

Political Science

Political science is the study of political philosophies, processes, principles, and the structures of government and other political institutions. This academic discipline leads toward an understanding of the institutions of political ideologies, institutions of government, the roles of citizens and political leaders, interest groups and political parties, the electoral process, and con-temporary issues that surround our public life. This field also includes an analysis of governments around the world and of international relations.

Career Opportunities

Attorney, Budget Analyst, Campaign Consultant/Staff Member, Educator, Foreign Diplomat/International Organization Worker, Government Official/Elected Official, Intelligence Officers & Analysts, Law Enforcement Officer Legislative/Executive Staff Assistant, Lobbyist, National/International Business Position, Nonprofit Organization Staff Member, Print/Broadcast Journalist, Political Party Worker, Urban Planner/City Manager

Faculty

Dino Bozonelos | David Dupree

Degrees and Certificates Awarded

Associate in Arts for Transfer, Political Science
International Studies Certificate

The Political Science Department also offers a certificate in Paralegal Studies. See Paralegal Studies for further information about this program of study.

Program Learning Outcomes

A student receiving a degree or certificate in this field will be able to:

- Demonstrate a breadth of knowledge and critical thinking skills as related to political theory, institutional politics and political behavior
- Analyze political and social issues within a wide variety of assigned formats
- Recognize the relationships among political actors within political systems and the political processes for policy development

Associate Degree

Some Political Science courses may be used to fulfill requirements for an Associate in Arts degree with a major in Liberal Arts. See specific listing for requirements in that major. Also see Administration of Justice.

To earn an Associate in Arts degree for Transfer with a major in Political Science, complete the required major courses and all other requirements specified on the following pages (i.e. 60 CSU transferable units, CSU GE or IGETC, etc.). For more information on the AA-T/AS-T degrees, meet with a counselor or www.adegreewithaguarantee.com

Transfer

For the most up-to-date information on these programs and others, visit www.assist.org. Please stop by the Transfer Center in Building 55 or make an appointment with a counselor if you have questions.

- **California State University, San Bernardino:** Political Science major
- **University of California, Riverside:** Political Science major

Political Science, AA-T (33022)		
<p>Political science is the study of political philosophies, processes, principles, and the structures of government and other political institutions. This academic discipline leads toward an understanding of the approaches to the study in the field of political science, political ideologies, institutions of government, the roles of citizens and political leaders, interest groups and political parties, the electoral process, and contemporary issues that surround our public life. This field also includes an analysis of governments around the world and of international relations.</p> <p>The Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer degree is aligned with the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for Political Science. The goal of the degree is to prepare students for transfer to the California State University system. It is specifically designed to fulfill the lower division requirements for the Baccalaureate degree in Political Science at a California State University. Students should consult with a counselor to determine whether this degree is the best option for their transfer goals.</p>		
Program Requirements: 18-19 units		
Required Courses (3 units total)		
POLS 102/H102	Introduction to American Government and Politics	3.0
Additional Courses		
List A – Select THREE of the following courses (9-10 units)		
POLS 101	Introduction to Political Science	3.0
POLS 110	Contemporary World Affairs	3.0
POLS 112	Comparative Government	3.0
POLS 114	Political Philosophy	3.0
MATH 120/H120	Introduction to Statistics	4.0
List B – Select TWO (6 units)		
POLS 103	American State and Local Government	3.0
POLS 113	Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3.0
POLS 206	Introduction to Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management	3.0
POLS 211	Global Issues	3.0
ECON 101	Principles of Economics: Macro	3.0
<p>A student wishing to pursue an AA-T/AS-T degree in the major listed on this page must ensure the CSU of their choice is accepting that similar major. Students completing an AA-T/AS-T degree are guaranteed admissions into a CSU campus given that a student fulfills the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 60 CSU transferable units; 2) Completes the CSU General Education (GE) or IGETC General Education pattern; 3) Completes the major requirements for the AA-T/AS-T; 4) Maintains a transferable cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 (C or better); 5) Completes the basic/Golden 4 GE requirements. <p>For more information on the AA-T/AS-T degrees, meet with a counselor or visit www.adegreewithaguarantee.com</p>		

Political Science

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE OF CAREER PREPARATION

The International Studies Certificate program at Victor Valley College is designed for students pursuing careers in International affairs. Career Opportunities include: Foreign Diplomat, Homeland Security Analyst, Intelligence Officers & Analysts, International Organization Worker, and International Business Positions.

Units Required: 15-17.0

Group I – All of the following must be completed:

POLS 104	Introduction to Global Studies	3.0
POLS 110	Contemporary World Affairs	3.0
POLS 112	Comparative Government	3.0
POLS 113	Politics of the Middle East & North Africa	3.0

Group II – One of the following must be completed:

ANTH 102	Cultural Anthropology	3.0
CMST 105	Intercultural Communication	3.0
FREN 101	Elementary French	5.0
GEOG 102	Cultural Geography	3.0
HIST 104	World History Since 1500	3.0
HIST 131	Latin American History	3.0
POLS 211	Global Issues	3.0
POLS 221	Model United Nations	3.0
RLST 110	World Religions	3.0
SPAN 101	Elementary Spanish	5.0
SPAN 101A	Fundamentals of Spanish 101A	3.0
SPAN 125	Conversational Spanish	3.0

POLS 101 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | **48-54 hours lecture**

(No prerequisite. Recommended preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 50)

An introduction to modern politics and the scope of political science as a discipline. Presents a comprehensive survey of the study of political science, modern political ideologies and movements, participation, institutions of government, political issues and foreign affairs of nation-states around the world.

POLS 102 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | **48-54 hours lecture**

(UC credit limitation) (No prerequisite. Recommended preparation: ENGL 50 or eligibility for ENGL 101.0 or ENGL 101H.)

Examines the workings of our complex system of American government, including: national, California state, and local levels (with emphasis on the national level). This survey will focus on the historical and contemporary development of our Constitution, political institutions, citizen participation, politics, and policies. Examines the causes, consequences, and possible solutions to significant problems in contemporary America.

POLS 102H HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | **48-54 hours lecture**

(UC credit limitation). (Prerequisite: ENGL 101.0 or ENGL 101H minimum grade B)

Enhanced for honors students. This course is an introductory survey of American governing institutions, federal and state, and other elements of the political system. The course is issue-oriented, inviting students to analyze critically competing theories and arguments relating to the founding of the Republic (especially the development of the Constitution), federalism, individual rights and liberties, interest groups, political parties, voting behavior and elections, campaign finance reform, public policy options, and the operational relations among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Course curriculum recognizes the roles and contributions of racial and ethnic groups and women in American politics. On each of these topics comparisons will be made to the governing units and politics of California, as well as local government.

POLS 103 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Units: 3.0 **CSU** | **48-54 hours lecture**

(No prerequisite. Recommended preparation: ENGL 50 or eligibility for ENGL 101.0 or ENGL 101H.)

An introduction to the study of the American political system at the state and local levels of government. Examines the workings of our complex system of federalism by focusing on contemporary state and local government institutions, citizen participation, political problems, politics, and policies. Emphasis is given to the analysis of California political issues, politics and government.

POLS 104 INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL STUDIES

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | **48-54 hours lecture**

(No prerequisite)

A survey of the historical and cultural processes that have made the world more interconnected. This course will canvass the "great ideas" that have connected human civilizations and the processes which have initiated and continued the process of globalization. Topics include the cultural, economic, historical, political and religious effects of globalization.

POLS 110 CONTEMPORARY WORLD AFFAIRS

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | **48-54 hours lecture**

(No prerequisite)

An introduction to the analysis of the historical development and contemporary setting of political relations between and among nation-states, trans-national movements, and international organizations. Introduces the analytical approaches to the study of world affairs and theories of international conflict and cooperation. Explores the variety of governmental and non-governmental entities on the world stage today, their foreign policy goals and interests, and instruments and uses of power. Examines contemporary issues confronting the global community and the historical development and uses of international law and organizations.

Political Science Courses

POLS 112 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | 48-54 hours lecture

(No prerequisite)

A comparative study of the development, organization and principles of a number of foreign governments. The international community will be discussed in four broad categories on a continuum from political instability to political stability. Specific focus upon the German, Russian, French, and British governments.

POLS 113 POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | 48-54 hours lecture

(No prerequisite. Grade option)

This course will examine the Middle East and North Africa through a comparative politics perspective. This will include an examination of the following items: an overview of the region's histories, geographies, peoples, cultures, religions and languages; the fundamentals of the Islamic and Judaic belief systems; current events such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the War in Iraq and other real potential geopolitical conflicts.

POLS 114 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | 48-54 hours lecture

(Recommended Preparation: ENGL 101.0)

Introduction to the normative discussion of social organization from a variety of philosophical perspectives. Topics include the nature of the state, rights, the role of law, liberty, distributive justice, and the common good. Emphasis on the American social experience with additional attention given to the global context

POLS 128 SPECIAL TOPICS

See Special Topics listing (Variable units) **CSU**

POLS 129 INDEPENDENT STUDY

See Independent Study listing (1-3 units) **CSU**

POLS 138 COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

See Cooperative Education listing (1-8 units) **CSU**

POLS 206 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | 48-54 hours lecture

(No prerequisite)

This course examines American environmental policy and how natural resources are managed. The historical, global, and ethical dimensions of how our society relates to the environment are analyzed from an interdisciplinary perspective.

POLS 211 GLOBAL ISSUE

Units: 3.0 **CSU, UC** | 48-54 hours lecture

(No prerequisite. Grade Option)

Surveys recent developments in the nature of global interdependence. Examines the major political, economic, and military conflicts of this century and recent problems of population growth, environmental decay, ethnic/national antagonism and violence, and post-Cold War politics. Course content changes based on current events.

POLS 221 MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Units: 3.0 **CSU** | 48-54 hours lecture

(No prerequisite. This course may be taken four times)

The course introduces students to the theory and practice of international diplomacy through participation in Model United Nations simulations. The course focuses on the history, structure, and functions of the United Nations; international bargaining and diplomacy; conflict resolution; researching and writing position papers and resolutions; and public speaking. Students are not required to attend a Model United Nations Conference.