

Political Science

C. Bradley Scharf, PhD, Chair

Objectives

Politics is essential to the human condition. It is expressed in patterns of influence among individuals, in the actions of states in world affairs, and in collective efforts to achieve our most noble goals. The political science curriculum links moral issues to empirical analysis of political life and explores the realities of political behavior at local, state, national, and international levels. A political science major helps students prepare for careers in government, social and political organizations, international relations, business, and education, and for graduate study or law school.

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Arts

Majors Offered

Political Science

Political Science with Departmental Honors

Political Science with Specialization in Legal Studies

Minors Offered

American Law and Politics

Global Politics

General Program Requirements

Students in political science satisfy the university core curriculum requirements as given in this *Bulletin*, and must complete the general program requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. Macroeconomics is required as partial fulfillment of the social science core. Political science majors are strongly encouraged to take additional courses in history, economics, and languages. Advisors may recommend electives in public affairs, business, sociology, philosophy, and writing. Students who plan to attend law school should consult the prelaw section of this *Bulletin* and see a prelaw advisor.

Bachelor of Arts

Major in Political Science

In order to earn the bachelor of arts degree with a major in political science, students must complete a minimum of 180 credits with a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 2.00, including the following:

I. Core Curriculum Requirements

ENGL 110	College Writing: Inquiry and Argument	5
PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking	5
HIST 120	Origins of Western Civilization	5
ENGL 120	Introduction to Literature	5
MATH 107 or 110 or above	5
Lab Science	5
Fine Arts (one approved 5 credit course; see course descriptions)	5
PHIL 220	Philosophy of the Human Person	5

Social Science I (not economics or political science)	5
Social Science II (ECON 271 required).....	*5
Theology and Religious Studies Phase II (200-299)	5
Ethics (upper division).....	5
Theology and Religious Studies Phase III (300-399)	5
Interdisciplinary (can be fulfilled by designated PLSC course)	3 to 5
Senior Synthesis (can be fulfilled by designated PLSC course).....	3 to 5

*Included in major GPA.

II. College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

Modern Language 115, 125, 135, or equivalent 15

NOTE: All students with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences must demonstrate competency through the level of 135 in a language other than English. This competency is ordinarily achieved by successful completion of the three-course sequence: 115, 125, and 135. Because these courses are a college requirement, no courses in the sequence may be taken on a pass/fail, correspondence, or audit basis. Placement into other than the beginning course of the sequence is achieved by acceptable performance on the Modern Language Competency Examination. See the Modern Languages Department for details on the examinations. Courses used to satisfy the College of Arts and Sciences modern language requirement may not be used to fulfill political science major requirements.

Choose one of the following two courses: 5

HIST 121 **Studies in Modern Civilization**

HIST 231 **Survey of the United States**

III. Major Requirements

60 credits in political science, including:

PLSC 200 Introduction to American Politics	5
PLSC 230 Comparing Nations	5
PLSC 250 Introduction to Political Theory	5
PLSC 260 Introduction to International Politics	5
American Politics (PLSC 300, 301, 304, 305, 309, 311, 319, 410, 483)	5
Comparative Politics (PLSC 332, 334, 335, 337, 338, 432)	5
International Politics (PLSC 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 464, 469, 485)	5
Political Theory and Law (PLSC 320, 321, 322, 325, 326, 327, 352, 355, 356, 422, 459)	5
PLSC Electives	20

NOTE: 1. Transfer students are required to take at least one course at Seattle University from each of the four fields: American politics, comparative politics, international politics, and political theory and law. 2. Several PLSC courses have been identified as satisfying the senior synthesis and the core interdisciplinary requirements. Those courses may be used to fill major requirements or major electives while also fulfilling university core requirements. The credit for each course completed is included in totals only once.

Bachelor of Arts

Major in Political Science with Departmental Honors

The political science departmental honors major offers an opportunity for motivated and capable students to engage in more extensive interaction with faculty and to complete challenging individual research projects that will further their personal and professional goals.

Application to the major: To be accepted to the program, students must have a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 3.50. Interested students should apply in spring quarter of the

junior year or fall quarter of the senior year. Upon acceptance, a Change of Major, Degree or Specialization form is submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

Completion of the major: During senior year, honors students will complete, over multiple quarters, a ten-credit departmental honors thesis (PLSC 479). Students in the departmental honors program complete 5 credits of course work above the norm for political science majors (for a total of 65 credits in political science) and write a substantial thesis under the direction of a faculty member. The thesis will be graded by departmental faculty. In order to complete the requirements for departmental honors and receive a notation to that effect on their transcripts, students must also maintain a cumulative and major/program grade point average of 3.50. In addition, the grade received for PLSC 479 Departmental Honors Thesis Supervision must be an A or A-. In addition to the bachelor of arts major in political science requirements, the honors major also includes:

Ten credits in departmental honors, including:

PLSC 479	Departmental Honors Thesis Supervision (credits may vary per quarter).....	1 to 10
-----------------	--	----------------

**Bachelor of Arts
Major in Political Science
Specialization in Legal Studies**

The political science legal studies specialization addresses student interest in legal reasoning; the role of law in politics, society, and the economy; and the legal basics of modern democracy and theories of justice. It is most broadly concerned with the legal foundations of modern society and politics, and it addresses questions of justice, power, and order from the perspective of the liberal arts. It is intended to prepare students for many possible careers and future courses of study.

I. Core Curriculum Requirements

Same as bachelor of arts in political science. Senior Synthesis is satisfied by PLSC 422. ECON 271 is required for Core Social Science II, and an approved core interdisciplinary course is required.

II. Major Requirements

60 credits in political science including:

PLSC 200	Introduction to American Politics	5
PLSC 230	Comparing Nations	5
PLSC 250	Introduction to Political Theory	5
PLSC 260	Introduction to International Politics	5

III. Specialization Requirements

PLSC 319	Law, Politics, and Society	5
PLSC 422	Law, Politics, and Justice (satisfies Core Senior Synthesis requirement) ..	5

Choose one of the following:

PLSC 321	American Constitutional Law	
PLSC 322	Civil Liberties in American Constitutional Law	

Choose one of the following:

PLSC 325	Race and the Law	
PLSC 326	Law and Gender	

Choose 15 credits from the following (not duplicated above):.....

PLSC 320	Legal Theory	
PLSC 321	American Constitutional Law	

PLSC 322	Civil Liberties in American Constitutional Law
PLSC 325	Race and the Law
PLSC 326	Law and Gender
PLSC 327	The Politics of Rights
PLSC 356	American Political Thought
PLSC 362	Global Governance
PLSC 464	European Union
PLSC 495	Internship (1 to 5)

Choose five credits from the following interdisciplinary courses:..... 5

ANTH/SOCL 333	Sociology and Anthropology of Law
BLAW 370	Business and International Law
BLAW 476	International Law
CEEGRG 476	Environmental Law and Impact Studies (4) and an approved Independent Study (1)
CMJR 494	Communication Rights and Law
ENG 308	Advanced Writing: Argument and Persuasion
PHIL 260	Introduction to Logic
PHIL 326	Philosophy of Law
SOCL 402	Sociological Theory
SOCL 481	Sexual Politics

Minor in American Law and Politics

In order to earn a minor in American law and politics students must complete 30 credits in political science, including:

PLSC 200	Introduction to American Politics	5
PLSC 250	Introduction to Political Theory	5

Choose one of the following two courses: 5

PLSC 321	American Constitutional Law
PLSC 322	Civil Liberties in American Constitutional Law

Choose three of the following courses:..... 15

PLSC 300, 301, 304, 305, 309, 311, 319, 325, 326, 327, 352, 355, 356, 410, 422, 459, 483

Minor in Global Politics

In order to earn a minor in Global Politics students must complete 30 credits in political science, including:

PLSC 230	Comparing Nations	5
PLSC 260	Introduction to International Politics	5

Choose four of the following courses:..... 20

PLSC 332, 334, 335, 337, 338, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 432, 464, 469, 485

See policy for minors (84-1) for more information.

Political Science Courses

Courses that fulfill field requirements for the political science major are designated by the following code:

- A American Politics
- C Comparative Politics
- I International Politics
- TL Political Theory and Law

- PLSC 120 Citizenship** 5
Exploration of what it means to be a citizen in a democratic community. Rights and responsibilities. Issues of justice and authority. Global, national, and local levels of governance. Core Option: Social Science I.
- PLSC 200 Introduction to American Politics** 5
Constitutional and historical foundations of the federal government. Processes and structures of American politics from conservative, radical, and reformist perspectives. Power, class, and culture as elements affecting citizen participation and as shapers of economic and social policy. Core Option: Social Science II.
- PLSC 230 Comparing Nations** 5
Political diversity in contemporary nations of Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Structures of power and the social effects of public policies. Applies theories of political economy and political sociology. Core Option: Social Science II.
- PLSC 250 Introduction to Political Theory** 5
Tenets and historical development of modern political ideologies, with a focus on liberalism, conservatism, and democratic socialism. Theoretical and philosophical questions, such as political obligation and justice. Core Option: Social Science II.
- PLSC 260 Introduction to International Politics** 5
Analysis of the international system, including balance of power theory, theories of international cooperation, and of global peace and justice. Major themes include war, nationalism, the global economy, the European Community, interventionism, and the new world order. Core Option: Social Science II.
- PLSC 296 Directed Study** 1 to 5
- PLSC 300 Environmental Politics** 5
Current issues in environmental stewardship facing the human race. The political process as a means of environmental protection at the local, national, and global levels of government. A.
- PLSC 301 The Evolving Presidency** 5
An exploration of the factors that explain presidential success or failure. Personality and presidential performance. The crisis presidency. Cross-listed with HIST 345. A.
- PLSC 304 Interests, Parties, and Elections** 5
Popular participation, group influence, party organization, and electoral choice in the American political system. A.
- PLSC 305 The Policy Process** 5
How public policies are enacted and implemented in the U.S. The constitutional, political, ideological, and socio-economic constraints on policy makers. The relationship between economic structure and the substance of public policy. A.
- PLSC 309 Local and State Politics** 5
Examination of structures and functions of political institutions at local, state, county, and special district levels, especially legislative, executive, and judicial systems. A.

- PLSC 311 The Politics of Race, Class and Poverty..... 5**
 Political causes and consequences of race and class hierarchies and marginalization in the U.S. at the level of ideology, institutions, and individuals. How is inequality based upon and reproduced by these socio-political categories? Examination of how this tension is manifest in the "peculiar" American view of poverty and social policy as outwardly individually based, yet inherently group based in practice. A.
- PLSC 319 Law, Politics, and Society 5**
 An examination and critical reflection on the inextricable links between law, society, and politics. Influence of race, class, sex, and corporate governance. Basic legal concepts, techniques and terminology. A.
- PLSC 320 Legal Theory..... 5**
 Modern legal theories and the answers they provide to questions such as the nature of law, the relationship between law and morality, the interpretation of legal texts, the functions of law and legal institutions in economic and political systems, and the role of law in the pursuit of ideals such as social justice. TL.
- PLSC 321 American Constitutional Law 5**
 Philosophy and development of the United States Constitution as reflected in Supreme Court decisions. Emphasis on equal protection, separation of powers, federalism, regulation of commerce, and the role of the court. TL.
- PLSC 322 Civil Liberties in American Constitutional Law..... 5**
 The legal, political, and philosophic dimensions of pivotal constitutional cases, with special focus on the "incorporation" or "nationalization" of the Bill of Rights, due process, right of privacy, and freedom speech and expression. PLSC 321 is NOT a prerequisite. TL.
- PLSC 325 Race and the Law..... 5**
 State and federal laws and court decisions that shape ethnic minority rights, gender rights, and community environmental rights. The class features presentations by judicial officials and rights attorneys, as well as student reports on contemporary controversies. TL.
- PLSC 326 Law and Gender..... 5**
 Feminist studies of law and its relationship to legal reform. Sexuality equality difference; marriage, sexuality, and the state; reproductive rights; transgender equality; and violence in 'private' and 'public' spheres. TL.
- PLSC 327 The Politics of Rights 5**
 What is a right? Why are some rights respected and others ignored? Who must recognize rights in order for them to exist? This course considers these questions primarily within the US political framework, with some attention to global discussion of human rights. TL.
- PLSC 332 Politics of Japan 5**
 Political power structures as agents of Japan's social and economic transformation. The decline of consensus, and the rise of pressures for political and economic reform. United States links to our second largest trading partner. C.
- PLSC 334 Chinese Politics 5**
 Pragmatism and ideology in transforming China's economy and government. Cultural, social, and demographic influences. Class, ethnicity, religion, and gender as foci of political conflict. China's future as a global power. Cross-listed with INST 334. C.
- PLSC 335 Latin American Politics 5**
 Four struggles: democratization, sovereignty, development, equity. Consideration of political economy, history, institutions, key actors and case studies. Democratic and authoritarian regimes, state-led and market-led economic policies, revolutionary and non-violent social movements, and identity politics. Cross-listed with INST 320. C.

- PLSC 337 Politics of Development..... 5**
The politics and public policy of economic growth and welfare. Utilitarian “let’s fix the problem of poverty” discussed in light of international trade and aid policies as well as state capacity to govern. Comparative examples taken from successful northern and southern states. C.
- PLSC 338 The Political Economy of Africa 5**
Political order, state-building, and economic development in Sub-Saharan Black Africa. Theories of comparative social, economic, and political change. Historical and contemporary causes of famine, civil war, debt, United States and other great power influence, and revolution in South Africa. C.
- PLSC 352 Modern Political Thought 5**
Foundations of modern Western political thought, from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. TL.
- PLSC 355 Contemporary Political Thought 5**
The question of a crisis in modern Western political thought, explored in relation to Freud and modern identity, existentialism, Marx and critical theory, the critique of global capitalism, Arendt and civic, post-modernism, and feminism. TL.
- PLSC 356 American Political Thought..... 5**
Survey of American political thought, with special focus on the critical debates which marked turning points in our nation’s history. TL.
- PLSC 361 U.S. Foreign Policy..... 5**
The United States role in the international system. The sources of American foreign policy commitments in history, culture, social and economic conditions, and the process of government. Focus on United States relations with the republics of the former Soviet Union, the Third World, and Europe. I.
- PLSC 362 Global Governance 5**
How states cooperate to form treaties, institutions, and informal agreements. The United Nations and its specialized agencies, GATT, IMF, the World Bank, UNEP, and the Law of the Sea. Theories of institutionalization, integration, regimes, and interdependence. Cross-listed with INST 362. I.
- PLSC 363 North-South Relations 5**
The international relations of the more powerful and wealthy part of the world system (the North) in relationship to the relatively less powerful and wealthy (the South). Liberal, structural, realist, and neo-conservative theories. Aid, trade, MNC’s, immigration, terrorism, and military intervention. Multilateralism, diplomacy, and unilateral foreign policy. I.
- PLSC 364 US-Latin American Relations..... 5**
Theoretical insights from international relations and human geography theory including historical and idealistic perspectives. Themes include sovereignty and intervention, inter-American organizations, trade and development, trans-American migration, and drug trafficking. Comparison with US-Philippines relations. Cross-listed with INST 321. I.
- PLSC 365 East Asian Security..... 5**
Through various theoretical lenses of international relations, this course examines the sources of conflict and cooperation in Northeast Asia, with a primary focus on China, Japan, and the two Koreas, and their interactions with the United States and Russia, in the Cold War and the post-Cold War contexts. Cross-listed with INST 365. I.

PLSC 366	Comparative Foreign Policy	5
Examination of key forces at the individual, group, state and systemic levels of analysis that shape and change foreign policy behavior of states, including decision-making, group dynamics, organizational interests, public opinion, national role conception, strategic interaction and relative capability changes in the international system. The impact of these forces is elucidated through cross-national comparisons of foreign policy interests, process and outcomes. Cross-listed with INST 366. I.		
PLSC 391-393	Special Topics	1 to 5
PLSC 396	Directed Study	1 to 5
PLSC 406	Washington State Legislature	5
Tutorial. Offered only in conjunction with 10 credits of 495, Legislative Internship.		
PLSC 410	Urban Politics and Public Policy	5
Problems of large American cities, including taxation, transportation, housing, public safety, and schools. Special attention to community and diversity. A.		
PLSC 422	Law, Politics, and Justice	5
Exploration of the theoretical and empirical dimensions of the close but often uneasy relationship between law and justice. Legal concepts, institutions, and processes are examined in relation to political obligation and problems with efforts to translate ideals of justice into law. Senior Synthesis. TL.		
PLSC 432	Social Policy: US and Europe	5
Social policy programs and outcomes assessed by justice and efficiency criteria. Interplay of social and economic policy. Focus on taxation, income maintenance, health care, education, social services. Impact of government structure, interest groups, demography. US, Canada, Western Europe, Scandinavia. Senior Synthesis. C.		
PLSC 459	Topics in Political Philosophy	5
In-depth analysis of an issue, theorist, or debate of contemporary relevance, including theories of justice, the future of liberalism, and the interpretation of political language. Senior Synthesis. TL.		
PLSC 464	European Union	5
The European Union's myriad institutions regulate business activity in fifteen nations, affect prosperity for 300 million people, and help shape the global economy. Member governments are transformed by their own creation, interest groups bridge national boundaries, economic and social rights are redefined, and a unique system of politics emerges. I.		
PLSC 468	Transnational Networks and Globalization	5
Cross-border political networking among non-governmental and social movement organizations. Influence of these transnational networks on globalization, international relations, and citizenship. Case studies of transnational advocacy around human rights, terrorism, economic globalization and environmental issues. Examined with theory from political science, sociology and geography. Cross-listed with INST 468. I.		
PLSC 469	Hegemony and Empire	5
Seminar on two forms of international order. Theories and debates on the distinctions between a dominant power based on the control of foreign policy or on the control of domestic governance. How basic rules of sovereignty and national self determination challenge this. Senior Synthesis. I.		
PLSC 479	Departmental Honors Thesis Supervision	1 to 10

PLSC 480	The Human Prospect	5
	An examination of the social and political implications of the dangers of nuclear war and ecological suicide. Emphasis on discovering political strategies for preventing a world cataclysm. Core interdisciplinary or Senior Synthesis.	
PLSC 483	Native American Encounters	5
	Native American culture and politics. An examination of four centuries of political interactions between Native Americans and European Americans using the techniques of film criticism, literary analysis, ecological science, anthropology, history, economics, and political science. Core interdisciplinary option. Cross-listed with HIST 484. A.	
PLSC 485	Indigenous Movements in Latin America	5
	Organization, mobilization and impact of indigenous peoples' movements in Latin America. Legacies of colonialism in current globalization processes; social identities and inequalities; political efficacy of marginalized groups. Theory from inter-disciplinary fields of post-colonial studies, race and ethnic studies, and social movement studies. Implications for social justice and diversity. Core interdisciplinary option. Cross-listed with INST 485. I.	
PLSC 495	Internship	1 to 5
	On-the-job experience with appropriate governmental or nonprofit agency. Students may register for no more than 5 total intern credits, except in the case of the Washington State program. Mandatory CR/F.	
PLSC 491-493	Special Topics	1 to 5
PLSC 496	Independent Study	1 to 5
PLSC 497	Directed Reading	1 to 5
PLSC 498	Directed Research	1 to 5