Senior Thesis. Independent research project conducted under direction of faculty supervisor.

Please consult the Undergraduate Catalog at http://catalog.memphis.edu for complete descriptions.
POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. University General Education Program (41 hours)
See the Undergraduate Catalog for the University General Education Program requirements.

B. College and Degree (B.A.) Requirements (6-9 hours)
The College and Bachelor of Arts requirements are in addition to the University General Education Program requirements and are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

C. The Major (36 hours)
For the purposes of defining undergraduate requirements for the political science major and minor, the department employs four subfields, with the following courses in each:

American Government and Politics: POLS 1030, 3211, 3215, 3216, 3217, 3218, 3219, 3220, 3221, 3405, 4200, 4211, 4212, 4222, 4223, 4701.
Comparative Politics: POLS 1301, 3302, 3306, 3309, 3310, 3320, 3325, 3330, 3340, 4307, 4315, 4317, 4820.
International Relations: POLS 1501, 3505, 3506, 3509, 4504, 4506, 4508, 4510, 4511, 4512.
Political Theory: POLS 1101, 1102, 3102, 3401, 3402, 3410, 3415, 4405, 4415, 4416.

Students must complete POLS 1030 and 4101.

Students must complete at least 6 hours in each of the four subfields listed above.
No more than 9 total hours of internship (POLS 4230, 4231), mock trial (POLS 4709), research and study abroad (POLS 4399), and independent study (POLS 4702) combined may be counted toward the 36 hours required for a major in Political Science. Of these 9 hours, no more than three hours of Administrative Internship (POLS 4231), and no more than six total hours in any combination of POLS 4709, 4399, and 4702 may be counted toward the major.

At least 15 hours in political science must be earned in residence at the University of Memphis.

NOTE: Students who have successfully completed an equivalent social statistics course prior to declaring a Political Science major are exempted from the requirement to take 4101, and must substitute another upper-division course in Political Science.

D. Electives
Electives may be chosen to bring the total number of hours to 120.

E. Honors Program
The department offers an honors program to qualified majors who choose to pursue a more sophisticated knowledge of the discipline, a more rigorous level of analysis, and a deeper understanding of politics. Details of the program are available in the Political Science Office.

Political Science Minor
To complete the minor in Political Science, a student must earn 18 hours in political science discipline to the following conditions: a) students must complete at least 3 hours each in three of the four subfield areas listed above; b) students must complete at least 9 hours in courses at the 3000-level or higher; c) no more than 6 hours of internship (POLS 4230, 4231), mock trial (POLS 4709), research and study abroad (POLS 4399), and independent study (POLS 4702) combined may be counted toward the 18 hours required for a minor in Political Science.

For more information, please contact:

The Department of Political Science
http://www.memphis.edu/polisci/
Clement Hall 437
901-678-2395

Dr. Dursun Peksen, Interim Chair
dpeksen@memphis.edu

Undergraduate Coordinator: Ms. Ebony Dawkins
901-678-2395; endawkns@memphis.edu

The University of Memphis
http://www.memphis.edu

The College of Arts and Sciences
http://www.memphis.edu/cas

UM Career Services: http://www.memphis.edu/careerservices

The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.