

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 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, 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.

## 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)**

Take required Foundations courses

**Major Requirements**

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

Fundamental Courses	Professional Development	Emphasis Requirements A	Breadth Courses	Program Notes:
<i>Take these courses your first 2 semesters:</i>	<i>Take 2 courses in 1 option area:</i>	<i>Take 4 courses:</i>	<i>Take 1 course:</i>	*POLSC 497R is a repeatable course. Subsequent 497R credits may be used as part of the appropriate emphasis requirements.
POLSC 110           3	<b>GIS Option</b>	POLSC 372           3	GEOG 321           3	
POLSC 150           3	GEOG 230           3	POLSC 375           3	GEOG 350           3	
POLSC 170           3	GEOG 340           3	POLSC 377           3	HIST 310           3	
POLSC 280           3	6	POLSC 378           3	HIST 325           3	
12	<b>Language Option</b>	POLSC 390           3	HIST 330           3	
<i>Take these courses:</i>	<i>Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language:</i>	POLSC 392           3	HIST 335           3	
(POLSC 498 must be taken for 3 credits)	6	POLSC 497R*       3	HIST 340           3	
POLSC 300           3		12	INTST 341           3	
POLSC 311           3	<b>Statistics Option</b>	<b>Emphasis Requirements B</b>	INTST 342           3	
POLSC 497R*       3	<i>Take 2 courses:</i>	<i>Take 2 courses:</i>	INTST 343           3	
POLSC 498R       1-6	ECON 388           3	POLSC 314           3	INTST 344           3	
12	MATH 325           3	POLSC 315           3	INTST 345           3	
<b>Theory Courses</b>	MATH 326           3	POLSC 316           3	INTST 348           3	
<i>Take 1 course:</i>	MATH 327           3	POLSC 320           3	INTST 349           3	
POLSC 350           3	MATH 423           3	POLSC 330           3	INTST 350           3	
POLSC 360           3	6	POLSC 350           3	3	
3		POLSC 360           3		
		POLSC 380           3		
		POLSC 497R*       3		
		6		

**Total Major Credits=54**

**Additional Elective Credits Required for Graduation=26**

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 A	Breadth Courses	Program Notes:
<i>Take these courses your first 2 semesters:</i>	<i>Take 2 courses in 1 option area:</i>	<i>Take 4 courses:</i>	<i>Take 1 course:</i>	*POLSC 497R is a repeatable course. Subsequent 497R credits may be used as part of the appropriate emphasis requirements.
POLSC 110           3	<b>GIS Option</b>	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	6	POLSC 320           3	HIST 363           3	
12	<b>Language Option</b>	POLSC 330           3	HIST 370           3	
<i>Take these courses:</i>	<i>Take two 200 level or higher courses in 1 language:</i>	POLSC 380           3	HIST 372           3	
(POLSC 498R must be taken for 3 credits)	6	POLSC 497R*       3	HIST 376           3	
POLSC 300           3		12	HIST 378           3	
POLSC 311           3	<b>Statistics Option</b>	<b>Emphasis Requirements B</b>	SOC 323           3	
POLSC 497R*       3	<i>Take 2 courses:</i>	<i>Take 2 courses:</i>	SOC 330           3	
POLSC 498R       1-6	ECON 388           3	POLSC 350           3	SOC 360           3	
12	MATH 325           3	POLSC 360           3	SOC 370           3	
<b>Theory Courses</b>	MATH 326           3	POLSC 372           3	SOC 450           3	
<i>Take 1 course:</i>	MATH 327           3	POLSC 375           3	3	
POLSC 350           3	MATH 423           3	POLSC 377           3		
POLSC 360           3	6	POLSC 378           3		
3		POLSC 390           3		
		POLSC 392           3		
		POLSC 497R*       3		
		6		

**Total Major Credits=54**

**Additional Elective Credits Required for Graduation=26**

This major is available on the following tracks:

Fall-Winter---- YES

Winter-Spring---- YES

Spring-Fall---- YES

<b>Minor in Political Science (126)</b>				
<b>Minor Requirements</b>				
<i>No Double Counting of Minor Courses - Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses</i>				
<b>Fundamental Courses</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Foreign Affairs</b> <i>Take 1 course:</i>	<b>American Government</b> <i>Take 1 course:</i>	<b>Breadth Course</b> <i>Take 1 course:</i>	<i>cont. from previous column</i>
POLSC 110 3	POLSC 372 3	POLSC 314 3	GEOG 320 3	HIST 376 3
POLSC 150 3	POLSC 375 3	POLSC 315 3	GEOG 321 3	HIST 378 3
POLSC 170 3	POLSC 377 3	POLSC 316 3	GEOG 350 3	INTST 343 3
POLSC 300 3	POLSC 378 3	POLSC 320 3	HIST 310 3	INTST 344 3
<u>12</u>	POLSC 390 3	POLSC 330 3	HIST 325 3	INTST 345 3
<b>Theory Courses</b> <i>Take 1 course:</i>	POLSC 392 3	POLSC 380 3	HIST 330 3	INTST 348 3
POLSC 350 3	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	HIST 335 3	INTST 349 3
POLSC 360 3			HIST 340 3	INTST 350 3
<u>3</u>			HIST 360 3	SOC 323 3
			HIST 363 3	SOC 330 3
			HIST 370 3	SOC 360 3
			HIST 372 3	SOC 370 3
			<i>continued next column</i>	SOC 450 3
				<u>3</u>
<b>Total Minor Credits=24</b>				
This minor is available on the following tracks:				
Fall-Winter---- YES	Winter-Spring---- YES		Spring-Fall---- YES	

<b>Minor in American Government Education(128)</b>		
<b>Minor Requirements</b>		
<i>No Double Counting of Minor Courses - Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses</i>		
<b>Core Courses</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Political Institutions</b> <i>Take 1 course:</i>	<b>Program Notes:</b>
HIST 260 3	POLSC 311 3	The American Government Education Minor cannot be combined with the History Education Major.
HIST 262 3	POLSC 314 3	
POLSC 110 3	POLSC 315 3	
POLSC 150 3	POLSC 316 3	
POLSC 206 1	POLSC 320 3	
POLSC 380 3	<u>3</u>	
POLSC 406 2	<u>3</u>	
<u>18</u>		
<b>Total Minor Credits=21</b>		
This minor is available on the following tracks:		
Fall-Winter---- YES	Winter-Spring---- YES	
Spring-Fall---- YES		

<b>Minor in Public Administration (231)</b>								
<b>Minor Requirements</b>								
<i>No Double Counting of Minor Courses - Students must maintain a C- in their minor courses</i>								
<b>Core Courses</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Modules</b> <i>Complete 1 module from the list of approved modules below:</i>							
COMM 150 3	<b>Child and Family Administration</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Education Administration</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Environmental Administration</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>International Administration</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>				
ECON 150 3					FAML 400 3	ED 200 2	BIO 202 4	B 375 3
POLSC 330 3					FAML 430 3	ED 242 2	BIO 351 3	POLSC 375 3
<u>9</u>					FAML 460 2	ED 312 2	BIO 423 3	POLSC 377 3
<i>Take 1 course:</i>		ED 313 1						
COMM 350 3		HFED 380 3						
COMM 450 3		<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>				
<u>3</u>								
<i>Take 1 course:</i>	<b>Economics</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Emergency Management Administration</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Health Care Administration</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>	<b>Justice Administration</b> <i>Take these courses:</i>				
B 370 3	ECON 300 3	GEOG 230 3	HS 360 2	SOC 330 3				
PSYCH 355 3	ECON 444 3	HS 370 3	HS 390 3	SOC 355 3				
<u>3</u>	ECON 475 3	HS 488 3	HS 391 2	SOC 440 3				
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	MA 106 2	<u>9</u>				
			<u>9</u>					
<b>Total Minor Credits=23</b>								
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			4006
<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	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	

Political Science - International Politics			4007
<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	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	

Pre-Law			4008
<i>Take 12 credits:</i>			
B 275	Business Law	3	
COMM 102	Public Speaking	3	
COMM 150	Interpersonal Theory Practice	3	
COMM 307	Ethics and Legal Issues	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 316	Judicial Branch	3	
POLSC 380	US Constitutional History and Law	3	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	

**Course Descriptions**

**Credits\***

- POLSC 110 American Government (3:3:0)**  
 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.  
 (Winter, Spring, Fall)
- POLSC 150 Foreign Government (3:3:0)**  
 Major types of government in present use: historical development, organization, and operation.  
 (Winter, Spring, Fall)
- POLSC 170 International Politics (3:3:0)**  
 The study of the geographic, demographic, economic, and ideological factors affecting international behavior, including the function of power, diplomacy, international law and organization  
 (Winter Spring Fall)
- POLSC 206 Introduction to Secondary Methods (1:1:0)**  
 Introduction to methods of effective teaching for secondary education majors.  
 (Winter, Spring, Fall)
- POLSC 280 Introduction to Law (3:3:0)**  
 An introduction to the study and practice of law. An oriented approach to the reality of the law profession.  
 (Winter and Fall)
- POLSC 300 Political Inquiry (3:3:0)**  
 Prerequisites: MATH 221A, MATH 221B, or MATH 221C  
 Systematic treatment of methodology in political science, including theory and techniques of research design.  
 (Winter and Fall)
- POLSC 311 State and Local Government (3:3:0)**  
 A study of state and local political systems and their relationship to the federal system.  
 (Winter, Spring, Fall)
- POLSC 314 The Executive Branch (3:3:0)**  
 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)**  
 Prerequisite: POLSC 110  
 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)**  
 Prerequisite: POLSC 110  
 An examination of the federal and state judicial systems of the United States. The course is particularly focused on the court as an institution.  
 (Spring and Fall)

- POLSC 320 Political Parties and Interest Group (3:3:0)**  
 Functions and roles of American political parties and interest groups: public, elections, policy.  
 (Spring and Fall)
- POLSC 330 Introduction to Public Administration (3:3:0)**  
 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.  
 (Winter and Fall)
- POLSC 350 Ancient Political Theory (3:3:0)**  
 Political thought from Greek antiquity through the Renaissance, primarily from perspective of political philosophy and scriptures.  
 (Winter and Fall)
- POLSC 360 Modern Political Theory (3:3:0)**  
 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.  
 (Winter and Fall)
- POLSC 372 Advanced Theory of International Relations (3:3:0)**  
 Prerequisite: POLSC 170  
 A study of influential traditions of thought in international relations; includes variants of realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.  
 (Winter and Fall)
- POLSC 375 International Law and Organization (3:3:0)**  
 Prerequisite: POLSC 170  
 Explores the role of international organizations in world politics including the sources, nature, and status of international law.  
 (Spring and Fall)
- POLSC 377 Politics of Developing Nations (3:3:0)**  
 Prerequisite: POLSC 150  
 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.  
 (Spring and Fall)
- POLSC 378 Politics of Advanced Industry Nations (3:3:0)**  
 Prerequisite: POLSC 150  
 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.  
 (Winter and Fall)
- POLSC 380 U.S. Constitutional History and Law (3:3:0)**  
 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.  
 (Winter and Fall)

**POLSC 390 American Foreign Policy**

**(3:3:0)**

Prerequisite: POLSC 170

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.

(Spring and Fall)

**POLSC 392 Terrorism and National Security**

**(3:3:0)**

Prerequisite: POLSC 170

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.

(Winter and Fall)

**POLSC 406 Secondary Methods**

**(2:2:0)**

Prerequisites: POLSC 206 and ED 361

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.

(Winter, Spring, Fall)

**POLSC 497R Senior Seminar**

**(3:3:0)**

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.

(Winter, Spring, Fall)

**POLSC 498R Political Science Internship**

**(1-6:0:0)**

Repeatable Course: may earn maximum of 6 credits

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.

(Winter, Spring, Fall)