

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Political Science

Faculty

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Curriculum

Since exposure to other political systems and ideas is vital in this increasingly interdependent world, students of all interests and backgrounds will find political science courses relevant and of value. The political science curriculum includes both required and elective courses appropriate for a general liberal arts education and for the major in political science. The core course, American Government, meets the general education requirement in American Institutions and lays a broad analytical framework that may be employed in examining political issues. Other courses in the curriculum meet general education requirements in the social sciences.

Major

Most social, economic and moral issues have political implications; and governmental policy affects most aspects of daily life. Political science is an excellent liberal arts major for students interested in learning how groups of people govern themselves; how policies are made; and how we can improve our government policies at the local, state, national, and international levels. Those interested in American politics, international affairs, critical issues such as civil rights, health care, the environment and the deficit should consider this course of study. A political science major provides a solid foundation for jobs in almost any field, from business to law to research.

Associate in Arts Degree in Political Science:

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major and general education requirements (page 22), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 20-21 for further information, including other options for fulfilling the major requirement.

Transfer Preparation:

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should (1) refer to the transfer section of this catalog, (2) consult the catalog of their prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance), and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before beginning their program. It may be helpful to meet with the department faculty at IVC.

**Associate in Arts Degree
 Political Science Major**

Required Core Courses—

Complete the following:

		Units
PS 1	American Government	3
PS 3	California Government and Politics	3
PS 4	Introduction to Political Science	3
PS 5	Political Philosophy	3
PS 12	Modern Government	3
PS 14	International Relations	3

Required Options, Regional Studies—

Select one of the following courses:

PS 6	Politics and Government of the Middle East	3
PS 7	Politics and Society of the Former Soviet Union	3
PS 17	Latin American Politics and Government	3
PS 45	Survey of Africa	3

TOTAL UNITS: 21

Recommended electives: CWE 168; ECON 1, 2, 20; HIST 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22; MATH 10; PHIL 2; PS 89, 99, 189, 199, 201, 289, 299.

Political Science Courses

CWE 168: Cooperative Work Experience: Political Science

1–4 Units

1–4 hours lecture

Prerequisite: Student must have taken or must be currently taking a course in college-level political science. Limitation: Student must be concurrently enrolled in 7 units, including CWE. Application must be approved by CWE coordinator. This course provides students an opportunity for supervised work experience. Students extend their classroom-based occupational learning by working at a job related to their major and to their occupational goal. Student, instructor, and employer will cooperatively develop a minimum of three learning objectives. One unit of credit will be awarded for each 75 hours of paid or 60 hours of volunteer employment for successful completion of learning objectives, and for attendance at scheduled seminar sessions. A maximum of four units may be applied toward major requirements for a certificate. R-I-3

PS 1: American Government

3 Units

3 hours lecture

This course provides a survey of the principles, personalities, problems, and issues of government. Emphasis is on developing trends of the U.S. government. The course may be offered by a mediated mode of instruction. (CAN GOVT 2) NR

PS 3: California Government and Politics

3 Units

3 hours lecture

This course examines the structure of California state and local governments from a national comparative perspective. Major issues facing the state will be critically examined, such as the economy, immigration, environmental protection, crime and education. NR

PS 4: Introduction to Political Science**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

This course is an introduction to the study of politics. The course is designed to familiarize the student with the basic systems, ideologies, and models of political analysis. NR

PS 5: Political Philosophy**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

Political Philosophy introduces traditional philosophical issues concerning politics. Among these issues are the nature and grounds of political obligation, the nature and possibility of legitimate political authority, and the tension between legitimate coercion and freedom. The course emphasizes classic works in political philosophy, including Plato's "Republic," Hobbes' "Leviathan," and Locke's "Second Treatise." Political Science 5 is also listed as Philosophy 5; credit will be given in either area, not both. NR

PS 6: Politics and Government of the Middle East**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

This course introduces students to the historical, ideological, and social foundations of the governments and politics of the major Middle Eastern states, including Iran, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Issues of regional and international importance will be explored, including human rights and democratization, economic development, Islamic fundamentalism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the politics of oil. NR

PS 7: Politics and Society of the Former Soviet Union**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

This course surveys the major forces which have shaped the political, economic, and social systems of the former Soviet states. Not only will the formal and informal institutional structures and ideological and historical foundations be covered, but also topics such as glasnost, perestroika, nationalities, and relations with the West will be of major focus. Formerly PS 5. NR

PS 12: Modern Government**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

This course includes an introductory examination of the nature of government, its legitimate functions and various forms, and a particular examination of democracy and dictatorship. Examples of modern governments from Western Europe, the communist world, and the Third World are studied. NR

PS 14: International Relations**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

This course studies the international system from a dual perspective, focusing on the central concepts of power politics and political economy. The causes of global political and economic conflicts will be examined, including the North-South gap, war, and nuclear proliferation. Techniques for international cooperation will be critically evaluated, including diplomacy, bargaining, alliances, and the United Nations system. NR

PS 17: Latin American Politics and Government**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

This course provides a contemporary analysis of selected Latin American governments, comparing and contrasting the types of politics emerging with our neighbors to the south. Focus will be on Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Brazil, and Argentina. NR

PS 45: Survey of Africa**3 Units***3 hours lecture*

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to African affairs, with particular emphasis on recent historical, political, and social events. Special emphasis will be given to the problems of militarism, cultural identity, development, and race relations. Political Science 45 is also listed as History 45; credit will be given in either area, not both. NR

PS 89: Special Topics in Political Science**0.5–5 units***0.5–5 hours lecture, 0.5–5 hours lab*

This transfer-level course provides an opportunity to explore a topical concept, issue, or event in the field of political science. The course content is thematic in nature, and each version differs from other offerings in the same course. Granting of UC credit for courses of this kind is contingent upon a review of the course outline by a UC campus. R-E

PS 99: Special Topics in Political Science**0.5–5 units***0.5–5 hours lecture, 0.5–5 hours lab*

This transfer-level course explores a particular subject in the field of political science which is likely to become a part of the college curriculum. The course content is thematic in nature, and each version differs from other offerings in the same course. Granting of UC credit for courses of this kind is contingent upon a review of the course outline by a UC campus. R-E

PS 189: Special Topics in Political Science**0.5–5 units***0.5–5 hours lecture, 0.5–5 hours lab*

This course provides an opportunity to explore a topical concept, issue, or event in the field of political science. The course content is thematic in nature, and each version differs from other offerings in the same course. R-E

PS 199: Special Topics in Political Science**0.5–5 units***0.5–5 hours lecture, 0.5–5 hours lab*

This course explores a particular subject in the field of political science which is likely to become a part of the college curriculum. The course content is thematic in nature, and each version differs from other offerings in the same course. R-E

PS 201: Model United Nations**1.5 Units***1.5 hours lecture*

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of international diplomacy through participation in Model United Nations simulations. The course focuses on the history, structure, and functions of the United Nations; international bargaining and diplomacy; conflict resolution; researching and writing position papers and resolutions; and public speaking. Students are required to attend a Model United Nations conference. R-E-3

PS 289: Special Topics in Political Science**0.5–5 units***0.5–5 hours lecture, 0.5–5 hours lab*

This nontransferable course provides an opportunity to explore a topical concept, issue, or event in the field of political science. The course content is thematic in nature, and each version differs from other offerings in the same course. R-E

PS 299: Special Topics in Political Science**0.5–5 units***0.5–5 hours lecture, 0.5–5 hours lab*

This nontransferable course explores a particular subject in the field of political science which is likely to become a part of the college curriculum. The course content is thematic in nature, and each version differs from other offerings in the same course. R-E