

History/Geography/Political Science, Political Science—American Government emphasis

June 2013

Program to University Outcomes Matrix

Political Science, American Government Emphasis	Disciple Leaders	Lifelong Learners	Creative and Critical Thinkers	Effective Communicators	Skilled Professionals	Engaged Citizens
Demonstrate a capacity for critical writing. They will be able to construct a persuasive, evidence-based analysis of a political question.			X	X		
Produce various forms of political writing including literature reviews, policy briefs, book reviews, and formal research papers.			X	X	X	
Demonstrate the capacity to research and produce a list of relevant references for a political question.		X	X		X	
Read, analyze, interpret, and critique political science articles of varying complexity.			X		X	
Demonstrate awareness and understanding of key domestic and international issues.					X	X
Demonstrate sensitivity to and understanding of multiple perspectives as they consider political issues.					X	X
Use abstract ideas, models, and theories to interpret and make sense of concrete realities.			X		X	
Provide effective written and verbal communication about their own views regarding an ethical political and civic life.				X	X	
Compare different governmental types and evaluate the effects those types of governments have on their respective countries.					X	X
Demonstrate a knowledge of American governmental structure, key issues and events in the development of American political institutions.					X	X
Demonstrate familiarity with major political ideologies and theorists.					X	
Apply theories to understand contemporary and historical events.					X	

Course to Program Outcomes Map

B.A. Political Science Am. Govt. Outcomes	Courses																				
	POLSC 110	POLSC 150	POLSC 170	POLSC 280	POLSC 300	POLSC 311	POLSC 314	POLSC 315	POLSC 316	POLSC 320	POLSC 330	POLSC 350	POLSC 360	POLSC 372	POLSC 375	POLSC 377	POLSC 378	POLSC 380	POLSC 390	POLSC 392	POLSC 497
Graduates of this program will:																					
Program Outcomes:																					
Demonstrate a capacity for critical writing. They will be able to construct a persuasive, evidence-based analysis of a political question.				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Produce various forms of political writing including literature reviews, policy briefs, book reviews, and formal research papers.				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstrate the capacity to research and produce a list of relevant references for a political question.				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Read, analyze, interpret, and critique political science articles of varying complexity.	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of key domestic international and political issues.	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstrate sensitivity to and understanding of multiple perspectives as they consider political issues.	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Use abstract ideas, models, and theories to interpret and make sense of concrete realities.			X									X	X	X					X		X
Provide effective written and verbal communication about their own views regarding an ethical question and civic life.				X								X	X								X
Compare different governmental types and evaluate the effects those types of governments have on their respective countries.		X	X											X	X	X	X				X
Demonstrate a knowledge of American government structure, key issues and events in the development of American political institutions.	X			X			X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X
Demonstrate familiarity with major political ideologies and theorists.			X									X	X	X					X		X
Apply theories to understand contemporary and historical events.			X									X	X	X					X		X

Assessment Plan/Data

BA Political Science Am Govt Assessment	Courses					
	Assessment Method	Beginning	Basic Competence	Proficient	Exceptional	Sum
A graduate of this program will:						
Program Outcomes:						
Demonstrate a capacity for critical writing. They will be able to construct a persuasive, evidence-based analysis of a political question.	Senior Thesis	9%	12%	39%	40%	100%
Produce various forms of political writing including literature reviews, policy briefs, book reviews, and formal research papers.	Senior Thesis	9%	12%	39%	40%	100%
Demonstrate the capacity to research and produce a list of relevant references for a political question.	Senior Thesis	9%	12%	39%	40%	100%
Read, analyze, interpret, and critique political science articles of varying complexity.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%
Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of key domestic international and political issues.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%
Demonstrate sensitivity to and understanding of multiple perspectives as they consider political issues.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%
Use abstract ideas, models, and theories to interpret and make sense of concrete realities.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%
Provide effective written and verbal communication about their own views regarding an ethical question and civic life.	Senior Thesis	9%	12%	39%	40%	100%
Compare different governmental types and evaluate the effects those types of governments have on their respective countries.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%
Demonstrate a knowledge of American government structure, key issues and events in the development of American political institutions.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%
Demonstrate familiarity with major political ideologies and theorists.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%
Apply theories to understand contemporary and historical events.	Exit Exam	14%	27%	59%	0%	100%

Exceptional: Excellent level of achievement; exceeds expectations; "A" or above 90%
Proficient: Good level of achievement; meets expectations; "B" or 80-90%

Basic: Fair level of achievement; minimally meets expectations; "C" or 70-80%

Beginning: Low level of achievement; fails to meet expectations: "D" or below 70%

Improvement Plan

The Political Science program has seen a great deal of expansion in recent years, including the addition of an introductory course, a research methods course, and a newly revised capstone course.

Performance indicates a high level of outcome achievement. The faculty will continue to monitor student performance and seek improvements at the course level to raise performance even further.

University Outcomes (For Reference)

The purpose of a BYU-Idaho education is to help students to become

- 1. Disciple leaders*
- 2. Lifelong learners*
- 3. Creative and critical thinkers*
- 4. Effective communicators*
- 5. Skilled professionals*
- 6. Engaged citizens*