

Department of

Political Science



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<http://www.byui.edu/PoliSci>

Introduction

The goal of Political Science at BYU–Idaho is to challenge and stimulate students to develop an understanding of governmental institutions and political systems, and particularly, to critically evaluate the LDS members' role in national and international Politics. Majors are exposed to the different subfields and associated theories in the academic studies of political science. Upon graduation, students should have a practical understanding of how each level of government functions (local, state, national, and international) as well as a solid foundation in the academic study of politics and government.

The Political Science Department offers BA degrees in Political Science with emphases in American Government and Foreign Affairs. The department also offers minors in Political Science and American Government Education. The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

American Government Emphasis

The American Government emphasis is available to students who wish to concentrate on the American political process. This includes the study of national politics including the three branches of government. State and local political institutions, public opinion, and voting behavior are also considered.

Foreign Affairs Emphasis

The Foreign Affairs emphasis is available to students who wish to concentrate on comparative and international politics. This includes the study of American and other foreign policies, international law and political economy. Different approaches to democracy and economic development are also considered.

Department Requirements

- Students must earn a C- or better in all major coursework.
- Major courses may not be used to fulfill multiple requirements (no double counting).

A Note Regarding Law School

BYU–Idaho, like many universities, does not have a specific major called Pre-Law.” This is because no specific major is required to enter law school. Students who wish to enter law school after completion of a Bachelor’s Degree at BYU–Idaho are encouraged to choose Political Science or any major of interest to them. Students developing a Political Science major may choose a minor or cluster in International Studies, International Business, Economics, or other related disciplines. Please consult with one of the Political Science faculty to determine which cluster courses would be best for you.

Career Opportunities

Students should work closely with their advisor to choose an emphasis that best suits their long term goals. In addition to preparation for graduate school, students may wish to become teachers, lawyers, or serve as public officials. Others may want to become public affairs professionals in government or with major corporations. Some may choose to become reporters, campaign managers, or lobbyists. Potential international careers include working for an international intergovernmental or non-governmental organization, international law, or employment with a multi-national corporation.

Political Science

Brigham Young University-Idaho 2008-2009

**BA in Political Science
Foreign Affairs Emphasis (623-64)**

Take required Foundations courses

Major Requirements

No Double Counting of Major Courses - No Grade Less Than C-

Fundamental Courses	Professional Development	Emphasis Requirements	Take 1 course:	Program Notes:
<i>Take these courses: (POLSC 498 must be taken for 3 credits)</i>	<i>Take 2 courses in 1 option area:</i>	<i>Take 4 courses:</i>	GEOG 321 3	
POLSC 110 3	<i>GIS Option</i>	POLSC 372 3	GEOG 350 3	
POLSC 150 3	GEOG 230 3	POLSC 375 3	HIST 310 3	
POLSC 170 3	GEOG 340 3	POLSC 377 3	HIST 325 3	
POLSC 280 3		POLSC 378 3	HIST 330 3	
POLSC 300 3		POLSC 390 3	HIST 335 3	
POLSC 311 3		POLSC 392 3	HIST 340 3	
POLSC 497 3	<i>Language Option</i>		INTST 341 3	
POLSC 498R 1-6	Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language 6	<i>Take 2 courses:</i>	INTST 342 3	
24		POLSC 314 3	INTST 343 3	
		POLSC 315 3	INTST 344 3	
Theory Courses	<i>Statistics Option</i>	POLSC 316 3	INTST 345 3	
<i>Take 1 course:</i>	FMAT 221 3	POLSC 320 3	INTST 348 3	
POLSC 350 3	MATH 321 3	POLSC 330 3	INTST 349 3	
POLSC 360 3	MATH 422 3	POLSC 350 3	INTST 350 3	
3	SOC 400 3	POLSC 360 3		
	6	POLSC 380 3		
		6		

Total Major Credits=54

This major also requires a minor or 2 clusters

This major is available on the following tracks:

Fall-Winter---- YES

Winter-Spring---- YES

Spring-Fall---- YES

**BA in Political Science
American Government Emphasis (623-65)**

Take required Foundations courses

Major Requirements

No Double Counting of Major Courses - No Grade Less Than C-

Fundamental Courses	Professional Development	Emphasis Requirements	Emphasis Requirements	Program Notes:
<i>Take these courses: (POLSC 498 must be taken for 3 credits)</i>	<i>Take 2 courses in 1 option area:</i>	<i>Take 4 courses:</i>	<i>Take 1 course:</i>	
POLSC 110 3	<i>GIS Option</i>	POLSC 314 3	ECON 381 3	
POLSC 150 3	GEOG 230 3	POLSC 315 3	GEOG 320 3	
POLSC 170 3	GEOG 340 3	POLSC 316 3	HIST 360 3	
POLSC 280 3		POLSC 320 3	HIST 363 3	
POLSC 300 3		POLSC 330 3	HIST 370 3	
POLSC 311 3	<i>Language Option</i>	POLSC 380 3	HIST 372 3	
POLSC 497 3	Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language 6		HIST 376 3	
POLSC 498R 1-6		<i>Take 2 courses:</i>	HIST 378 3	
24		POLSC 350 3	SOC 323 3	
		POLSC 360 3	SOC 330 3	
Theory Courses	<i>Statistics Option</i>	POLSC 372 3	SOC 360 3	
<i>Take 1 course:</i>	FMAT 221 3	POLSC 375 3	SOC 370 3	
POLSC 350 3	MATH 321 3	POLSC 377 3	SOC 450 3	
POLSC 360 3	MATH 422 3	POLSC 378 3		
3	SOC 400 3	POLSC 390 3		
	6	POLSC 392 3		
		6		

Total Major Credits=54

This major also requires a minor or 2 clusters

This major is available on the following tracks:

Fall-Winter---- YES

Winter-Spring---- YES

Spring-Fall---- YES

Political Science

Brigham Young University-Idaho 2008-2009

Minor in Political Science (126)

Minor Requirements

No Double Counting of Minor Courses - Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses

Fundamental Courses <i>Take these courses:</i>		Foreign Affairs <i>Take 1 course:</i>		Breadth Course <i>Take 1 course:</i>		<i>Program Notes:</i>		
POLSC 110	3	POLSC 372	3	GEOG 320	3		INTST 343	3
POLSC 150	3	POLSC 375	3	GEOG 321	3		INTST 344	3
POLSC 170	3	POLSC 377	3	GEOG 350	3		INTST 345	3
POLSC 300	3	POLSC 378	3	HIST 310	3		INTST 348	3
	<u>12</u>	POLSC 390	3	HIST 325	3		INTST 349	3
		POLSC 392	3	HIST 330	3		INTST 350	3
			<u>3</u>	HIST 335	3		SOC 323	3
				HIST 340	3		SOC 330	3
				HIST 340	3		SOC 360	3
				HIST 360	3		SOC 370	3
				HIST 363	3		SOC 450	3
				HIST 370	3			<u>3</u>
				HIST 372	3			
				HIST 376	3			
				HIST 378	3			

Total Minor Credits=24

This minor is available on the following tracks:

Fall-Winter---- YES

Winter-Spring---- YES

Spring-Fall---- YES

Minor in American Government (128)

Minor Requirements

No Double Counting of Minor Courses - Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses

<i>Take these courses:</i>		<i>Take 1 course:</i>		<i>Program Notes:</i>
POLSC 110	3	POLSC 314	3	
POLSC 150	3	POLSC 315	3	
POLSC 311	3	POLSC 316	3	
POLSC 380	3	POLSC 320	3	
HIST 120	3		<u>3</u>	
HIST 121	3			
	<u>18</u>			

Total Minor Credits=21

This minor is available on the following tracks:

Fall-Winter---- YES

Winter-Spring---- YES

Spring-Fall---- YES

Political Science Pre-approved Clusters

Political Science - American Politics

<i>Take these courses:</i>		
POLSC 110	American Government	3
POLSC 311	State and Local Government	3
POLSC 314	The Executive Branch	3
POLSC 315	The Legislative Branch	3
	Total Credits	12

Political Science - Interanational Politics

<i>Take these courses:</i>		
POLSC 150	Foreign Government	3
POLSC 170	International Politics	3
POLSC 372	Advanced Theory of International Relations	3
POLSC 390	American Foreign Policy	3
	Total Credits	12

Political Science

Brigham Young University–Idaho 2008-2009

Course Descriptions

Credits*

POLSC 110 American Government	(3:3:0)
<p>Fullfills GE American Institutions requirement.</p> <p>English background of American institutions, colonial systems of government, the Constitution, the evolution and adoption of government to the changing role of the United States as an industrialized member of the world of nations and the changing federal/state relations.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 150 Foreign Government	(3:3:0)
<p>Major types of government in present use: historical development, organization, and operation.</p> <p>(Every semester)</p>	
POLSC 170 International Politics	(3:3:0)
<p>Fullfills GE Social Science requirement.</p> <p>The study of the geographic, demographic, economic, and ideological factors affecting international behavior, including the fuction of power, diplomacy, international law and organization</p> <p>(Fall, Winter, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 280 Introduction to Law	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: POLSC 110 with a grade of C- or higher.</p> <p>An introduction to the study and practice of law. A “non-glamour” oriented approach to the reality of the law profession.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter)</p>	
POLSC 300 Political Inquiry	(3:3:0)
<p>Fullfills GE Reading & Writing requirement.</p> <p>Systematic treatment of methodology in political science, including theory and techniques of research design.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 311 State and Local Government	(3:3:0)
<p>A study of state and local political systems and their relationship to the federal system.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 314 The Executive Branch	(3:3:0)
<p>A detailed study of the executive branch of government at the national and state levels focusing particularly on the powers of the American presidency.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	
POLSC 315 The Legislative Branch	(3:3:0)
<p>A detailed study of the powers, structure, organization, and procedures of the U. S. Congress incuding relations with groups and the other branches of government.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	
POLSC 316 The Judicial Branch	(3:3:0)
<p>An examination of the federal judicial system of the United States, particularly focusing on the court as an institution.</p> <p>(Fall, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 320 Political Parties and Interest Groups	(3:3:0)
<p>Functions and roles of American political parties and interest groups: public, elections, policy.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	
POLSC 330 Introduction to Public Administration	(3:3:0)
<p>Introduction to administrative procedures and policy-making in government agencies.</p> <p>A socio psychological approach to the study of organizations. Some study of theory and policy assessment and the nature of bureaucracy.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	
POLSC 350 Ancient Political Theory	(3:3:0)
<p>Political thought from Greek antiquity through the Renaissance, primarily from perspective of political philosophy and scriptures.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	
POLSC 360 Modern Political Theory	(3:3:0)
<p>Western political thought from Renaissance to present, including American political philosophers. This course surveys contemporary political theory, including the revival of liberal-egalitarian moral theory.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	

POLSC 372 Advanced Theory of International Relations	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: POLSC 170 and POLSC 300 with a grade of C- or higher.</p> <p>A study of influential traditions of thought in international relations; includes variants of realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	
POLSC 375 International Law and Organization	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: POLSC 170</p> <p>An exploration of the role of international organizations in world politics including the sources, nature, and status of international law.</p> <p>(Fall, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 377 The Politics of Developing Nations	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: POLSC 150</p> <p>A study of the political, economic, and cultural structures of developing nations. Exploring a range of diverse cases, the course addresses causes and solutions to issues such as extreme poverty, high population growth, political instability, lack of democratic institutions, and economic dependence.</p> <p>(Fall, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 378 The Politics of Advanced Industrialized Nations	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: POLSC 150</p> <p>A study of the unique cultural, political, and economic characteristics of advanced industrialized nations. eases include the nations of North America, Western Europe, and Japan as well as new political and economic institutions such as the European Union and NAFTA.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter)</p>	
POLSC 380 US Constitutional History and Law	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: No prerequisites, but students are encouraged to have AmHer 170, Hist 201-202 and Hist 300. All students in 300 level courses will be expected to know how to research, write, and document a basic historical essay.</p> <p>Foundations of constitutionalism, the development of the federal system, the principles of judicial review, nationalism and sectionalism, commerce, due process, equal protection and civil rights.</p> <p>(Rotating Semesters.)</p>	
POLSC 390 American Foreign Policy	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: Completion of International Politics and POLSC 170 with a C- or higher.</p> <p>The history of American foreign policy from the colonial period to the end of the 19th century, and foreign policy issues in and beyond the 20th century with emphasis given to how people, events, and politics helps shape foreign policy.</p> <p>(Fall, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 392 Terrorism and National Security	(3:3:0)
<p>The basic concepts, theoretical debates, and approaches to national security policy. The course examines the role of major policy actors and institutions to understand traditional and new threats to national security.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter)</p>	
POLSC 497 Capstone Seminar in Politics	(3:3:0)
<p>Prerequisite: POLSC 300 and Senior Class Status</p> <p>Seminar in political theory for students in their senior year devoted to current political science topics as determined by instructor.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter, Spring)</p>	
POLSC 498R Political Science Internship	(1-6:0:0)
<p>Prerequisite: Acceptance into an internship program, completion of required classes, and 60 credit hours.</p> <p>An internship is a cooperative program between the Political Science department at BYU-Idaho and an approved organization. Professional internships correlate actual work experience with coursework; provide students with knowledge of career opportunities, and give students work experience in preparation for employment after graduation. Ideas for internships are developed by the student in consultation with the department internship coordinator. Students should expect to work eighty hours during their intership for each credit hour earned.</p> <p>(Fall, Winter, Spring)</p>	