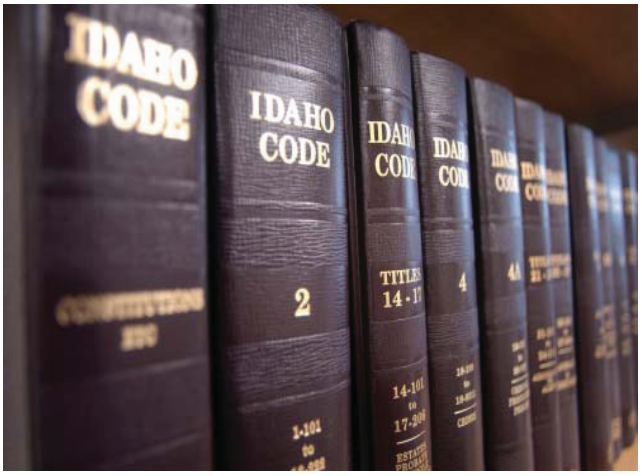
Department of

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.

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
Take these courses:
(POLSC 498 must be taken for 3 credits)

POLSC 110	3
POLSC 150	3
POLSC 170	3
POLSC 280	3
POLSC 300	3
POLSC 311	3
POLSC 497	3
POLSC 498R	1-6
	24

Theory Courses
Take 1 course:

POLSC 350	3
POLSC 360	3
	3

Professional Development
Take 2 courses in 1 option area:

GIS Option

GEOG 230	3
GEOG 340	3
	6

Language Option
Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language ____ 6

Statistics Option

FDMAT 221	3
FDMAT 224	3
MATH 324	3
SOC 400	3
	6

Emphasis Requirements
Take 4 courses:

POLSC 372	3
POLSC 375	3
POLSC 377	3
POLSC 378	3
POLSC 390	3
POLSC 392	3
	12

Take 2 courses:

POLSC 314	3
POLSC 315	3
POLSC 316	3
POLSC 320	3
POLSC 330	3
POLSC 350	3
POLSC 360	3
POLSC 380	3
	6

Take 1 course:

GEOG 321	3
GEOG 350	3
HIST 310	3
HIST 325	3
HIST 330	3
HIST 335	3
HIST 340	3
INTST 341	3
INTST 342	3
INTST 343	3
INTST 344	3
INTST 345	3
INTST 348	3
INTST 349	3
INTST 350	3
	3

Program Notes:

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
Take these courses:
(POLSC 498 must be taken for 3 credits)

POLSC 110	3
POLSC 150	3
POLSC 170	3
POLSC 280	3
POLSC 300	3
POLSC 311	3
POLSC 497	3
POLSC 498R	1-6
	24

Theory Courses
Take 1 course:

POLSC 350	3
POLSC 360	3
	3

Professional Development
Take 2 courses in 1 option area:

GIS Option

GEOG 230	3
GEOG 340	3
	6

Language Option
Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language ____ 6

Statistics Option

FDMAT 221	3
FDMAT 222	3
MATH 324	3
SOC 400	3
	6

Emphasis Requirements
Take 4 courses:

POLSC 314	3
POLSC 315	3
POLSC 316	3
POLSC 320	3
POLSC 330	3
POLSC 380	3
	12

Take 2 courses:

POLSC 350	3
POLSC 360	3
POLSC 372	3
POLSC 375	3
POLSC 377	3
POLSC 378	3
POLSC 390	3
POLSC 392	3
	6

Emphasis Requirements
Take 1 course:

ECON 381	3
GEOG 320	3
HIST 360	3
HIST 363	3
HIST 370	3
HIST 372	3
HIST 376	3
HIST 378	3
SOC 323	3
SOC 330	3
SOC 360	3
SOC 370	3
SOC 450	3
	3

Program Notes:

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

Minor in Political Science (126)

Minor Requirements

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

Fundamental Courses
Take these courses:

POLSC 110	3
POLSC 150	3
POLSC 170	3
POLSC 300	3
	12

Theory Courses
Take 1 course:

POLSC 350	3
POLSC 360	3
	3

Foreign Affairs
Take 1 course:

POLSC 372	3
POLSC 375	3
POLSC 377	3
POLSC 378	3
POLSC 390	3
POLSC 392	3
	3

American Government
Take 1 course:

POLSC 314	3
POLSC 315	3
POLSC 316	3
POLSC 320	3
POLSC 330	3
POLSC 380	3
	3

Breadth Course
Take 1 course:

GEOG 320	3
GEOG 321	3
GEOG 350	3
HIST 310	3
HIST 325	3
HIST 330	3
HIST 335	3
HIST 340	3
HIST 360	3
HIST 363	3
HIST 370	3
HIST 372	3
HIST 376	3
HIST 378	3
INTST 343	3
INTST 344	3
INTST 345	3
INTST 348	3
INTST 349	3
INTST 350	3
SOC 323	3
SOC 330	3
SOC 360	3
SOC 370	3
SOC 450	3
	3

Program Notes:

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 Education(128)

Minor Requirements

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

Take these courses:

HIST 120	3
HIST 121	3
POLSC 110	3
POLSC 150	3
POLSC 311	3
POLSC 380	3
	18

Take 1 course:

POLSC 314	3
POLSC 315	3
POLSC 316	3
POLSC 320	3
	3

Program Notes:

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

Take these courses:

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 - International Politics

Take these courses:

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**

Pre-Law

Take 12-15 credits:

B 275	Business Law	3
COMM102	Public Speaking	3
COMM 150	Interpersonal Communication	3
COMM 307	Media Law and Ethics	3
ENG 311	Advanced Writing and Critical Reasoning	3
ENG 373	Shakespeare	3
ENG 450	Rhetorical Studies	3
PHIL 205	Introduction to Logic	3
PHIL 313	Introduction to Ethics	3
POLSC 280	Introduction to Law	3
POLSC 380	US Constitutional History and Law	3
	Total Credits	**12**

Course Descriptions Credits*

POLSC 110 American Government (3.0:3:0)
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.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

POLSC 150 Foreign Government (3.0:3:0)
Major types of government in present use: historical development, organization, and operation.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

POLSC 170 International Politics (3.0:3:0)
The study of the geographic, demographic, economic, and ideological factors affecting international behavior, including the fuction of power, diplomacy, international law and organization
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

POLSC 280 Introduction to Law (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 110 or instructor approval.
An introduction to the study and practice of law. A "non-glamour" oriented approach to the reality of the law profession.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

POLSC 300 Political Inquiry (3.0:3:0)
Systematic treatment of methodology in political science, including theory and techniques of research design.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

POLSC 311 State and Local Government (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
A study of state and local political systems and their relationship to the federal system.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

POLSC 314 The Executive Branch (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
A detailed study of the executive branch of government at the national and state levels focusing particularly on the powers of the American presidency.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 315 The Legislative Branch (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
A detailed study of the powers, structure, organization, and procedures of the U. S. Congress including relations with groups and the other branches of government.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 316 Judicial Branch (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 110, POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
An examination of the fedral judicial system of the United States. The course is particularly focused on the court as an institution.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

POLSC 320 Political Parties and Interest Groups (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
Functions and roles of American political parties and interest groups: public, elections, policy.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 330 Introduction to Public Administration (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
Introduction to administrative procedures and policy-making in government agencies. A socio psychological approach to the study of organizations. Some study of theory and policy assessment and the nature of bureaucracy.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 350 Ancient Political Theory (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
Political thought from Greek antiquity through the Renaissance, primarily from perspective of political philosophy and scriptures.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 360 Modern Political Theory (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
Western political thought from Renaissance to present, including American political philosophers. This course surveys contemporary political theory, including the revival of liberal-egalitiarian moral theory.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 372 Advanced Theory of International Relations (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 170, POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
A study of influential traditions of thought in international relations; includes variants of realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 375 International Law and Organization (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 170, POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
Explores the role of internation organizations in world politics including the sources, nature, and status of international law.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 377 Politics of Developing Nations (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 150, POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
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.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 378 Politics of Advanced Industrialized Nations (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 150, POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
A study of the unique cultural, political, and economic characteristics of advanced industrialized nations. Cases 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.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 380 US Constitutional History and Law (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300 or instructor approval. Students are encouraged to have taken AMHER 170, HIST 201-202, and HIST 300. All students in 300 level courses are expected to know how to research, write, and document a basic historical essay.
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.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 390 American Foreign Policy (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 170, POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
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.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 392 Terrorism and National Security (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 170, POLSC 300 or instructor approval.
The basic concepts, theoretical debates, and approaches to national security policy. The course examines the role of major policy actors and institutions to understand traditonal and new threats to national security.
(Rotating semesters)

POLSC 497 Capstone Seminar in Politics (3.0:3:0)
Prerequisite: Successful completion of POLSC 300, Senior Class Status or instructor approval.
Seminar in political theory for students in their senior year devoted to current political science topics as determined by instructor.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

* Credit Description (Credit Hours : Lecture Hours per week : Lab Hours per week)

POLSC 498R Political Science Internship (1.0-6.0:0:0)

Prerequisite: Acceptance into an internship program, completion of required classes, and 60 credit hours.

An internship is a cooperative program between the BYU-Idaho Department of History, Geography, and Political Science and an approved organization. Professional interships correlate actual work experience with course work; 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 internship for each credit hour earned.

(Fall, Winter, Spring)