

Political science

POLITICAL SCIENCE – POLSC

Obed Vazquez, Dean
 Social Sciences Division
 Faculty Office Building, Room 136

Possible career opportunities

Political science courses offer insight into events at the local, state, national, and international level. Students develop critical thinking and other useful skills for a broad range of careers including education, public service and law. Most career options require more than two years of college study.

Associate in arts in political science for transfer

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. recognize political values embedded in systems of political thought.
- B. describe the basic structures and procedures of American government.
- C. describe the relative impact of federal, state and local governments on the inhabitants of California.
- D. describe the content and origins of several world philosophies.
- E. demonstrate an understanding of fundamental political concepts.
- F. recognize and discuss various elements of power in political activity.

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The associate in arts in political science for transfer is intended for students who plan to complete a bachelor’s degree in a similar major at a CSU campus. Students completing this degree are guaranteed admission to the CSU system, but not to a particular campus or major.

In order to earn the degree, students must:

- Complete 60 CSU-transferable units.
- Complete the California State University-General Education pattern (CSU GE); or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) pattern, including the Area 1C requirement for Oral Communication.
- Complete a minimum of 18 units in the major.
- Attain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
- Earn a grade of “C” or higher in all courses required for the major.

Students transferring to a CSU campus that accepts the degree will be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor’s degree. This degree may not be the best option for students intending to transfer to a particular CSU campus or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system, or those students who do not intend to transfer.

Some courses in the major satisfy both major and CSU GE/IGETC general education requirements; however, the units are only counted once toward the 60 unit requirement for an associate degree. Some variations in requirements may exist at certain four-year institutions; therefore, students who intend to transfer are advised to refer to the catalog of the prospective transfer institution and consult a counselor.

major requirements: *units*

complete at least 3 units from:

POLSC-121	Introduction to U.S. Government.....	3
POLSC-122	Latinx Politics and American Government	3
POLSC-123	Black Politics and American Government.....	3

plus at least 9 units from:

BUS-240	Business Statistics.....	3
or		
MATH-142	Elementary Statistics with Probability.....	4
or		
MATH-144	Statway II.....	4
POLSC-120	Introduction to Politics.....	3
POLSC-210	Political Ideology.....	3
POLSC-220	Comparative Politics.....	3
POLSC-240	Political Theory.....	3
POLSC-250	International Relations.....	3

plus at least 6 units from any course not used above or:

ANTHR-130	Cultural Anthropology.....	3
ECON-220	Principles of Macroeconomics.....	3
ECON-221	Principles of Microeconomics.....	3
HIST-140	History of Western Civilization to the Renaissance.....	3
HIST-141	History of Western Civilization since the Renaissance.....	3
POLSC-127	Introduction to Law and Democracy.....	3
POLSC-151	California Politics.....	3
POLSC-252	Model United Nations.....	3
SOCSC-101	Introduction to Social Justice.....	3

total minimum units for the major 18

POLSC-120 Introduction to Politics

- 3 units SC
- IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV
 - 54 hours lecture per term
 - Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.

This course presents an introduction to key concepts of politics, the state, and relations between the state and individual as applied to the United States political system. Comparison of the United States system with other political systems will also be discussed. C-ID POLS 150, CSU, UC

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POLSC-121 Introduction to United States Government

- 3 units SC
- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
 - *54 hours lecture per term*
 - *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

The course presents a survey of the American political framework and process. Students will examine the structure of the U.S. Constitution and functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches at national, state and local levels, viewed in the context of political culture, political parties, pressure groups and citizenship. Emphasis will be placed on the impact of federal, state, and local governments in California. C-ID POLS 110, CSU, UC

POLSC-122 Latinx Politics and American Government

- 3 units SC
- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
 - *54 hours lecture per term*
 - *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

This course provides an introduction to United States and California governments from the history and experiences of the Latinx population. Students will analyze the U.S. and California Constitutions as well the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of governance. Emphasis will be on Latinx political participation, social justice movements and their influence upon U.S. institutions at the local, state, and federal levels. Public policy issues including political economy, naturalization, immigration, health care, naturalization, immigration, health care, education and criminal justice will also be examined. C-ID POLS-110, CSU, UC

POLSC-123 Black Politics and American Government

- 3 units SC
- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
 - *54 hours lecture per term*
 - *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

This course provides an introduction to United States and California governments from the history and experiences of African Americans. Students will analyze the U.S. and California Constitutions as well the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of governance. Focusing on African-American and Black political participation, Civil Rights and social justice movements, this course will highlight the influence of Black Americans upon United States institutions at the local, state and federal levels. Public policy issues including mass incarceration, education, political economy, health-care, and the legacy of slavery will also be examined. C-ID POLS 110, CSU, UC

POLSC-127 Introduction to Law and Democracy

- 3 units SC
- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
 - *54 hours lecture per term*
 - *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

This course is an introduction to legal concepts in American democracy and contemporary issues: Theories of historical social injustice and movements; examination of law, social justice, democracy, government, civil rights, civil liberties, and citizenship. C-ID LPPS 110, CSU, UC

POLSC-151 California Politics

- 3 units SC
- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
 - *54 hours lecture per term*
 - *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

This course provides investigation and analysis of selected major issues of California politics and government including: the roles and responsibilities of governmental agencies, the importance of local political entities, and evaluation of policy choices. CSU, UC

POLSC-155 Topics in Political Science

- .3-4 units SC
- *Variable hours*

A supplemental course in political science to provide a study of current concepts and problems in political science and related substantive areas. Specific topics will be announced in the schedule of classes. CSU

POLSC-210 Political Ideology

- 3 units SC
- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
 - *54 hours lecture per term*

This course presents a comparative, conceptual, and historical analysis of competing ideological approaches to government. Emphasis is placed on the theories, values, and assumptions that make up a political ideology and the effect of such theories on a political system. Contemporary political ideological movements are explored. C-ID POLS 120, CSU, UC

POLSC-220 Comparative Politics

- 3 units SC
- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
 - *54 hours lecture per term*
 - *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

This course presents a comparative analysis of the political systems of selected foreign states. The origins and nature of politics, philosophies, and cultures and their expression in political institutions and processes are investigated. C-ID POLS 130, CSU, UC

POLSC-240 Political Theory

3 units SC

- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
- *54 hours lecture per term*
- *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

This course will present a survey of selected political theories, concepts and issues from Plato to the present. Students will explore theoretical approaches used to explain, instruct, and justify the distribution of political power in societies. C-ID POLS 120, CSU, UC

POLSC-250 International Relations

3 units SC

- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
- *54 hours lecture per term*

This course is an introduction to various aspects of international relations and politics. Topics include sovereignty, the nation-state and international politics, the nature of the global community, international law, world economics, the United Nations and other international organizations, and contemporary world problems. C-ID POLS 140, CSU, UC

POLSC-252 Model United Nations

3 units LR

- *IGETC: 4; CSU GE: D; DVC GE: IV*
- *54 hours lecture per term*
- *Advisory: College-level reading and writing are expected.*

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of international diplomacy and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs.) Focus is placed on history, structures and functions of the United Nations (UN), international bargaining and diplomacy, conflict resolution, and parliamentary procedures. Model UN will examine United States foreign and domestic policies related to the UN. Students will organize meetings modeled after the UN General Assembly, the Security Council and other organs of the UN as well as its specialized agencies and major IGOs. CSU, UC

POLSC-298 Independent Study

.5-3 units SC

- *Variable hours*
- *Note: Submission of acceptable educational contract to department and Instruction Office is required.*

This course is designed for advanced students who wish to conduct additional research, a special project, or learning activities in a specific discipline/subject area and is not intended to replace an existing course. The student and instructor develop a written contract that includes objectives to be achieved, activities and procedures to accomplish the study project, and the means by which the supervising instructor may assess accomplishment. CSU

POLSC-299 Student Instructional Assistant

.5-3 units SC

- *Variable hours*
- *Note: Applications must be approved through the Instruction Office. Students must be supervised by a DVC instructor.*

Students work as instructional assistants, lab assistants and research assistants in this department. The instructional assistants function as group discussion leaders, meet and assist students with problems and projects, or help instructors by setting up laboratory or demonstration apparatus. Students may not assist in course sections in which they are currently enrolled. CSU