

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 students to develop an understanding of governmental institutions and political systems. The major invites students to critically evaluate the LDS members' roles in national and international politics. Majors are exposed to the different subfields and associated theories in the academic study 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, American Government Education, and Public Administration. The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, and participates in the National BYU Political Affairs Society (BYUPAS).

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 in the three branches of government. State and local political institutions, political parties, interest groups, 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, international organizations, 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, Economics, or other related disciplines. Please consult with one of the Political Science faculty to determine which cluster or 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.

4+1 Program

Select students at BYU-Idaho may work towards a graduate degree in Political Science at Idaho State University while completing their BA in Political Science at BYU-Idaho. Contact the Department for more information about this program.

ETS Political Science Exit Exam Required for Graduation

All seniors in Political Science are required to take the ETS Political Science Major Field Test (MFT) in their last semester before graduation. The Department will fund the exam for all students, but those who choose to take the test off-campus may incur additional costs such as a proctor fee. Even though all majors must complete the MFT, there is no minimum score required at this time. You will receive exam instructions from the Department during the semester you apply for graduation.

BA in Political Science Foreign Affairs Emphasis (623-64)				
Fundamental Courses <i>Take these courses your first 4 semesters:</i> POLSC 110 3 POLSC 150 3 POLSC 170 3 POLSC 200 3 POLSC 280 3 <hr/> 15 <i>Take these courses:</i> (POLSC 498 must be taken for 3 credits) POLSC 311 3 POLSC 497R* 3 POLSC 498R 3-6 <hr/> 9 Theory Courses <i>Take 1 course:</i> POLSC 350 3 POLSC 360 3 POLSC 365 3 <hr/> 3	Professional Development <i>Take 2 courses in 1 option area:</i> GIS Option GEOG 230 3 GEOG 340 3 <hr/> 6 Language Option <i>Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language:</i> _____ 6 Statistics Option ECON 388 3 MATH 325 3 MATH 326 3 MATH 327 3 MATH 423 3 POLSC 301 3 <hr/> 6	Emphasis Requirements A <i>Take 4 courses:</i> POLSC 372 3 POLSC 375 3 POLSC 377 3 POLSC 378 3 POLSC 390 3 POLSC 392 3 POLSC 497R* 3 <hr/> 12 Emphasis Requirements B <i>Take 2 courses:</i> POLSC 314 3 POLSC 315 3 POLSC 316 3 POLSC 320 3 POLSC 330 3 POLSC 350 3 POLSC 360 3 POLSC 365 3 POLSC 380 3 POLSC 497R* 3 <hr/> 6	Breadth Courses <i>Take 1 course:</i> B 374 3 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 <hr/> 3	Program Notes: •No Double Counting of Major Courses •No Grade Less Than C- •*POLSC 497R is a repeatable course. Subsequent 497R credits may be used as part of the appropriate emphasis requirements.
Credit Requirements:			Tracks Available:	
Foundations	40		Fall-Winter	Yes
Major	54		Winter-Spring	Yes
Elective	26		Spring-Fall	Yes
Total	120			

BA in Political Science American Government Emphasis (623-65)				
Fundamental Courses <i>Take these courses your first 4 semesters:</i> POLSC 110 3 POLSC 150 3 POLSC 170 3 POLSC 200 3 POLSC 280 3 <hr/> 15 <i>Take these courses:</i> (POLSC 498 must be taken for 3 credits) POLSC 311 3 POLSC 497R* 3 POLSC 498R 3-6 <hr/> 9 Theory Courses <i>Take 1 course:</i> POLSC 350 3 POLSC 360 3 POLSC 365 3 <hr/> 3	Professional Development <i>Take 2 courses in 1 option area:</i> GIS Option GEOG 230 3 GEOG 340 3 <hr/> 6 Language Option <i>Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language:</i> _____ 6 Statistics Option <i>Take 2 courses:</i> ECON 388 3 MATH 325 3 MATH 326 3 MATH 327 3 MATH 423 3 POLSC 301 3 <hr/> 6	Emphasis Requirements A <i>Take 4 courses:</i> POLSC 314 3 POLSC 315 3 POLSC 316 3 POLSC 320 3 POLSC 330 3 POLSC 380 3 POLSC 497R* 3 <hr/> 12 Emphasis Requirements B <i>Take 2 courses:</i> POLSC 350 3 POLSC 360 3 POLSC 365 3 POLSC 372 3 POLSC 375 3 POLSC 377 3 POLSC 378 3 POLSC 390 3 POLSC 392 3 POLSC 497R* 3 <hr/> 6	Breadth Courses <i>Take 1 course:</i> B 374 3 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 <hr/> 3	Program Notes: •No Double Counting of Major Courses •No Grade Less Than C- •*POLSC 497R is a repeatable course. Subsequent 497R credits may be used as part of the appropriate emphasis requirements.
Credit Requirements:			Tracks Available:	
Foundations	40		Fall-Winter	Yes
Major	54		Winter-Spring	Yes
Elective	26		Spring-Fall	Yes
Total	120			

Minor in Political Science (126)					
Fundamental Courses <i>Take these courses:</i> POLSC 110 3 POLSC 150 3 POLSC 170 3 POLSC 200 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 12	Foreign Affairs <i>Take 1 course:</i> POLSC 372 3 POLSC 375 3 POLSC 377 3 POLSC 378 3 POLSC 390 3 POLSC 392 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3	Breadth Course <i>Take 1 course:</i> B 374 3 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 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3 <i>cont. in next column</i>	<i>cont. from previous column</i> 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 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3	Program Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No Double Counting of Minor Courses •Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses 	
Theory Courses <i>Take 1 course:</i> POLSC 350 3 POLSC 360 3 POLSC 365 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3	American Government <i>Take 1 course:</i> POLSC 314 3 POLSC 315 3 POLSC 316 3 POLSC 320 3 POLSC 330 3 POLSC 380 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3	Credit Requirements:			Tracks Available:
Total 24			Fall-Winter Yes Winter-Spring Yes Spring-Fall Yes		

Minor in American Government Education (128)		
Core Courses <i>Take these courses:</i> HIST 260 3 HIST 262 3 POLSC 110 3 POLSC 150 3 POLSC 206 1 POLSC 380 3 POLSC 406 2 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 18	Political Institutions <i>Take 1 course:</i> POLSC 311 3 POLSC 314 3 POLSC 315 3 POLSC 316 3 POLSC 320 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3	Program Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No Double Counting of Minor Courses •Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses •The American Government Education Minor cannot be combined with the History Education Major.
Credit Requirements:		Tracks Available:
Total 21		Fall-Winter Yes Winter-Spring Yes Spring-Fall Yes

Minor in Public Administration (231)				
Core Courses <i>Take these courses:</i> COMM 150 3 ECON 150 3 POLSC 330 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 9	Modules <i>Complete 1 module from the list of approved modules below:</i>			
<i>Take 1 course:</i> COMM 350 3 COMM 450 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3	Child and Family Administration <i>Take these courses:</i> FAML 400 3 FAML 430 3 FAML 460 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 9	Education Administration <i>Take these courses:</i> ED 200 2 ED 242 2 ED 312 2 FCS 380 3 TESOL 213 1 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 10	Environmental Administration <i>Take these courses:</i> BIO 202 4 BIO 351 3 BIO 423 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 10	International Administration <i>Take these courses:</i> B 375 3 POLSC 375 3 POLSC 377 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 9
<i>Take 1 course:</i> B 370 3 POLSC 200 3 PSYCH 355 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 3	Economics <i>Take these courses:</i> ECON 300 3 ECON 444 3 ECON 475 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 9	Emergency Management Administration <i>Take these courses:</i> GEOG 230 3 HS 370 3 HS 488 2 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 8	Health Care Administration <i>Take these courses:</i> HS 285 3 HS 390 3 HS 391 2 MA 106 2 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 10	Justice Administration <i>Take these courses:</i> SOC 330 3 SOC 355 3 SOC 440 3 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/> 9
Program Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No Double Counting of Minor Courses •Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses 				
Credit Requirements:			Tracks Available:	
Total 23			Fall-Winter Yes Winter-Spring Yes Spring-Fall Yes	

Political Science Predefined Clusters

Political Science - American Politics 4006

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 4007

Take these courses:

POLSC 150	Introduction to Comparative Politics	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 4008

Take 12 credits:

B 275	Business Law	3
COMM 102	Public Speaking	3
COMM 150	Interpersonal Theory and Practice	3
COMM 307	Ethics and Legal Issues	3
ENG 450	Rhetorical Studies	3
PHIL 205	Logic and Critical Thinking	3
PHIL 313	Ethics	3
POLSC 280	Introduction to Law	3
POLSC 316	The Judicial Branch	3
POLSC 380	U.S. Constitutional History and Law	3
Total Credits		12

Course Descriptions

Credits*

- POLSC 110 American Government (3:3:0:0)**
This course consists of an English background of American institutions, colonial systems of government, the Constitution, and 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 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3:3:0:0)**
This course will consist of the major types of government in present use: historical development, organization, and operation.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)
- POLSC 170 International Politics (3:3:0:0)**
This course consists of the study of the geographic, demographic, economic, and ideological factors affecting international behavior, including the function of power, diplomacy, international law, and organization.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)
- POLSC 200 Research Methods (3:3:0:0)**
Prerequisite: FDMAT 108
This course introduces students to the methods of political science research. Students will learn how to design, conduct, analyze, and interpret research in the social sciences. Specifically, we discuss how to conduct a literature review, formulate hypotheses, collect empirical data, and evaluate political science research findings. Students will learn how to analyze and interpret the z-test, Pearson's correlation coefficient, t-tests, ANOVA, chi-square tests, and basic linear regression.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)
- POLSC 206 Introduction to Secondary Methods (1:1:0:0)**
This course introduces methods of effective teaching needed for secondary education majors.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)
- POLSC 280 Introduction to Law (3:3:0:0)**
This course is an introduction to the study and practice of law. A "non-glamour" oriented approach to the reality of the law profession will be explored.
(Fall, Winter)
- POLSC 301 Advanced Political Inquiry (3:3:0:0)**
Prerequisite: POLSC 200
This course explores the systematic treatment of methodology in political science, including theory and techniques of research design.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)
- POLSC 311 State and Local Government (3:3:0:0)**
This course consists of the study of state and local political systems and their relationship to the federal system.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)
- POLSC 314 The Executive Branch (3:3:0:0)**
This course consists of a detailed study of the executive branch of government at the national and state levels focusing particularly on the powers of the American presidency.
(Fall)

- POLSC 315 The Legislative Branch (3:3:0:0)**
Prerequisite: POLSC 110
This course is 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.
(Winter)
- POLSC 316 The Judicial Branch (3:3:0:0)**
Prerequisite: POLSC 110
This course is an examination of the federal and state judicial systems of the United States. The course is particularly focused on the court as an institution.
(Fall, Spring)
- POLSC 320 Political Parties and Interest Group (3:3:0:0)**
This course explores the functions and roles of American political parties and interest groups: public, elections, policy.
(Fall, Spring)
- POLSC 330 Introduction to Public Administration (3:3:0:0)**
This course is an introduction to administrative procedures and policy-making in government agencies. It is also a socio psychological approach to the study of organizations. There will be some study of theory and policy assessment and the nature of bureaucracy.
(Fall, Winter)
- POLSC 350 Ancient Political Theory (3:3:0:0)**
This course explores political thought from Greek antiquity through the Renaissance, primarily from perspective of political philosophy and scriptures.
(Fall, Winter)
- POLSC 360 Modern Political Theory (3:3:0:0)**
This course explores western political thought from Renaissance to present, including American political philosophers. The course surveys contemporary political theory, including the revival of liberal-egalitarian moral theory.
(Fall, Winter)
- POLSC 365 Contemporary Political Theory (3:3:0:0)**
Current political debate is influenced by several controversies of political theory. This course examines the philosophical debates surrounding such issues as personal identity, justice, neutrality, equality, rights, liberty, distributive justice, discourses, and types of democracy. We do this with a view of honing our abilities to meet the university objectives, particularly to help us become disciple scholars engaged in a lifelong pursuit of effective involvement in the political process. Students will be able to understand, analyze, and critique diverse political theory and will hone their ability to make political claims in a way that merges out adherence to divine truth and our respect for multiple perspectives.
(Fall, Winter, Spring)
- POLSC 372 Advanced Theory of International Relations (3:3:0:0)**
Prerequisite: POLSC 170
This course consists of a study of influential traditions of thought in international relations; includes variants of realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.
(Fall, Winter)

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POLSC 375 International Law and Organization	(3:3:0:0)
Prerequisite: POLSC 170	
This course explores the role of international organizations in world politics including the sources, nature, and status of international law. (Fall, Spring)	
POLSC 377 Politics of Developing Nations	(3:3:0:0)
Prerequisite: POLSC 150	
This course is 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, and lack of democratic institutions and economic dependence. (Fall, Spring)	
POLSC 378 Advanced Comparative Politics	(3:3:0:0)
Prerequisite: POLSC 150	
This course involves the 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. (Fall, Winter)	
POLSC 380 U.S. Constitutional History and Law	(3:3:0:0)
Course equivalent to HIST 380	
This course consists of the 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.. (Fall, Winter)	
POLSC 390 American Foreign Policy	(3:3:0:0)
Prerequisite: POLSC 170	
This course explores 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. (Fall, Spring)	
POLSC 392 Terrorism and National Security	(3:3:0:0)
Prerequisite: POLSC 170	
This course explores the basic concepts, theoretical debates, and approaches to national security policy. It also examines the role of major policy actors and institutions to understand traditional and new threats to national security. (Fall, Winter)	
POLSC 394 International Political Economy	(3:3:0:0)
Prerequisite: POLSC 170	
This course offers a clear, practical approach to studying the nexus between politics and economics at the international level. Students will study how economic and political policies and actors influence one another and will be able to analyze different events, issues, and approaches relevant to understanding the connections. (Fall, Winter, Spring)	
POLSC 406 Secondary Methods	(2:3:0:0)
Prerequisites: POLSC 206 and ED 361	
This is a final, pre-student teaching course for secondary education majors and minors in the social sciences that will provide some instruction in writing objectives, reading strategies, writing assessments, writing lesson plans, and using various instructional methods in actual teaching experiences. (Fall, Winter, Spring)	
POLSC 497R Senior Seminar	(3:3:0:0)
Prerequisite: POLSC 300	
Repeatable Course: may earn maximum of 9 credits	
Seminar in political theory for students in their senior year devoted to current political science topics as determined by instructor. (Fall, Winter, Spring)	

POLSC 498R Political Science Internship	(1-6:0:0:0)
Repeatable Course: may earn maximum of 6 credits	
Internship Fees: \$81.50 (LDS) \$163 (non-LDS) per credit	
Exempt from tuition, but charged this independent course fee	
An internship is a cooperative program between the BYU-Idaho Department of History, Geography, and Political Science and an approved organization. Professional internships 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)	