

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 to society irrespective of professional choices. The Department is oriented toward assisting students who are preparing to go to graduate school, law school or for careers in the public sector and non-profit service. In the process, we hope to create a body of students and citizens who are informed, who have the intellectual skills, and who are also cognizant of humanistic values. The Department, in line with the values of the social sciences, 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 and goals for the general education of our 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 either Power and Justice, Global Politics or in Pre-Law

Total Units Required to Graduate	120 units
Major Requirements	33 units
Prerequisites	6
Core Curriculum	9
Emphasis	9
Electives	9
Minor Requirements	12 units
General Education Requirements	44-53 units[†]
First-Year Seminar	2
LD Area A Foundational Skills	12
LD Area B Natural Sciences	6
LD Area C Arts and Humanities	6
LD Area D Social and Behavioral Sciences	6

American Institutions	3*
SELF	3
Junior Year Diversity Requirement	3
UD Thematic Areas B and C	0-6*
Capstone	3
GWAR (Exam) or Class	0-3*
Additional Units	22-31 units

[†]Range depends on double counting.

*May be satisfied in major, minor or other university requirement. GWAR may be satisfied with the exam or a class.

Requirements for the Major in in Political Science (51 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 (21 units)

- A. **Lower Division Required Courses (6 units)**
 PLSI 1018 and any one of the following with a C or better:
 MATH 1009, 1040, 1050, 1209, or PSYC 2018
- B. **Upper Division Required Courses (12 units)**
 PLSI 3020, 3030, 3040, 4900 (Before taking PLSI 4900 you must have completed PLSI 1018, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040 and senior standing).
- C. **Methods (3 units)**
 PLSI 3010

Program Emphases (24 units)

Choose two of the following four Emphases:

- A. **Pre-Law (12 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 four of the following courses: PLSI 3140, 3150, 3170, 3420, 3450, 3470, 3510, 4410
- B. **Power and Justice (12 units)**
 This course of study is designed to facilitate learning the basic concepts, theories, and methods of study of relations between individuals, groups, and systems that determine the social and economic opportunities and outcomes for individuals. This includes focusing on the roles played in these relations by U.S. national, regional, State, and local institutions.
Select four of the following courses: PLSI 3210, 3220, 3230, 3248, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3290, 3420, 3450, 3470, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3648, 4410, 4640, 4650
- C. **Global Politics (12 units)**
 This course of study is designed to facilitate learning the basic concepts, theories, and methods of study of complex relations between domestic politics in the U.S. and other nations and the interactions beyond national borders.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Although the nation-state remains a primary actor in these relationships, students will also study many non-state actors, including “interest groups” such as business and industry sectors, non-governmental organizations advocating for change, and para-military terrorist and anti-state actors.

Select four of the following courses: PLSI 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3510, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3648, 4640, 4650

D. **American Politics** (12 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 four of the following courses: PLSI 3140, 3150, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3250, 3270, 3418, 3420, 3610, 3620

Political Science Elective Courses (6 units)

Any upper division Political Science courses, whether taken at CSUB or transferred in, will count toward this requirement, except for lower division activity courses.

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 4081, offered in the Spring Semester) 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 4081.
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 12 semester units in Political Science (at least three of which must be upper division) with an average of “C” or better. No more than three units in the minor may be internship, cooperative education, or applied course work.

Special Minor in Pre-Law for Political Science Majors and Special Minor in Pre Law for Economics and Philosophy Majors

Four courses selected from the following. Two courses must be taken from Economics and two from Philosophy. Courses that qualify are those approved by the Department chairs of Economics or Philosophy respectively. Courses that satisfy the Special Minor in Pre-Law for Economics and Philosophy majors are PLSI 3140, 3150, 3170, 3420, 3450, 3470, 3510, 4410.

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 University degree requirements.

Social Science Teacher Preparation Program within the BA in Political Science

The Social Science Subject Matter Preparation Program is designed for students interested in a career teaching social science at the secondary school level. The program satisfies the requirements set by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC), which has authorized CSUB to offer an approved single subject teacher preparation program in Social Science. The program provides subject matter preparation for entry into a single subject credential program. Students who successfully complete and meet the program requirements can request subject matter certification from the program coordinator. While the subject matter program is not an academic major, course work for the program can be used to satisfy requirements in certain academic majors, and in CSUB’s General Education program. It is therefore important that students meet regularly with the Social Science Program Coordinator for advising. Please note that the Social Science Subject Matter 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. The new program follows. For more information, contact the program coordinator, Alicia Rodriguez, 661-654-2166 or your Political Science Major Advisor.

Requirements for the Social Science Teacher Subject Matter Preparation Program

- I. **Core Requirements** (8 courses, 24 semester units)
HIST 1218 (Formerly HIST 231) and 1228 (Formerly HIST 232)

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

HIST 1418 (Formerly HIST 210), 1428 (Formerly HIST

212), HIST 3240 or PLSI 3420 (Formerly PLSI 319),
ECON 2018 or 2028 (Formerly ECON 201 or 202)

One of the following:

SOC 3300 (Formerly GEOG 302), ECON 3550 (Formerly
GEOG/ECON 395), PLSI 3370 (Formerly PLSI 332),
and INST 3900 (Formerly INST 390)

II. **Breadth and Depth requirements** (7 courses; 21 units).

**Choose ONE COURSE from EACH of the following
groups:**

- A. U.S. History
HIST 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150
- B. World History and Perspectives (One from each group):
 - 1. Africa/Asia
HIST 3410, 3440, 3470, 3480, 3490
 - 2. Europe/Latin America
HIST 3560, 3570, 3310, 3320, 3330, 4510
 - 3. International Relations/Global Perspectives
ECON 3118, 3410, PLSI 3040, 3320, 3350, 3360,
3510, 3610
- C. U.S. Constitution/Government
PLSI 3140, 3450, 3210, 3230, 3150
- D. International Economics
ECON 4108, 4400, PLSI 4640
- E. Comparative religious/ethical systems
RS 1108, 1128, 1138, 3208, 3238, 3240, 3250, 3368,
3538, 3548, 4518, 4528

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.