

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Department: Political Science and Law (<https://catalog.bradley.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/>)

A major in political science consists of a minimum of ten political science courses and satisfaction of the requirements for either the B.A. or B.S. degree.

Political Science Course Requirements

The political science requirements are:

- 1. A core of four courses to provide a grounding in the traditional sub-fields of the discipline: PLS 105 Introduction to American Government, American politics; PLS 205 Governments Around the Globe, comparative politics; PLS 207 Introduction to Political Thought, political theory; and PLS 208 Fundamentals of International Relations, international relations;
- 2. PLS 209 Scope and Methods of Political Science
- 3. four upper-level (300-400) courses from the following list of courses, with a minimum of one course in three separate sub-fields; and
- 4. a senior seminar (PLS 491 Seminar in Comparative Politics, PLS 492 Seminar in International Relations, PLS 493 Seminar in Political Theory, or PLS 494 Seminar in American Politics) designed to be a culminating experience. Upper-division sub-field course work is distributed in the table below.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
PLS 105	Introduction to American Government	3.0
PLS 205	Governments Around the Globe	3.0
PLS 207	Introduction to Political Thought	3.0
PLS 208	Fundamentals of International Relations	3.0
PLS 209	Scope and Methods of Political Science	3.0
Elective Courses		
In addition to the above required courses, students must take four courses from the following list of elective courses, with a minimum of one course in each of three separate sub-fields:		12.0
American Politics		
PLS 301	Topics in American Politics	
PLS 310	Political Behavior	
PLS 311	Political Parties	
PLS 312	State and Local Politics	
PLS 313	Identity Politics	
PLS 314	The U.S. Congress	
PLS 315	The U.S. Presidency	
PLS 360	Judicial Politics	
PLS 419	Introduction to Public Administration	
PLS 420		
PLS 421		
PLS 422		
PLS 459	Constitutional Law: Institutional Powers and Constraints	
PLS 460	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	

PLS 494	Seminar in American Politics
Comparative Politics	
PLS 303	Sub-Saharan African Politics
PLS 304	Politics of Europe
PLS 305	Topics in Comparative Government
PLS 306	Intelligence in International Affairs
PLS 491	Seminar in Comparative Politics
International Relations	
PLS 302	Topics in International Relations
PLS 317	International Law
PLS 318	International Organization
PLS 319	International Political Economy
PLS 342	American Foreign Policy
PLS 410	Globalization in World Affairs
PLS 492	Seminar in International Relations
Political Theory	
PLS 300	Topics in Political Thought
PLS 307	Classical Political Philosophy
PLS 308	Modern Political Philosophy
PLS 309	Gender and Sexuality in Political Thought
PLS 407	American Political Thought
PLS 493	Seminar in Political Theory
Capstone	
Finally, students are required to take one senior seminar designed to be a capstone experience:	
PLS 491	Seminar in Comparative Politics
PLS 492	Seminar in International Relations
PLS 493	Seminar in Political Theory
PLS 494	Seminar in American Politics
Total Hours	
30	

The Political Science Department maintains a policy of close supervision of its majors and urges them to consult regularly with their faculty advisor. In planning their academic program, students intending to major in political science are encouraged to complete the core courses (PLS 105 Introduction to American Government, PLS 205 Governments Around the Globe, PLS 207 Introduction to Political Thought, PLS 208 Fundamentals of International Relations) as early as practicable. Students should complete PLS 209 Scope and Methods of Political Science prior to enrolling in a senior seminar.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Three semesters of college-level foreign language study or its equivalent (this means that a student must complete 201 or higher, a three-semester sequence (101-102-201) in one language, or 102 in one language plus 101 in another language).

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Students must complete the university requirement of fifteen hours of mathematics, science, and computer science courses. When selecting courses to satisfy the B. S. requirements, students are strongly encouraged to select from statistics, computer science, or quantitative methods.