

Student Services
Undergraduate Advisors:

Liane C. Kosaki
101– B North Hall
608-263-2414
lkosaki@polisci.wisc.edu

Catherine Farry
302 North Hall
608-263-2414
cfarryth@wisc.edu

Department Chair:

Prof. John Coleman
110 North Hall
608-263-1793

For additional information or to
schedule an appointment,
please contact:

Political Science Department
110 North Hall
1050 Bascom Mall
Madison WI 53706
608-263-2414.

Web Site: <http://polisci.wisc.edu>
FAX: 608-265-2663

Updated Spring '10



GUIDE TO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR



Groups and Their Courses

I. Political Theory & Methodology:

- 181, 185, 209, 218, 274
- Or any course at the 500 level

II. American Government:

- 104, 184, 202, 205, 213, 217, 219, 230, 231, 267, 271, 297,
- Or any course at the 400 level except 400, 401

III. Comparative Politics:

- 106, 186, 222, 231, 244, 252, 253, 254, 260, 261, 277, 297, 318, 338, 477, 505, 545
- Or any course at the 600 level below 680

IV. International Relations:

- 103, 442, 639
- Or any course at the 300 level

To Declare the Major

Those who wish to declare a major in Political Science should come to room 110 North Hall to fill out the necessary form. At that time they may schedule an appointment with one of the advisors.

Students may also schedule an appointment to see an advisor regarding the major by calling 608-263-2414.

Special Opportunities

Descriptions of the following opportunities can be found in the Political Science Resource Center, 101-B North Hall or at the department website:

<http://polisci.wisc.edu/>

Opportunities available to our students:

- Career Information
- Honors Program
- Internship Experience
- DC Internship Program
- Political Science Awards
- Distinction in the Major
- Graduate School Information

The Political Science Major

There are many definitions of political science. But whether the definition focuses on the analysis of governmental structures, or the influences on voter choice, or the relationship between national governments, or the best form of government, at base, political science is about the systematic study of power. Whether power is exercised formally, as is the case between government and the individual, or informally, as is the case between individuals, it is the systematic study of power relationships that provides the subject matter for the discipline.

The political science department at the University of Wisconsin, Madison is one of the best political science departments in the country. Members of the faculty are internationally recognized as leading scholars in their respective fields. Just as important, the department takes pride in its strong teaching reputation. Thus, the department reflects an ideal balance between excellent research and teaching.

Majors in political science obtain not only an understanding of the workings of government, but they also develop important skills in critical thinking and analysis. These abilities make them ideal candidates for careers in law, in government at the state, national and international levels, business, journalism, and of course, politics.

A Political Science major can study a broad range of subfields.

Political Science subfield examples include:

- political parties & voting behavior
- bureaucracies & administrative procedure
- international politics & organization
- executive politics & legislative behavior
- political socialization & recruitment
- community organization & urban politics
- courts & the administration of justice
- interest groups
- intergovernmental relations
- political personality
- mass movements & revolutions
- political philosophy
- policy studies

Requirements for the Major

A. 30 Credits of Coursework:

This is the minimum number of credits students must take within the Department. Fifteen of these credits must be completed on the UW-Madison campus. Depending on interest, students may choose to build a focus on particular areas in the major. This should be discussed with an advisor.

B. Distribution Requirement:

Credits must be chosen so that **at least one course is taken in all four groups** into which the curriculum is divided. This requirement may be met in any sequence and at any level.

C. Prerequisite Courses:

The Political Science major is divided into four groups:

- Political Theory & Methodology
- American Government
- Comparative Government
- International Relations

Students are encouraged to complete a prerequisite course in each of the areas of distribution, selected from the following list:

- 103: Introduction to International Relations
- 104: Introduction to American Politics & Government
- 106: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- 18x: Honors Introductory Courses
- 209: Introduction to Political Theory

Students contemplating a Political Science major are strongly encouraged to complete one of the prerequisite courses as early as possible: Only freshmen and sophomores may take **184, 217, 218, or 230/231**. Political Science **103, 104, 106** and **209** are open to all undergraduates.

D. Advanced Work in the Major:

The College of Letters and Science requires that its degree candidates complete a minimum of 15 credits of **upper level coursework** in the major. All courses in the Political Science Department numbered **300 and above** meet this requirement. This coursework must be taken **in residence at Madison**. (Work taken as part of a UW-Madison study abroad program is considered "in residence"). Students who transfer from other colleges on the Madison campus should discuss this rule with an advisor.

E. Quality of Work: Students must obtain a "C" or better in at least one course in each distribution group. Students must maintain a minimum overall GPA of "C" (2.00 GPA) in all work in the major, and a 2.00 on advanced work (courses numbered 300 and above) in the major. Grade points required to meet these levels **must be on work earned in residence**.

F. Notes:

- **Effective Fall 1998: No distribution credit is available for the following courses: 100, 101, 201, 681/2, 683/4, 685, 691/2, 695/6, 698/9.** Political Science 401 (Topics in Political Science) may be used to fill the distribution requirement. The distribution to be met by any section of PS 401 is based on course content.
- No more than 6 credits of Directed Study (199, 698, 699) and/or Internship (427, 478) may be counted toward the major.
- If you have transfer credits, consult with the advisor about transferred work marked XXX. Transferred credits may be used to meet the distribution requirement, but this must be discussed with an advisor in the major.