



# Political Science

## Program Description

The Political Science Program at Sonoma State University offers excellent opportunities for the study of government and politics.

Over 40 courses cover all the major aspects of the discipline. Students develop an understanding of human behavior as this relates to politics. They learn to discuss and analyze critically the many current public policy issues facing the United States and the world. They are taught how to analyze and understand world affairs and comparative politics. They are trained in appropriate research techniques for the study of political processes.

## Major in Political Science

The Political Science Major is a relatively open major, allowing students to choose from a wide range of courses and subjects within a general framework. A common core of courses studies the relationship between values, ideology and politics (POLS 201), fundamental issues in American politics (POLS 202), the logic of research in political science (POLS 302), comparative approaches and politics (POLS 303) and a senior research seminar (POLS 498). Beyond this common core, as part of the additional 20 units required for the major, each student must complete at least one upper division course in each of the four major fields of political science, i.e., Political Theory, International Relations, Comparative Government, and American Government and Politics. Since politics and economics are so closely tied together, the Department recommends that each student also complete a basic course in economics.

## Minor in Political Science

A 20-unit minor in political science also is available. Although the minor most often is used in conjunction with such majors as communications, history, economics and sociology, it can be paired with almost any major offered at the university.

## Features

The political science faculty is an interesting and diverse group of scholars. Several are involved actively in their own research projects and regularly offer the opportunity for students to participate in these projects, often in paid positions. Most of the faculty have also travelled extensively, both in this country and abroad.

Political Science majors run an active student club which sponsors talks by leading political figures, candidate debates and social events throughout the year. In addition, those students enrolling in Model United Nations (POLS 345) travel each spring to another university in the United States or Canada or to the U.N. in New York City for a week simulation of the United Nations General Assembly.

## Internships

The department offers several programs through which students may gain practical experience while gaining academic credit. A political science internship can involve working in the office of an elected official or, when possible, in an election campaign. Past interns have served in responsible positions with state assemblymen, state senators, members of Congress and in a number of campaigns for local, state and national office. The comparable program in Public Administration places students in positions, often paid, with local government offices and agencies where they may be involved with city planning and zoning issues, public relations efforts, special research topics, or budget preparation, to mention several possibilities. In addition the department regularly sends selected students to the state capitol to participate in the Sacramento Semester Program under which they work with members of the legislature, officers of the Executive Branch or lobbyists to gain a fuller understanding of the political process first hand. Finally, arrangements also may be made for some students to serve as staff to members of Congress or related opportunities in Washington, D.C. for a semester.

## Faculty

Anthony Apolloni	Andrew Merrifield
Ruben Armiñana	Catherine Nelson
Donald Dixon	Diane Parness
John Kramer	Robert Smith
David McCuan	David Ziblatt
Robert McNamara	

## Department Office

Stevenson 2070  
707 664-2179

## Preparation

Students are encouraged to take English composition and social science courses, including civics, economics, and history. Experience in journalism and debating activities also can be helpful. A foreign language is not required for the degree. However, students who plan further study at the graduate level are encouraged to take courses in an appropriate foreign language, since proficiency in two foreign languages is often required in doctoral programs.

Community college transfer students should contact their counseling office or the Sonoma State University Political Science office to identify appropriate lower-division major/minor preparatory courses. Typically, these would include a basic course in American political institutions which would fulfill the state code requirements for U.S. Constitution and California State and Local Government. Other lower-division courses introducing students to the discipline of political science, the study of international relations and the study of comparative politics also are highly recommended. Transfer students who plan further graduate study are encouraged to take courses in appropriate foreign languages since proficiency in two foreign languages often is required in doctoral programs.

## Career Opportunities

### Elementary and Secondary Teaching

#### Credential Preparation

The Political Science Department participates in a teacher preparation program that certifies the subject matter competence in social studies required for entry into a teaching credential program and exempts the student from taking the Praxis II Subject Assessment Examination in the social sciences. Political Science majors interested in seeking a general elementary credential may demonstrate subject matter competence by passing the Praxis II Multiple Subject Assessment for Teachers. For further information, contact the department office.

#### Law and Paralegal Careers

Many political science majors plan to study and practice law as a career. Although it is advisable for pre-law students to have as wide a back ground as possible, the department offers a number of specialized courses in the field of constitutional law and civil liberties. Generally, it would be advisable for the pre-law student to seek advice on appropriate courses from a faculty member.

#### Public Administration

Local, state and federal governments employ one of every six American workers. A major in political science with a public administration or public policy emphasis can prepare students for civil service careers at national, state and local levels. While many of these careers require specialized skills (e.g., budgeting or accounting), many require general skills and understanding with on-the-job training providing the required specialized knowledge.

Political science is also an appropriate major for students seeking training for positions in the overseas agencies of the U.S. government or in international organizations.

#### Journalism

A political science major, combined with an ability to analyze and understand current political events, and the skills to put that analysis into lucid writing, can prepare the student for an attractive career in journalism. Practical experience offered by the university newspaper is highly recommended.

#### Business

A large number of political science graduates have found employment in the world of business. Preparation for this career involves a broad liberal arts background, combined with knowledge of governmental organization, public administration, finance, decision-making, organizational behavior and the process by which political decisions about economic policy are made. Many businesses that recruit liberal arts graduates expect to provide them with special training programs.

## Other Careers

Other enterprising individuals develop unique and interesting careers for themselves in politics by developing skills in campaign management speech writing, polling, public relations, lobbying, voting analysis or fund raising. These opportunities result from the initiative of the individual combined with the practical experience gained largely through volunteer service with political campaigns.

## B.A. in Political Science

Major .....	Units
General Education .....	51
Major .....	40
Electives .....	29
<b>Total units.....</b>	<b>120</b>

### Course Requirements

POLS 201	Ideas and Institutions
POLS 202	Basic Issues in 20th Century American Politics
POLS 302	Approaches to Political Analysis (or substitute approved by department)
POLS 303	Introduction to Comparative Government and Global Systems
POLS 498	Senior Seminar

An upper-division course in Political Theory

An upper-division course in International Relations

An upper-division course in Comparative Politics

An upper-division course in American Government and Politics

**Total units in major core.....28-36**

ECON 201 A or B (recommended)

Other upper-division Political Science courses to complete a total of 40 units in Political Science.

**Minor in Political Science.....Units**

POLS 200 or 202 .....3-4

POLS 201 .....4

Upper division courses .....12-13

**Total units in minor .....20**

### Code Requirements

Political Science 200 (The American Political System) or Political Science 202 (Issues in Modern American Politics) fulfills State Code requirements in U.S. Constitution and California State and Local Government. Upper-division courses may also be used to satisfy certain of these code requirements upon approval by the department chairman.

We hope this information will be helpful. Official requirements of all majors and programs are published in the Sonoma State University catalog. Sonoma State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and has a strong commitment to the principal of diversity. A member of the California State University

