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Political Science

Faculty: Chartock, Fair, Koch, Lowi, Potter, Sullivan

Political science deals with the making of binding decisions for a society. The discipline examines public policy making not only in the United States, but throughout the world. Political theories, both past and present, inform the decision making of participants in this process and are, therefore, part of the subject matter of political science.

The study of political science involves reading and interpreting texts, gathering and weighing evidence, interpreting political events, evaluating theories about politics, and analyzing public policies. By engaging in these activities, students learn the fundamentals of scholarship, develop a concept of what it means to be a citizen of a representative democracy, become familiar with the traditions of liberal education, and begin to understand emerging patterns of globalization.

Political science graduates opt for further study in graduate or law school, or pursue careers in government, non-profit organizations, or the private sector.

Requirements for the Major

The political science major must take POL 110/American Government* or POL 230/International Relations, POL 200/Political Analysis, POL 390/Tutorial in Political Science, POL 498/Seminar in Political Science, one course in American politics, one course in comparative politics, one course in international politics, one course in political theory, and four courses of political science electives, for a total of 12 course units in political science. Eight courses in political science must be at the 300 or 400 level. In addition, political science majors must take STA 115/Statistics I, ECO 101/Principles of Microeconomics, and ECO 102/Principles of Macroeconomics; these courses may be used to satisfy the liberal learning requirements in mathematics and social sciences.

**Students who have taken a course in American politics or government prior to TCNJ should take POL 230 instead.*

American Politics Courses: POL110, POL200, POL215, POL300, POL305, POL311, POL315, POL316, POL318, POL320, POL321, POL323, POL328

Comparative Politics Courses: POL150, POL250, POL350, POL352, POL353, POL357, POL358, POL360

International Politics Courses: POL230, POL330, POL333, POL335, POL337, POL345, POL355, POL380

Political Theory Courses: POL270, POL365, POL372

The following courses may be counted toward one of these field requirements by designation of the instructor or chair: POL370, POL390, POL498, POL391, POL399, POL401, POL495, POL498

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for political science:

- Transfer in the program from another program within the College is based upon the following performance standards in these “foundation courses”: Earning the

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grade of C in POL 110/American Government or POL 230/International Relations.

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these “critical content courses”: Earning the grade of C in *both* POL 110/American Government or POL 230/International Relations, *and* POL 200/Political Analysis.
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0 in courses for the program.

Requirements for the Political Science Minor

Political science minor requirements are POL 110/American Government or POL 230/International Relations, one course in comparative politics, one course in international politics, one course in political theory, and one political science option, for a total of five course units. Three course units for the minor must be at the 300 or 400 level.

Also see requirements for the Public Policy Analysis and Management Minor; the International and Area Studies Minor; and the Law, Politics, and Philosophy Minor.

Departmental Honors

A departmental honors program is available. For information or eligibility, see the departmental honors advisor. The honors program requires three course units including POL 495/Honors Thesis in political science.

Political Science Major (POLA)

First Year

FSP First Seminar	1 course unit
POL 110/American Government*	1 course unit
<i>or</i>	
POL 230/International Relations	
POL Comparative Politics Option	1 course unit
Quantitative Reasoning including STA 115	2 course units
WRI 102/Academic Writing (if not exempted)**	1 course unit
Foreign Language (if not exempted) **	2 course units

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Sophomore Year

POL 200/Political Analysis	1 course unit
POL Electives	2 course units
Liberal Learning courses (including foreign language, if needed, and economics)	2-3 course units
Electives	2-3 course units

Junior Year

POL 390/Tutorial in Political Science	1 course unit
POL Electives	3 course units
Liberal Learning courses	1-2 course units
Electives	2-4 course units

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Senior Year

POL 498/Seminar in Political Science (fall)

POL Electives

Electives

1 course unit

2 course units

4-5 course units