POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Political Science Major

Political Scientists study power and how it operates at different levels – among individuals, within and between institutions and individuals, and between countries, international organizations, corporations, societal groups, and individuals in the international arena. Our department hopes students will connect the classroom with the wider issues in global, national, and local politics by attending our many events, trips, and study tours and participating in internships.

Learning Goals and Objectives

The Political Science Department requires its students to learn, think, and apply.

Goal 1: Learn Fundamental Knowledge: Students will gain foundational knowledge in the major sub-fields of political science and understand the content, core concepts, and theories within each sub-field.

Objective 1.1: Students will identify, define, or analyze the content, core concepts, and theories within the sub-fields.

Goal 2: Think and Make Arguments: Students will think critically and develop arguments based on evidence.

Objective 2.1 Students will articulate verbally or in writing an argument which defines, analyzes, or synthesizes relevant theories and concepts.

Objective 2.2 Students will apply relevant theoretical concepts to assess real world issues.

Goal 3: Think and Apply their Skills to Analysis: Students will evaluate arguments based on empirical evidence and assertions rooted in the discipline.

Objective 3.1 Students will apply a variety of tools, methods, and perspectives to investigate and interpret issues relevant to the discipline.

Goal 4: Apply their Skills to the “Real World”: Students will be prepared for entry into professional careers, graduate schools, and other avenues related to Political Science as a discipline.

Objective 4.1 Students will demonstrate career preparation through experiential learning opportunities that are closely related to Political Science or a related field through the development of interpersonal, analytical, and problem-solving skills.

The traditional undergraduate programs include 40 courses distributed across three components: A General Education component divided into Signature Courses, Variable Courses, and an Integrative Learning requirement; a Major and Divisional component; and Free Electives. In addition to course requirements as specified in each area, students must complete one certified course in each of the following overlay areas:

1. Diversity, Globalization or Non-western Area Studies,
2. Ethics Intensive, and
3. Writing Intensive. Overlay requirements are part of the forty-course requirement.

General Education Signature Courses
See this page about Signature courses (https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#signature). Six courses

General Education Variable Courses
See this page about Variable courses (https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#variable). Six to Nine courses

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<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>POL 111</td>
<td>Intro to American Politics</td>
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General Education Overlays
See this page about Overlays (https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#overlay).

General Education Integrative Learning Component
See this page about Integrative Learning Component (https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/curricula/#integrative-learning). Three courses:

GEP Integrative Learning Component

- ECN 101 Introduction to Micro Economics or ECN 102 Introduction to Macro Economics
- Any upper division HIS course (200-499)
- Any upper division ECN, HIS, PHL, PSY, SOC or continuing Non-Native Language course beyond the GEP requirements.

GEP Electives
At least nine courses

Major Requirements

Twelve courses

Additional Introductory Courses (see POL 111 under GEP Variable Courses):

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<td>POL 115</td>
<td>Intro to Global Politics</td>
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<td>POL 117</td>
<td>Intro to Political Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 411</td>
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<td>POL 414</td>
<td>International Internship II</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL/HIS 491</td>
<td>Philadelphia-Area Internship</td>
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Any Service Learning course (with SLR attribute)
Capstone Course
Select one POL Capstone course from among 400-409.  

1 POLs 270s count, but only twice, and POL majors who double-major in IR may not count more than three (3) upper division courses towards either degree requirement.

2 The Department strongly recommends that all students take the appropriate introductory course prior to enrolling in a Capstone Course. POL majors who double-major in IR must complete a second Senior Capstone Course to fulfill the IR major requirements. In addition, Capstone Courses do not count towards the Upper Division Course requirements for either major.

University Honors Requirements
To receive University Honors credit, an Honors Program student who is a political science major must have a 3.5 GPA, complete the Honors curriculum of 8 specified courses, and must undertake two consecutive semesters of research/study in the form of a senior thesis with a faculty mentor. These two courses may be counted toward the student's total upper division POL courses, and one semester of the thesis can replace the POL Capstone Course requirement. Specific requirements for the Honors thesis may be found under the Honors Program.