

# POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.A.

The Political Science Program is housed within the Department of Global Humanities. Both a major and minor in Political Science are offered.

Political science examines the origins, uses, justification, and distribution of power in society, as well as the relationship between power and other social "goods" such as wealth, rights, and liberties. Political science can be both descriptive and normative. When descriptive, it investigates how power, wealth and rights actually are distributed. When normative, political science explores how they ought to be distributed. Politics, in short, is about how societies are governed, how competing ideas about what is best for society are articulated and resolved, and how decisions in one part of the world affect other parts of the world. As part of a liberal arts education, the study of politics helps students develop critical thinking, research, analytical and communicative skills. It enables them to understand ideas and practices of citizenship, social justice, and human values. Political science prepares students for graduate studies as well as for a wide range of careers, including those in teaching, law, government, public service, public policy and administration, foreign and military service, business, international organizations, NGOs and the nonprofit sector, interest-group advocacy, and journalism.

## Contact Information

historypolitics@css.edu

## Learning Outcomes

Students completing a baccalaureate degree in political science should be able to:

1. Demonstrate specialized knowledge of political science, both across the discipline and in each of the four subfields.
2. Critically evaluate public policy issues, political power, and law through both disciplinary theoretical analysis and empirical research.
3. Critically evaluate political and public policy issues in terms of their bearing on foundational values such as human dignity, human rights, peace, and justice.
4. Critically assess public policies from community-based perspectives.
5. Actively participate in their civic communities (locally, nationally, and/or globally) to work on behalf of human values, justice, and the fuller realization of human potential.

## Requirements

Students must achieve the following program requirements for all courses listed under "Program Required Courses" for the Political Science major.

### Program Requirements

**Major Credits: 40\*\***

**Major Residency Credits: 20**

**Minimum GPA: 2.0**

Political Science majors have the option of declaring a concentration in one of four areas: American Politics, International Politics,\* Comparative Politics,\* or Political Theory.

### Program Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses</b>		
PHL 2223	Political Philosophy	4

POL/GSJ 2001	Introduction to Political Science	4
POL 3777	Topics (Introduction to International Politics/ Relations)	4
POL 3777	Topics (Introduction to Comparative Politics)	4
POL 4999	Independent Study (Capstone)	0-8
PSY 3331	Statistics	4
	or MTH 2442 Introduction to Data Analysis and Applied Statistics	
<b>Sixteen elective credits from one concentration listed below.</b>		
American Politics		16
CME 4417	Mass Media Law and Ethics	
GSJ 2480	Community Nonprofits	
NAS 2610	Indigenous Peoples of North America	
POL 3331	American Government	
SWK 3350	Understanding Systems of Privilege and Oppression	
SWK 3360	American Social Welfare Policy	
*Comparative Politics		16
GSJ 2050	Introduction to Mexico	
GSJ 3200	Popular Music and Political Movements	
GSJ 3303	The Other Americas	
GSJ 3305	Contemporary Africa	
HIS 3301	Russia: Revolution and Empire	
HIS 3355	Islam and the Modern World	
POL/GSJ 4402	Water and Politics	
*International Politics		16
GSJ 2111	Migration, Diaspora, Identity	
GSJ 2201	Peaceful Resolution of International Conflicts	
GSJ 3301	Human Rights	
GSJ 3302	Europe Today	
HIS 3214	The World Since 1945	
HIS 3310	United States Foreign Relations	
HIS 3350	Feminism and Globalization: Women, Religion, and the Body	
POL 2280	Rethinking Religion and Culture after 9/11	
POL 3001	Globalization of Food and Agriculture	
POL 4402	Water and Politics	
Political Theory		16
GSJ 3101	Advanced Social and Cultural Theory	4
PHL 2214	Introductory Ethics	4
PHL 3350	Contemporary Ethical Issues	4
PHL 3360	Philosophies of Feminism	4
TRS 2501	Theologies of Peace and Justice	4
TRS 3320	Religion and Politics of Compassion	4

\*Concentrations in International Politics or Comparative Politics complete one year of language study at the intermediate level (8 credits beyond the College's world language requirement). Concentrations in American Politics and Political Theory, or Political Science majors who do not declare a concentration, are not required to study a language and culture at the intermediate level, but they are strongly encouraged to do so.

\*\*Of the 40 credits required for the major, 20 must be upper division (3000-4999).

## **Degree Requirements**

To graduate from The College of St. Scholastica, baccalaureate students must meet the following minimum degree requirements.

**Total Credits: 128**

**Upper Division Credits: 42**

**Residency Requirement: 32**

**Minimum GPA: 2.0**