Department of Political Science
School of Social Sciences and Education
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Political Science majors should check the Political Science Department’s webpage for current and future class schedules, course syllabi, department updates and news, important deadlines, and internship/career opportunities at CSUB. You can also find The Political Science Department on Facebook: PLSI at CSUB.

Program Mission
The Department of Political Science endeavors to develop in its graduates an understanding of how political systems operate, with what consequences and alternatives. The primary focus is on inculcating analytical and critical habits of thinking—habits that will be beneficial irrespective of professional choices. The Department is oriented toward assisting students who are preparing to go to graduate school, law school and/or for careers in public sector and non-profit service. In the process, we hope to create a body of students/citizens who are informed, who have the necessary intellectual skills, and who are also cognizant of humanistic values. Besides this, the Department along with other social sciences and arts seeks to engender a student body that is aware of the social and political structure within which we live—thus fulfilling the University’s mission entrusted for general education of undergraduate students. For more information on our Mission Statement and our Student Learning Outcomes, please visit our Department’s Homepage.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with an Emphasis in American Politics, or an Emphasis in International Relations and Comparative Government, or an Emphasis in Pre-Law

Total Units Required to Graduate 180 units
Major Requirements 66 units
Prerequisites 10
Core Curriculum 56
Minor Requirement 20 units
Other University Requirements 62-97 units†

Theme 3 0-5*  
GRE 0-5*  
GWAR (Exam) or Class 0-5*

Additional Units 2-32 units
†Range depends on double counting.
*May be satisfied in major, minor or other university requirement; see http://www.csub.edu/schedules.shtml for current list of courses satisfying university-wide requirements.

Note: One (1) quarter unit of credit normally represents one hour of in-class work and 2-3 hours of outside study per week.

Requirements for Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (61 units)
All majors must satisfactorily complete at least twelve courses in Political Science, of which at least nine must be at the upper division level. Students are also required to declare a minor (see section on Minor Requirement below). Required lower and upper division courses for majors must be completed with a grade of “C-” or better. Students who fail to achieve a “C-“ or above may repeat the course. The Department encourages students to develop their degree plans in close consultation with their faculty advisor.

General Core Requirements (36 units)
A. Lower Division Required Courses (10 units)
   PLSI 101 and MATH 140 or PSYC 200 or MATH 192 or its equivalent with a C or better.
B. Upper Division Required Courses (16 units)
   PLSI 304, PLSI/PHIL 333, PLSI 490 (Spring Quarter)
   Before taking PLSI 490 you must have completed or be enrolled in three out of the following four courses: PLSI 300, 304, 333 and 380/481. Each major must submit a portfolio while enrolled in PLSI 490. This portfolio is not graded separately, but will be used by the faculty in assessing for themselves and assisting the student to assess his or her learning outcomes as encompassed by the major.
C. Methods (10 units)
   PLSI 300 (Fall Quarter), 380 (Winter Quarter) or 481 on an individual study basis.

Program Emphases (15 units)
Choose one of the following Emphases:
A. American Politics (15 units)
   This course of study is designed to facilitate learning the basic concepts, theories, and methods of institutions and behaviors of American government and to train students in research, analytical, and communication skills that focus on the uses of American Government and policy.
   Select three of the following courses: PLSI 302, 313, 316, 317, 319, 335, 349, 418 or BEHS 321
B. International Relations & Comparative Government (15 units)
   This course of study is designed to facilitate learning the basic concepts, theories, and methods of international relations and comparative politics. Students are trained
in research, analytical, and communication skills that focus on the uses of comparative and international relations training. **Select three of the following courses:**

PLSI 302, 303, 308, 309, 323, 324, 349, 371, 376, 404

C. **Pre-Law (15 units)**

This course of study is designed to facilitate learning the basic concepts, theories, and methods of research that are important to attorneys and to others whose work requires understanding of common and statutory law. **Select three of the following courses:** PLSI 314, 315, 335, 349, 370, 411 or INST 369

**Political Science Elective Courses (15 units)**

A. Select three courses not taken for the Emphasis from the list below; two of these may be lower division: PLSI 102, 302, 303, 308, 309, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 319, 320, 323, 324, 328, 329, 332, 334, 335, 337, 339, 340, 342, 349, 370, 371, 376, 404, 411, 418, 420, BEHS 307, 311, 321, 330, 331, INST 369

**Minor Requirement**

The requirement for a major in Political Science mandates the completion of a minor. This can be accomplished by completing one of the three options listed below:

1. Completion of a minor program approved by another discipline and listed in the catalog.
2. An interdisciplinary concentration or minor listed in the catalog (see “Interdisciplinary Concentrations and Minors”).
3. A special minor approved by the student’s advisor and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

**Honors Requirements**

The Department recognizes two types of graduation with distinction:

1. Graduate with Honors: The requirements to graduate with Honors in Political Science are a 3.0 overall GPA, a 3.3 GPA in the major, and a Directed Research course (PLSI 481, offered in the Spring Quarter) with a minimum grade of B. Note: Consent of the instructor and GPA of 3.00 in the major are required to participate in PLSI 481.
2. Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society: The requirements for Pi Sigma Alpha are a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.3 GPA in the major. Applications for Pi Sigma Alpha are due no later than January 30.

**Requirements for the Minor in Political Science**

Four courses totaling 20 quarter units in Political Science (at least three of which must be upper division) with an average of “C” or better. No more than five units in the minor may be internship, cooperative education, or applied course work.

Courses which will be of special interest to students without substantial quantitative skills include PLSI 302, 308, 313, 315, 317, 319, BEHS 321, PLSI 323, 328, 333, 334, and 376. Other courses may be suitable depending on the instructor’s announced objectives and approach.

**Special Minor in Pre-Law for Political Science Majors**

Four courses selected from the following. Two courses must be taken from Economics and two from Philosophy. ECON 201, 404, PHIL 316, or PLSI 350, 432, 435, 451. Substitutions may be approved by the Department chairs of Economics or Philosophy respectively.

**American Institutions Requirement**

Satisfaction of the American Institutions requirement shall be met by no less than one course in United States History and one other course in United States and California government or by examinations administered respectively by the History and Political Science Departments. For courses in the Political Science Department which satisfy the United States and California Government portions of the American Institutions Requirement (see page 52).

**Social Science Teacher Preparation Program within the BA in Political Science**

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) has authorized CSUB to offer an approved single subject teacher preparation program in Social Science. The program certified in 1992 expired July 1, 2009. Students who began course work prior to 2009, but who did not complete all program requirements, must complete the requirements of the new CCTC approved program or pass all parts of the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) in Social Science. For information about the program, contact the Social Science Program Coordinator, Alicia Rodriguez, (661) 654-2166.

**Requirements for the Social Science Preparation Program**

I. **Core Requirements (11 courses, 55 quarter units)**

HIST 231 and 232

Three courses from the following, one of which must be in world history:

- HIST 202 or 210, 204 or 211, 206 or 212, 374 or PLSI 319, ECON 201 and 202

One of the following:

- GEOG 302, GEOG/ECON 395, HIST 330, PLSI 332, INST 390

II. **Breadth and Depth requirements (7 courses; 35 units)**

Choose ONE COURSE from EACH of the following groups:

A. **U.S. History**

- HIST 351, 352, 356, 357, 358, 359

B. **World History and Perspectives (One from each group):**

1. **Africa/Asia**

   - HIST 423, 424, 425, 426, 481

2. **Europe/Latin America**


3. **International Relations/Global Perspectives**

   - ECON 311, 314, PLSI 304, BEHS 307, PLSI 308, 309, 322, 323, 324

C. **U.S. Constitution/Government**

- PLSI 314, 315, 316, 317, 335

D. **International Economics**

- ECON 340, 440, PLSI 404
E. Comparative religious/ethical systems
   RS 110, 111, 316, 320, 323

F. Gender, Race, Ethnicity Requirement
   In addition, Social Science students must satisfy the University’s GRE requirement through one of the following courses taken from a discipline other than that of their declared major: ANTH 438, ECON 380, HIST 421, 462, 465, 466, 467, 468, PLSI 339, PSYC 421, RS 326, SOC 327, 335, 336, 337, 338, 370

Students should consult the catalog for additional requirements for a BA in Political Science. Taken alone, the Social Science Preparation Program is neither a degree program nor a major. Also, please note that only those courses earning a C- or higher may be counted toward the Social Science Preparation Program and an overall minimum GPA of 2.7 is required for certification of subject matter competency.