

POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA)

The Political Science major encompasses four subfields: political theory, international relations, comparative politics, and American politics. The major allows students flexibility to explore their interests by taking a variety of classes across subfields or to dive deeper into one or two subfields that interest them. Students can also participate in our robust internship programs both in Chicago and in Washington, DC.

Related Programs

Minor

- Political Science Minor (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-minor/>)

Combined

- Political Science (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/political-science-ba-ma/>)
- Political Science/International Affairs (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/political-science-international-affairs-bama/>)

Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
PLSC Requirements		
<i>Select three of the following:</i> ¹		9
PLSC 100	Political Theory	
PLSC 101	American Politics	
PLSC 102	International Relations in an Age of Globalization	
PLSC 103	Comparative Politics	
Subfield Requirements (p. 1)		
One (1) course in American Politics Subfield (p. 1)		3
One (1) course in Political Theory Subfield (p. 2)		3
One (1) course in Comparative Politics Subfield (p. 2)		3
One (1) course in International Relations Subfield (p. 2)		3
<i>Four (4) PLSC Electives</i>		12
Total Hours		33

¹ If students take PLSC 100, 101, or 102 as the three required courses for the major, they can also take PLSC 103 and have it count as an elective in the major. Students in the BA/MA Political Science and Students in the BA/MA in International Affairs can count two of the graduate level courses (at the 400 or 500 level) that they take in their senior year as electives in the PLSC major, alongside the other two courses at the 200 or 300 level.

Curricular Notes

- The Political Science internship program (PLSC 370), a 3- or 6-credit hour course, counts as one of the four Political Science electives. Only 3 credits of PLSC 370 may count toward the PLSC major, the other three will be counted as general electives. An exception is made for students who complete an internship in Chicago as well as an internship via the Washington, DC program. In that case, 3 credit hours from each internship may be applied to the major.
- The following courses do not fulfill subfield requirements but do count as electives toward the PLSC major: PLSC 396 Directed

Readings and PLSC 216 Political Numbers (PLSC 216 also fulfills the core quantitative reasoning requirement.)

- The following courses neither fulfill subfield requirements nor count as electives toward the PLSC major: PLSC 395 Political Science Honors Seminar. This is an extra course that students take beyond the major requirements in order to graduate with Honors in Political Science.

Subfield Courses

American Politics

Code	Title	Hours
PLSC 202	Mock Trial ¹	3
PLSC 203	Moot Court ¹	3
PLSC 208	Representation in the United States	3
PLSC 215	Politics of Marginalized Groups	3
PLSC 218	African-American Politics	3
PLSC 236	Political Communication	3
PLSC 238	Political Advocacy	3
PLSC 251	Women in American Politics	3
PLSC 300A	Contemporary Political Issues: American Politics	3
PLSC 318	Politics & the Economy	3
PLSC 319	Women, Law & Public Policy	3
PLSC 320	Constitutional Law-Due Process	3
PLSC 321	Constitutional Law-Powers of Government	3
PLSC 322	Constitutional Law-Rights and Liberties	3
PLSC 323	Children, Law & Public Policy	3
PLSC 324	Civil-Military Relations	3
PLSC 326	American National Security	3
PLSC 327	Political Psychology	3
PLSC 328	Political Behavior	3
PLSC 329	Interest Group Politics	3
PLSC 332	Politics of American Bureaucracies	3
PLSC 334	Urban Policies and Problems	3
PLSC 335	Urban Semester Seminar	3
PLSC 357	Hollywood and Law	3
PLSC 372	Crime, Race & Violence	3
PLSC 376	Political Behavior and Public Opinion	3
PLSC 377	American Public Policies	3
PLSC 378	Intro to Political Economy	3
PLSC 379	The Legislative Process	3
PLSC 380	Public Policy Analysis	3
PLSC 381	The American Presidency	3
PLSC 384	The Judicial Process	3
PLSC 385	Introduction to Law	3
PLSC 386	Campaigns and Elections	3
PLSC 387	Politics and the Press	3
PLSC 389	State Politics	3
PLSC 390	Urban Politics	3
PLSC 391	Chicago Politics	3
PLSC 392	Environmental Politics	3
PLSC 393	Black Politics	3
PLSC 398	Washington DC Internship Seminar ²	3

¹ This course is Engaged Learning.

² This course is Writing Intensive.

Political Theory

Code	Title	Hours
PLSC 300B	Contemporary Political Issues: Political Theory	3
PLSC 301	Political Justice	3
PLSC 302	American Political Thought	3
PLSC 303	Conservatism	3
PLSC 304	Ancient Political Thought	3
PLSC 306	Modern Political Thought	3
PLSC 307	Democratic Theory	3
PLSC 308	Contemporary Political Thought	3
PLSC 309	Socialism	3
PLSC 310B	Catholic Political Thought	3
PLSC 312	Feminist Theory	3
PLSC 313	Resistance and Obligation	3
PLSC 314	Liberalism	3
PLSC 330	Global Justice	3
PLSC 331	Islamic Political Thought	3
PLSC 339	Political Ideologies	3
PLSC 371	Roman Law	3
PLSC 373	Politics and Literature	3
PLSC 388	The Morality and Legality of War	3

Comparative Politics

Code	Title	Hours
PLSC 232	Politics of the United Kingdom	3
PLSC 300C	Contemporary Political Issues: Comparative Politics	3
PLSC 336	Politics in Contemporary China	3
PLSC 337	Terrorism	3
PLSC 339	Political Ideologies	3
PLSC 342	African Politics	3
PLSC 343	Latin American Politics	3
PLSC 344	Contemporary Issues in Latin America	3
PLSC 345	South & Southeast Asian Politics	3
PLSC 346	East Asian Politics	3
PLSC 347	The European Union	3
PLSC 348	Soviet & Post-Soviet Politics	3
PLSC 349	Eastern European Politics	3
PLSC 352	Canadian Politics	3
PLSC 355C	Women and Politics: A Cross-National Perspective	3
PLSC 359	Revolutions	3
PLSC 360	Western European Politics	3
PLSC 362	Politics Developing Societies	3
PLSC 365	Italian Politics & Government	3
PLSC 366	Dictatorship	3
PLSC 368	Politics of the Middle East	3
PLSC 374	Democracy	3
GLST 303	Technological Change and Society	3

International Relations

Code	Title	Hours
PLSC 204	Conflict Management	3
PLSC 213	International Human Rights	3
PLSC 252	Capitalism and Its Discontents	3
PLSC 300D	Contemporary Political issues in International Relations	3
PLSC 316	Politics of Genocide	3
PLSC 317	Politics of International Health	3
PLSC 325	American Foreign Policy	3
PLSC 333	Crossing Borders: The Politics of Immigration	3
PLSC 340	International Relations of Africa	3
PLSC 350	Politics of International Economic Relations	3
PLSC 351	Latin American International System	3
PLSC 353	International Law	3
PLSC 354	Global Environmental Politics	3
PLSC 356	Intervent in World Politics	3
PLSC 358	War, Peace and Politics	3
PLSC 358D	The Scientific Study of War	3
PLSC 363	International Politics	3
PLSC 364	UN & International Organization	3
PLSC 367	Model United Nations ¹	3
PLSC 369	Politics of Energy	3
GLST 302	States and Firms	3
GLST 305	Globalization and Environmental Sustainability	3

¹ This course is Engaged Learning.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

Students can begin the Political Science (BA) degree at any point in their undergraduate studies, in consultation with their advisor. While there is no set sequence of classes, students are encouraged to take introductory classes (PLSC 100, PLSC 101, PLSC 102, and PLSC 103) before taking upper division classes in those subfields. For example, although it is not required, students may benefit from taking PLSC 101 American Politics before taking an upper division class on Campaigns and Elections in the United States. Once students have declared the major, they are encouraged to contact the Political Science Department's Undergraduate Program Director for further guidance on how best to progress with their studies.

Transferring Credit

At least 17 credit hours of PLSC courses must be completed at Loyola.

Double Dipping Policy

Political Science adheres to the CAS Double Dipping Policy (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#policiestext>).

College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to take two Writing Intensive courses (6 credit hours) as well as complete a foreign language requirement at 102-level or higher (3 credit

hours) or a language competency test. More information can be found here (<https://www.luc.edu/cas/college-requirements/>).

Additional Undergraduate Graduation Requirements

All Undergraduate students are required to complete the University Core, at least one Engaged Learning course, and UNIV 101. SCPS students are not required to take UNIV 101. Nursing students in the Accelerated BSN program are not required to take core or UNIV 101. You can find more information in the University Requirements (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/university-requirements/>) area.

Learning Outcomes

The BA in Political Science is designed to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the structures and functions of political systems.
- Be able to apply political theories and concepts when interpreting past and current events.
- Recognize the influence of cultural, social, and historical contexts on political behavior, values, institutions, or policies.
- Characterize the roots of enduring social disagreements and conflicts.
- Evaluate normative or empirical claims about political phenomena.
- Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively about complex political issues.
- Develop research skills to gather, evaluate, and synthesize information from multiple sources to support arguments or theories in political science.

For more information, please contact Professor David Doherty (ddoherty@luc.edu), Undergraduate Program Director for the Department of Political Science.