

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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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.

## Career Options

Examples of careers for the political science major include the following:

- Teaching in Secondary and Post-secondary Schools
- Law
- Government Employment
  - Campaign Manager
  - Legislative Staff Member
  - State, Local, and Federal Elected Office Holder
  - Government Agency Employee (State Department, CIA, FBI)
- Business and Private Agencies
  - Insurance
  - Agriculture
  - Finance
  - Consulting
  - Research
- Communications and Journalism
- International Trade and Organizations
  - United Nations
  - International Business
  - International Relief and Aid Groups

## Associate Degree

### Associate in Arts Degree in Political Science

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major ("Major Requirements") and general education requirements (pages 43-49), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better, and a grade of "A," "B," "C," or "P" in all courses to be counted toward the major. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 34-35 for further information.

## 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 bachelor's degree. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should 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  
Major Requirements: Political Science

**REQUIRED CORE COURSES**

<b>Complete the following:</b>		<b>Units</b>
<b>PS 1</b>	American Government	3
<b>PS 3</b>	California Government and Politics	3
<b>PS 4</b>	Introduction to Political Science	3
<b>PS 5</b>	Political Philosophy	3
<b>PS 12</b>	Comparative Politics	3
<b>PS 14</b>	International Relations	3

**REQUIRED OPTIONS, REGIONAL STUDIES**

<b>Complete <u>one</u> of the following courses:</b>		
<b>PS 6</b>	Politics and Government of the Middle East	3
<b>PS 7</b>	The Politics of Communist and Post-Communist States	3
<b>PS 17</b>	Latin American Politics and Government	3
<b>PS 41</b>	The History of East Asia Since 1800	3
<b>TOTAL UNITS:</b>		<b>21</b>

**Recommended electives:**

CWE 168; ECON 1, 2, 20; HIST 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21; MATH 10; PHIL 2; PS 21

**COURSES**

**CWE 168: COOPERATIVE WORK EXPERIENCE: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**1-4 Units**  
**1-4 hours lecture**  
**Transfers: CSU**  
**Prerequisite: Student must have taken or must be currently taking a course in college-level political science.**  
**Limitation: Students 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 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 political science major requirements. R-1-3

**PS 1: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**3 Units**  
**3 hours lecture**  
**Transfers: CSU, UC**  
*Recommended Preparation: WR 201*

This course provides a survey of the principles, personalities, problems, and issues of government at the national, state and local levels. Topics include the U.S. Constitution; federalism and state constitutions, with special emphasis on California; political ideologies; political parties, interest groups and elections; the legislature; the presidency and the federal bureaucracy; the judiciary; and domestic and foreign policy making. NR

**PS 3: CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**3 Units**  
**3 hours lecture**  
**Transfers: CSU, UC**  
*Recommended Preparation: WR 201*

This course examines the structure and function 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**  
**Transfers: CSU, UC**

*Recommended Preparation: WR 201*  
This course is an introduction to the study of politics designed to familiarize students with the basic systems, ideologies and models of political analysis. Among the topics of discussion are the relationship of political science to culture, economics and international affairs; and the challenges posed by analytical approaches used to explain the behavior of individuals, groups and states. NR

**PS 5: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

**3 Units**  
**3 hours lecture**  
**Transfers: CSU, UC**

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**  
**Transfers: CSU, UC**

*Recommended Preparation: WR 201*  
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. The course explores issues of regional and international importance, including human rights and democratization, economic development, political Islam, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the politics of oil. NR

**PS 7: THE POLITICS OF COMMUNIST AND POST-COMMUNIST STATES****3 Units****3 hours lecture****Transfers: CSU, UC***Recommended Preparation: WR 201*

This course surveys the major forces which have shaped the political, economic, and social systems of communist and post-communist states, with special emphasis on the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. The course considers not only the formal and informal institutional structures and ideological and historical foundations, but also topics such as nationalities, democratization, economic liberalization, and international relations. NR

**PS 12: COMPARATIVE POLITICS****3 Units****3 hours lecture****Transfers: CSU, UC***Recommended Preparation: WR 201*

This course introduces students to analytical methods used to compare political systems and governments. It examines the politics of selected foreign states from among industrial democracies, developing countries, and communist and post-communist systems. Issues given particular attention include democratization, economic development, ideologies, political culture and political change. NR

**PS 14: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****3 Units****3 hours lecture****Transfers: CSU, UC***Recommended Preparation: WR 201*

This course introduces students to the major theoretical explanations of conflict, cooperation, economic growth and redistribution in international affairs; explores important historical and contemporary debates in international politics; and teaches students to think critically about international relations. NR

**PS 17: LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT****3 Units****3 hours lecture****Transfers: CSU, UC***Recommended Preparation: WR 201*

This course provides an 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 21: MODEL UNITED NATIONS****3 Units****2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab****Transfers: CSU, UC credit pending**

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; parliamentary procedures; and public speaking. Students are required to attend a Model United Nations conference. R-E-3

**PS 41: THE HISTORY OF EAST ASIA SINCE 1800****3 Units****3 hours lecture****Transfers: CSU, UC**

This course examines the major themes in the development of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Japanese societies from the late 18th century to the present. Topics include the growth of the Confucian state in China and the transformation of the state's goals and capacities as a result of both 19th century crises and the Communist revolution; the fragmentation and reorientation of the Chinese elite with the disappearance of the Chinese state; peasant rebellion and the revolution of 1949; protest and resistance to traditional and modern regimes; the political, social, and economic restructuring of Japan resulting from expanded contact with the West; industrialization; political modernization and imperialism in Japan; the recovery of post war Japan; and economic dominance in the late 20th century. Political Science 41 is also listed as History 41; credit will be given in either area, not both. NR