

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Human Arts and Social Sciences Division

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<http://www.cabrillo.edu/programs>

Program Description:

Political Science is the systematic study of politics, political institutions and governmental processes by the application of scientific methods of analysis and critical examination. Political science is concerned with the objectives and ends of politics and the way in which political society should be organized in order to realize those objectives and ends. Courses in political science enable students to study and understand how political and governmental institutions make and implement decisions and the effects those decisions have on individual, group, and societal behavior. A political science major generally transfers to a four-year institution to complete a B.A. Degree. Political science graduates with B.A. Degrees are qualified for a variety of positions in government and non-governmental institutions; graduates are prepared to enter graduate studies in various disciplines, including political science, law, journalism and business. Teaching at the community college level is an option providing that an M.A. and/or a Ph.D. Degree is obtained. Possession of the Ph.D. could lead to research and teaching at the university level.

Model Program for Political Science

The following Model Program fulfills requirements for an A.A. Degree in Political Science at Cabrillo College. Specific lower division major preparation at four-year public institutions in California can be found at www.assist.org. Please see a counselor for advisement for transfer to any four-year institutions.

A.A. Degree: Political Science

A.A. General Education

30 Units

Core Courses (15 units)

PS 1	Introduction to Government.	3
or		
PS 1H	Honors Introduction to Government	3
PS 2	Comparative Government.	3
PS 3	International Relations.	3
PS 4	Political Freedom	3
PS 5	American Political Thought	3

Approved Electives (6-9 Units)

ECON 1A	Introduction to Macroeconomics.	3
ECON 1B	Introduction to Microeconomics	3
HIST 2A	World History to 1500	3
HIST 2B	World History: 1500 to Present	3
HIST 4A	Survey of Western Civilization to 1648	3
or		
HIST 4AH	Honors Survey of Western Civilization to 1648.	3
HIST 4B	Survey of Western Civilization–1648 to Late 20th Century	3
or		
HIST 4BH	Honors Survey of Western Civilization–1648 to Late 20th Century	3
HIST 16C	History of Mexico.	3
HIST 19A	Introduction to South and Southeast Asian History	3
HIST 19B	Introduction to Chinese History	3
HIST 19C	Introduction to Japanese History.	3
Electives:		
(Any Course numbered 1-99)	6 - 9
Total Units		60

Political Science Courses

PS 1

Introduction to Government

3 units; 3 hours Lecture

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 100 and READ 100.

Surveys the origins and development of the U.S. political system. Topics include basic concepts from political philosophy, constitutional law, institutions of the federal government (Congress, Presidency, Courts) political parties and elections, federalism, public opinion, the media, interest groups, civil liberties and rights, and California politics. Contemporary issues will be presented from a variety of viewpoints. (Satisfies the state requirement for American institutions and California government.) Critical analytical written work is the primary means of evaluating student performance in this course. May be offered in a Distance-Learning Format.

Transfer Credit: Transfers to CSU, UC.

PS 1H

Honors Introduction to Government

3 units; 3 hours Lecture

Prerequisite: Honors Standing.

Recommended Preparation: ENGL 1A/1AH/1AMC/1AMCH; Eligibility for READ 100.

Surveys the origins and development of the U.S. political system. Topics include basic concepts from political philosophy, constitutional law, institutions of the federal government (Congress, Presidency, Courts) political parties and elections, federalism, public opinion, the media, interest groups, civil liberties and rights, the public policy process, and California politics. Contemporary issues will be presented from a variety of viewpoints. (Satisfies the state requirement for American institutions and California government.) Critical analytical written work is the primary means of evaluating student performance in this course. Highlights student research, critical writing and oral reporting, both individually and in group projects.

Transfer Credit: Transfers to CSU, UC.

PS 2

Comparative Government

3 units; 3 hours Lecture

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 100 and READ 100.

Examines and compares a diverse selection of the world's political and economic systems. The specific selection of country case studies varies, and is selected from Great Britain, Japan, Germany, Russia, China, India, Iraq, Iran, South Africa, and Mexico. Each country case study will focus on the common themes of political history, key institutions, political cultures, political participation, major contemporary political, economic, and social issues, and the impacts of global forces on these political and economic systems.

Transfer Credit: Transfers to CSU, UC.

PS 3

International Relations

3 units; 3 hours Lecture

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 100 and READ 100.

Examines the political and economic structures and the main actors (states, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental) of the contemporary international system. Topics include major contending perspectives for understanding international relations and an exploration of selected issues and cases in international relations.

Transfer Credit: Transfers to CSU, UC.

PS 4

Political Freedom

3 units; 3 hours Lecture

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 100 and READ 100.

Provides an intensive analysis of political freedom from various philosophical, historical, and cultural perspectives. Covers a breadth of political thinking from the Western tradition.

Transfer Credit: Transfers to CSU, UC.

PS 5

American Political Thought

3 units; 3 hours Lecture

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 100 and READ 100.

Investigates the influences of political theory on the development of the political system of the United States. Emphasis is placed on concepts such as: democracy, republicanism, liberty and political autonomy as well as how the constitution gives authority to the government while limiting its powers. Readings range from the ancient Greeks to early modern and contemporary writings. Topics include basic concepts from political philosophy; the forms and functions of the institutions of the federal government, and California state politics. (Satisfies the state requirements for American institutions and California government.)

Transfer Credit: Transfers to CSU, UC.

PS 39A-Z

Special Topics in Political Science

1 - 3 units; 1 hour Lecture

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 100 and READ 100.

Repeatability: May be taken a total of 4 times.

Studies particular political issues, movements, and concepts. Course content will vary with each offering.

Transfer Credit: Transfers to CSU, UC, with conditions: Students must retain a copy of the course outline, the course syllabus and work completed for this course. Credit for this course is contingent upon a review of the course outline and other materials by the UC transfer campus.