

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Description

A political science major combines the analytical and communication skills of a liberal arts degree with an in-depth understanding of governments and political processes. Your political science major prepares you for virtually any career path—from government to law, journalism to business. Courses in political science examine government and politics in the United States and around the world.

Prelaw Students

Students in Prelaw may find the courses in American government, politics, and law particularly useful. In particular, they are advised to take some of the following courses: POLS 345 Courts, Judges, and Lawyers; POLS 347 Myths and Realities of the Justice System; POLS 441 Constitutional Law; POLS 442 Civil Liberties: Freedom of Expression and Conviction; POLS 443 Civil Liberties: Issues of Fairness and Equality; and POLS 469 International Law.

College Admission

The entrance requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), including any of the majors or minors offered through the college, are the same as the University of Nebraska–Lincoln General Admission Requirements. In addition to these requirements, the College of Arts and Sciences strongly recommends a third and fourth year of one foreign language in high school. Four years of high school coursework in the same language will fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences' language requirement. It will also allow students to continue language study at a more advanced level at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and provide more opportunity to study abroad.

Academic and Career Advising

Academic and Career Advising Center

Not sure where to go or who to ask? The Advising Center team in 107 Oldfather Hall can help. The Academic and Career Advising Center is the undergraduate hub for CAS students in all majors. Centrally located and easily accessed, students encounter friendly, knowledgeable people who are eager to help or connect students to partner resources. Students also visit the Advising Center in 107 Oldfather Hall to:

- Choose or change their major, minor, or degree program.
- Check on policies, procedures, and deadlines.
- Get a college approval signature from the Dean's representatives.

CAS Career Coaches are available by appointment (in-person or zoom) and located in the CAS Academic and Career Advising Center, 107 Oldfather Hall. They help students explore majors and minors, gain experience, and develop a plan for life after graduation.

Assigned Academic Advisors

Academic advisors are critical resources dedicated to students' academic, personal, and professional success. Every CAS student is assigned an academic advisor based on their primary major. Since most CAS students have more than just a single major, it is important to get to know the advisor for any minors or additional majors. Academic advisors work closely with the faculty to provide the best overall support and the discipline specific expertise. They are available for appointments (in-person or zoom) and through weekly virtual drop-ins. Assigned advisors

are listed in MyRED (<https://its.unl.edu/myunl/>) and their offices may be located in or near the department of the major for which they advise.

Students who have declared a pre-health or pre-law area of interest will also work with advisors in the Exploratory and Pre-Professional Advising Center (Explore Center) in 127 Love South, who are specially trained to guide students preparing to enter a professional school.

For complete and current information on advisors for majors, minors, or pre-professional areas, visit <https://cas.unl.edu/major-advisors> (<https://cas.unl.edu/major-advisors/>), or connect with the Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center, 107 Oldfather Hall, 402-472-4190, casadvising@unl.edu.

Career Coaching

The College believes that **Academics + Experience = Opportunities** and encourages students to complement their academic preparation with real-world experience, including internships, research, education abroad, service, and leadership. Arts and sciences students have access to a powerful network of faculty, staff, and advisors dedicated to providing information and support for their goals of meaningful employment or advanced education. Arts and sciences graduates have unlimited career possibilities and carry with them important career competencies—communication, critical thinking, creativity, context, and collaboration. They have the skills and adaptability that employers universally value. Graduates are prepared to effectively contribute professionally and personally with a solid foundation to excel in an increasingly global, technological, and interdisciplinary world.

Students should contact the career coaches in the Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center in 107 Oldfather Hall, or their assigned advisor, for more information. The CAS career coaches help students explore career options, identify ways to build experience and prepare to apply for internships, jobs, or graduate school, including help with resumes, applications, and interviewing.

ACE Requirements

Students must complete one course for each of the ACE Student Learning Outcomes below. Certified course choices are published in the degree audit, or visit the ACE website (<http://ace.unl.edu>) for the most current list of certified courses.

ACE Student Learning Outcomes

ACE 1: Write texts, in various forms, with an identified purpose, that respond to specific audience needs, integrate research or existing knowledge, and use applicable documentation and appropriate conventions of format and structure.

ACE 2: Demonstrate competence in communication skills.

ACE 3: Use mathematical, computational, statistical, logical, or other formal reasoning to solve problems, draw inferences, justify conclusions, and determine reasonableness.

ACE 4: Use scientific methods and knowledge to pose questions, frame hypotheses, interpret data, and evaluate whether conclusions about the natural and physical world are reasonable.

ACE 5: Use knowledge, historical perspectives, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation, and the standards of evidence appropriate to the humanities to address problems and issues.

ACE 6: Use knowledge, theories, and research perspectives such as statistical methods or observational accounts appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate social systems or human behaviors.

ACE 7: Use knowledge, theories, or methods appropriate to the arts to understand their context and significance.

ACE 8: Use knowledge, theories, and analysis to explain ethical principles and their importance in society.

ACE 9: Exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue.

ACE 10: Generate a creative or scholarly product that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation, and reflection.

College Degree Requirements

College Distribution Requirements – BA and BS

The College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements are common to both the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees and are designed to ensure a range of courses. By engaging in study in several different areas within the College, students develop the ability to learn in a variety of ways and apply their knowledge from a variety of perspectives. All requirements are in addition to University ACE requirements, and no course can be used to fulfill both an ACE outcome and a College Distribution Requirement.

- A student may not use a single course to satisfy more than one College Distribution Requirement, with the exception of CDR Diversity. Courses used to meet CDR Diversity may also meet CDR Writing, CDR Humanities, or CDR Social Science.
- Independent study or reading courses and internships cannot be used to satisfy distribution requirements.
- Courses from interdisciplinary programs will be applied in the same area as courses from the home/cross-listed department.

College Distribution Requirements

CDR: Written Communication	3
Select from courses approved for ACE outcome 1.	
CDR: Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences with Lab	4
Select from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, geology, meteorology, mathematics, and physics. Must include one lab in the natural or physical sciences. Lab courses may be selected from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, geology, meteorology, and physics.	
Some courses from geography and anthropology may also be used to satisfy the lab requirement above. ¹	
CDR: Humanities	3
Select from classics, English, film studies, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy, and religious studies. ²	
CDR: Social Science	3
Select from anthropology, communication studies, geography, national security studies, political science, psychology, or sociology. ³	
CDR: Human Diversity in U.S. Communities	0-3
Select from a set of approved courses as listed in the degree audit.	
CDR: Language	0-16

Fulfilled by the completion of the 6-credit-hour second-year sequence in a single foreign language in one of the following departments: Classics and religious studies or modern languages and literatures. Instruction is currently available in Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.

A student who has completed the fourth-year level of one foreign language in high school is exempt from the languages requirement, but encouraged to continue on in their language study.

Credit Hours Subtotal: 13-32

¹ See Degree Audit or a College of Arts and Sciences advisor for approved geography and anthropology courses that apply as natural science.
² Language courses numbered 220 and below do not fulfill the CDR Humanities.
³ See Degree Audit or College of Arts and Sciences advisor for list of natural/physical science courses in anthropology, geography, and psychology that do not apply as social science.

Language Requirement

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the College of Arts and Sciences place great value on academic exposure and proficiency in a second language. The University of Nebraska–Lincoln entrance requirement of two years of the same foreign language or the College’s language distribution requirement (CDR: Language) will rarely be waived and only with relevant documentation. See the main College of Arts and Sciences page for more details.

Experiential Learning Requirement

All undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete an Experiential Learning (EL) designated course. This may include 0-credit courses designed to document co-curricular activities recognized as Experiential Learning.

Scientific Base - BS Only

The bachelor of science degree requires students to complete 60 hours in mathematical, physical, and natural sciences. Approved courses for scientific-based credit come from the following College of Arts and Sciences disciplines: actuarial science, anthropology (selected courses), astronomy, biochemistry (excluding BIOC 101), biological sciences (excluding BIOS 100 or BIOS 203), chemistry (excluding CHEM 101), geography (selected courses), geology, life sciences, mathematics (excluding courses below MATH 104), meteorology, microbiology (excluding MBIO 101), and physics (excluding PHYS 201.)

See your Degree Audit or your assigned academic advisor for a complete list, including individual classes that fall outside of the disciplines listed above. Up to 12 hours of scientific and technical courses offered by other colleges may be accepted toward this requirement with approval of the College of Arts and Sciences. See your assigned academic advisor to start the approval process.

Minimum Hours Required for Graduation

A minimum of 120 semester hours of credit is required for graduation from the College of Arts and Sciences. A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 is required.

Grade Rules

Restrictions on C- and D Grades

The College will accept no more than 15 semester hours of C- and D grades from other domestic institutions except for UNO and UNK. All courses taken at UNO and UNK impact the UNL transcript. No transfer of C- and D grades can be applied toward requirements in a major or a minor. No University of Nebraska–Lincoln C- and D grades can be applied toward requirements in a major or a minor. International coursework (including education abroad) with a final grade equivalent to a C- or lower will not be validated by the College of Arts and Sciences departments to be degree applicable.

Pass/No Pass Privilege

The College of Arts and Sciences adheres to the University regulations for the Pass/No Pass (P/N) privilege with the following additional regulations:

- Pass/No Pass hours can count toward fulfillment of University ACE requirements and college distribution requirements up to the 24-hour maximum.
- Most arts and sciences departments and programs do not allow courses graded Pass/No Pass to apply to the major or minor. Students should refer to the department's or program's section of the catalog for clarification. By college rule, departments can allow up to 6 hours of Pass/No Pass in the major or minor.
- Departments may specify that certain courses of theirs can be taken only on a P/N basis.
- The college will permit no more than a total of 24 semester hours of P/N grades to be applied toward degree requirements. This total includes all Pass grades earned at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and other U.S. schools. **NOTE:** This 24-hour limit is more restrictive than the University regulation.

Grading Appeals

A student who feels that he/she has been unfairly graded must ordinarily take the following sequential steps in a timely manner, usually by initiating the appeal in the semester following the awarding of the grade:

1. Talk with the instructor concerned. Most problems are resolved at this point.
2. Talk to the instructor's department chairperson.
3. Take the case to the Grading Appeal Committee of the department concerned. The Committee should be contacted through the department chairperson.
4. Take the case to the College Grading Appeals Committee by contacting the Dean's Office, 1223 Oldfather Hall.

Course Level Requirements

Courses Numbered at the 300 or 400 Level

Thirty (30) of the 120 semester hours of credit must be in courses numbered at the 300 or 400 level. Of those 30 hours, 15 hours (1/2) must be completed in residence at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Residency Requirement

Students must complete at least 30 of the 120 total hours for their degree at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Students must complete at least 1/2 of their major coursework, including 6 hours at the 300 or 400 level in their major and 15 of the 30 hours required at the 300 or 400 level, in residence. Credit earned during education abroad may be used toward

the residency requirement only if students register through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Catalog to Use

Students must fulfill the requirements stated in the catalog for the academic year in which they are first admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. In consultation with advisors, a student may choose to follow a subsequent catalog for any academic year in which they are admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year. Beginning in 1990-1991, the catalog which a student follows for degree requirements may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.

Transfer Students: Students who have transferred from a community college may be eligible to fulfill the requirements as stated in the catalog for an academic year in which they were enrolled at the community college prior to attending the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. This decision should be made in consultation with academic advisors, provided the student a) was enrolled in a community college during the catalog year they are utilizing, b) maintained continuous enrollment at the previous institution for 1 academic year or more, and c) continued enrollment at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln within 1 calendar year from their last term at the previous institution. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year and within the time frame allowable for that catalog year.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of political science will be able to:

1. Explain the basic theories and concepts of at least two fields of political science.
2. Understand the exercise of power in pursuit of political objectives.
3. Engage in analytical and critical thinking about political subjects.
4. Effectively communicate the products of analytical and critical thinking orally and in writing.

Major Requirements

Political science core requirements, plus completion of 9 hours within two of the four subareas.

Core Requirements

Required Courses

POLS 101	Academic and Career Planning for Political Science	1
POLS 100	Power and Politics in America	3
POLS 160 / GLST 160	International Relations	3
POLS 286	Political Analysis ¹	3
POLS 400	Democracy and Democratic Citizenship ¹	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:		13

Political Theory Course

Select one of the following:		3
POLS 108	Political Ideas	
POLS 383	Justice and the Good Life	
POLS 384	Liberalism and Its Critics	
POLS 386	Truth and Progress	

POLS 481	Marx and the Aftermath of Marxism	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		3
Total Credit Hours		16

¹ POLS 286 *must be taken before* POLS 400.

Specific Major Requirements

Political Science Sub-Areas

Select two of the following four sub-areas. Complete 9 hours from each of those two subareas with at least 6 hours at the 400 level:²

American Government and Public Policy

POLS 210	Bureaucracy and the American Political System	
POLS 221	Politics in State and Local Governments	
POLS 225	Nebraska Government and Politics	
POLS 227	The Presidency	
POLS 230	Elections, Political Parties, and Special Interests	
POLS 232	Public Issues in America	
POLS 235	Public Policy: Concepts and Processes	
POLS 236	Public Policy Analysis: Methods and Models	
POLS 238 / ETHN 238	Blacks and the American Political System	
POLS 320	Political Persuasion and Advocacy Strategy	
POLS 325	Legislative Process	
POLS 332	Climate Change: Policy and Politics	
POLS 333 / ETHN 333	Immigration and Politics	
POLS 334 / COMM 334	Polls, Politics and Public Opinion	
POLS 338 / WMNS 338	Women and Politics	
POLS 345	Courts, Judges, and Lawyers	
POLS 347	Myths and Realities of the Justice System	
POLS 425	Congress and Public Policy	
POLS 426	Topics in American Public Policy	
POLS 430 / COMM 430	Political Communication	
POLS 441	Constitutional Law	
POLS 442	Civil Liberties: Freedom of Expression and Conviction	
POLS 443	Civil Liberties: Issues of Fairness and Equality	
POLS 475 / AGST 475 / CIVE 475 / CRPL 475 / GEOL 475 / NRES 475 / PLAS 475 / SOIL 475 / WATS 475	Water Quality Strategy	

International Relations and Comparative Politics

POLS 104	Comparative Politics	
POLS 171 / HIST 181	Introduction to East Asian Civilization	
POLS 260	Problems in International Relations	
POLS 261 / SOCI 261	Conflict and Conflict Resolution	
POLS 263	Causes of War and Peace	
POLS 268	Threats to World Order	
POLS 270	From National to Human Security	
POLS 277 / ETHN 277	Latin American Politics	
POLS 281	Challenges to the State	
POLS 332	Climate Change: Policy and Politics	
POLS 333 / ETHN 333	Immigration and Politics	
POLS 361	The United Nations and World Politics	
POLS 363	United States Foreign Policy	
POLS 459	International Political Economy	
POLS 466 / AECN 467 / ECON 466 / HIST 479	Pro-seminar in International Relations	
POLS 469	International Law	
POLS 476 / JUDS 476	Ethnic Conflict and Identity	
POLS 477 / JUDS 477	Israel and the Middle East	
POLS 478 / EDPS 478 / HIST 478	Pro-seminar in Latin American Studies	
<i>Human Rights and Security</i>		
POLS 263	Causes of War and Peace	
POLS 268	Threats to World Order	
POLS 270	From National to Human Security	
POLS 362	Globalization, Human Rights and Diversity	
POLS 375 / ETHN 375	Conflict and Development in Africa	
POLS 377	Transnational Criminal Networks	
POLS 463	American Foreign Policy and the Use of the Military	
POLS 470	International Human Rights	
POLS 472	State Terror	
POLS 473	Problems in International Law and Organization	
POLS 476 / JUDS 476	Ethnic Conflict and Identity	
POLS 479	Insurgency, Guerrilla Warfare, and Terrorism	
<i>Biology, Psychology, and Politics</i>		
POLS 150	Introduction to Biology, Psychology, and Politics	
POLS 250	Genetics, Brains, and Politics	
POLS 350	Issues in Biology, Psychology, and Politics	

POLS 450	Conducting Research in Political Psychology	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		18

² Courses may only count in one sub-area.

Additional Major Requirements

Prerequisite Requirements/Rules

POLS 286 is a prerequisite for POLS 400. Junior standing or above is recommended for all 400-level courses.

Grade Rules

C- and D Grades

A grade of C or above is required for all courses in the major and minor.

Pass/No Pass

No course taken Pass/No Pass will be counted toward the major or minor, with the exception of POLS 395.

Requirements for Minor Offered by Department

Eighteen (18) hours of political science courses, including POLS 100 Power and Politics in America, and at least one course at the 400 level.

Grade Rules

C- and D Grades

A grade of C or above is required for all courses in the major and minor.

Pass/No Pass

No course taken Pass/No Pass will be counted toward the major or minor, with the exception of POLS 395.

POLS 100 Power and Politics in America

Description: Introduction to American government and politics.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship ACE 6 Social Science

Course and Laboratory Fee: \$20

POLS 100H Honors: Power and Politics in America

Description: Introduction to American government and politics.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 6 Social Science ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship

POLS 101 Academic and Career Planning for Political Science

Prerequisites: Declared major in Political Science

Description: Introduction to the wide world of political science, the areas of work, and the UNL experiences that will help you navigate your academic journey. Learn about your skills and strengths and how to apply these towards your academic work and career goals. Formulate a degree plan that encompasses your personal, academic, and career goals.

Credit Hours: 1

Max credits per semester: 1

Max credits per degree: 1

Grading Option: Pass No Pass

Offered: FALL/SPR

POLS 104 Comparative Politics

Description: Description and analysis of the principal types of modern political systems, including types of democracies and dictatorships found in Western systems, Eastern systems, and the Third World. Occasional comparison made with American institutions and political processes. Deals both with structures and major policy problems confronting these political systems: the politics of education, human rights, demands for regional autonomy, ethnic conflict and diversity, political violence, demand for welfare services, crises in agriculture, and other topics of relevance.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 108 Political Ideas

Description: Introduction to major political concepts and controversies that have developed in the Western world. Liberty, equality, democracy, human nature, among others. Readings come from leading political theorists, past and present.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 150 Introduction to Biology, Psychology, and Politics

Description: An introduction to the central theories, methods, and findings in the application of biological and psychological techniques to politics.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded

ACE: ACE 6 Social Science

POLS 160 International Relations

Crosslisted with: GLST 160

Description: How and why states act as they do in their contemporary international relations. Continuing factors, such as power, war, ideology, and governmental organizations, and recently emerging influences, including supranational organizations, multinational corporations, and natural resource allocation analyzed. Diverse approaches and theories examined.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

POLS 171 Introduction to East Asian Civilization**Crosslisted with:** HIST 181**Description:** Survey of the traditional cultures and modern history of China and Japan. Emphasis on political systems, intellectual and religious history, and cultural developments.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**ACE:** ACE 9 Global/Diversity**POLS 189H University Honors Seminar****Prerequisites:** Good standing in the University Honors Program or by invitation.**Notes:** University Honors Seminar 189H is required of all students in the University Honors Program.**Description:** Topics vary.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded**ACE:** ACE 6 Social Science**POLS 210 Bureaucracy and the American Political System****Description:** Introductory survey to the administrative arm of American national, state, and local government. Bureaucracy has become so important to the functioning of the federal system it has been termed "the fourth branch of government." Bureaucracy's role as a political institution of the first order, not just as an implementer of policy. Bureaucratic power, structure, and democratic control.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 221 Politics in State and Local Governments****Description:** Broad introduction to the political structure and operations of state and local governments. Role and power of state and local governments; government institutions; political parties and interest groups; public policy; state constitutions.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 225 Nebraska Government and Politics****Description:** Various aspects of Nebraska government and politics. Unicameral Legislature, the governor and executive branch, the courts, political parties in Nebraska politics, political participation, and current issues of concern to Nebraskans.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 227 The Presidency****Description:** Creation, development, structure, powers, and functions of the office of the President of the United States.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**ACE:** ACE 6 Social Science**POLS 230 Elections, Political Parties, and Special Interests****Description:** Roles of political parties and interest groups in government and politics, focusing on their efforts of elections and lobbying.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**ACE:** ACE 6 Social Science**POLS 232 Public Issues in America****Description:** Major public issues in American politics. Government spending, civil rights; welfare and health care; poverty; education; urban problems; crime, violence and repression; defense policy; agricultural policy; environment/energy policy.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 235 Public Policy: Concepts and Processes****Description:** Basic policy theories and the policy process, paying special attention to key events that create or prevent policy opportunities and problems that arise throughout the policy process. Substantive policy issues used to illustrate the various concepts and process models.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 236 Public Policy Analysis: Methods and Models****Description:** Approaches to public policy analysis. The nature of politics and policy with emphasis on the role of the citizen, uses of information types in the formation of public policy, the analysis of policy content, and the problems of training for policy analysis. Basic policy analysis methods including interviewing participant observation, document analysis, and surveying.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 238 Blacks and the American Political System****Crosslisted with:** ETHN 238**Description:** Role of the Blacks in the American political system, with emphasis on strategies used to gain political power and influence decision makers; problems faced in the southern and urban political settings.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**ACE:** ACE 9 Global/Diversity ACE 6 Social Science**POLS 250 Genetics, Brains, and Politics****Description:** Role of genes, neural activity, and physiology in shaping human behavior, especially political behavior.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**ACE:** ACE 6 Social Science ACE 4 Science

POLS 260 Problems in International Relations

Description: Selected current or otherwise important problems in international relations. Content varies but may include such subjects as weapons and security policies, human rights, multinational corporations, ideologies, etc.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 261 Conflict and Conflict Resolution

Crosslisted with: SOCI 261

Description: Introduction to the study of the biological, economic, political-historical, and cultural bases of war and group conflict.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 263 Causes of War and Peace

Description: Leading theories on war and peace, highlighting the causes and consequences of WWI, WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Gulf War.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 268 Threats to World Order

Description: Variety of global crises and challenges that pose threats to world order. Population growth; scarcities of food, energy, and non-fuel minerals; vulnerability of industrial states to resource scarcities; nuclear proliferation; arms racing; and terrorism.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 270 From National to Human Security

Description: Provide a solid understanding of the historical and theoretical debates related to security studies within the sub field of international relations. Traditional and 'new threats' to security as it relates to world order. How nation-states are responding to these threats - namely through multilateral, multi-level strategies based on certain assumptions of governance.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 277 Latin American Politics

Crosslisted with: ETHN 277

Description: Constitutional and political development of selected Latin American countries; contemporary problems and institutions. Latin America in world affairs with special reference to the inter-American relations and the United States.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 281 Challenges to the State

Description: Challenges to the state related to human rights and gender issues. How growth of non-state actors affects individuals and groups and their rights. Gendered notions of the state, national security, women's rights, and humanitarian intervention.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 286 Political Analysis

Description: Ways of studying politics and social situations. Rather than asking what political systems "should" do, the primary questions are what political systems actually do and how we know what they do. Whether the application of the scientific process to social questions is valid? Problems in carrying out proper scientific research. The wide variety of techniques that have been applied to analyze politics.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

Prerequisite for: POLS 400; POLS 450

POLS 292 Special Topics in Political Science

Description: Topics vary.

Credit Hours: 1-6

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 6

Max credits per degree: 6

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 297 Legislative Page Program

Prerequisites: Permission.

Notes: Requires serving as page with the Nebraska Unicameral.

Description: The development and workings of the Nebraska legislature.

Credit Hours: 1-3

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Pass No Pass

Experiential Learning: Case/Project-Based Learning

POLS 320 Political Persuasion and Advocacy Strategy

Description: Sources of political attitudes and preferences, and how to change them. Agenda-setting and recognizing opportunities for policy change. Strategies for optimal design and targeting of persuasive efforts. Role of lobbyists and other professional advocates in the policy process. Focus on practical application of persuasion and advocacy techniques on politicized and partisan issues.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 325 Legislative Process

Description: Legislature's role in the American arrangement of legislative-executive-judicial responsibilities. Attention to the internal operation of the Congress with focus on the standing committee stage. State legislative experiences and proposals to reform the legislative system emphasized.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 332 Climate Change: Policy and Politics

Description: Examines how the impacts of climate change are evaluated and used to motivate policy; analyzes proposals and policies aimed at mitigating climate change at both the federal and the international level; and identifies stakeholders and assesses their impacts on climate change dialogue and policy.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 333 Immigration and Politics

Crosslisted with: ETHN 333

Description: Immigration as a multifaceted sociopolitical phenomenon. The history of different waves of immigration to the United States. Emphasis on the diversity within every immigrant group, as well as differences and similarities regarding their acculturation process. Public attitudes towards immigration in historical perspective. The American political system's capacity to incorporate newcomers into civic life.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

Groups: CAS Diversity in the US

POLS 334 Polls, Politics and Public Opinion

Crosslisted with: COMM 334

Description: Attitudes and behavior of citizens with respect to politics, how these attitudes and behaviors are shaped, how they are measured, and what influence they have on government.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 338 Women and Politics

Crosslisted with: WMNS 338

Description: Survey of women as political actors: participation in political life, barriers to participation, political attitudes, issues of special concern to women, and issues of particular concern to women of color.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

Groups: CAS Diversity in the US

POLS 345 Courts, Judges, and Lawyers

Description: Role of courts, judges, and lawyers in the American legal system and political process. Covers all federal and state courts but emphasizes the US Supreme Court.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 347 Myths and Realities of the Justice System

Description: American criminal justice system from arrest through sentencing. How the system appears to operate. How the system actually operates.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

Groups: CAS Diversity in the US

POLS 350 Issues in Biology, Psychology, and Politics

Description: A consideration of special issues in the study of biology, psychology, and politics, including emotions, behavioral genetics, neuroimaging, decision-making, and research on human subjects.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 9

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 6 Social Science

POLS 361 The United Nations and World Politics

Description: Analysis of the role and influence of the United Nations in international relations. Comparison of the UN with the League of Nations and with regional international organizations such as the Organization of American States and NATO. Attention to UN programs concerning security, human rights, economic development, and environmental protection.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 362 Globalization, Human Rights and Diversity

Description: Sources of globalization, its various forms, and how it triggers resistance from those who wish to preserve the local and particular from globalizing influences.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 363 United States Foreign Policy

Description: Major domestic factors affecting how US foreign policy is made and the resulting patterns of policy. US foreign policy in four issue-areas: security, human rights, economics, and ecology.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 364 Model United Nations

Description: An introduction to the United Nations system and the Model United Nations program, including research, debate and resolution writing.

Credit Hours: 1

Max credits per semester: 1

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 375 Conflict and Development in Africa

Crosslisted with: ETHN 375

Description: Uses knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to understand the causes of conflict and development in Africa. Pays attention to the diversity of conflict and development-related experiences on the continent.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity ACE 6 Social Science

POLS 377 Transnational Criminal Networks

Description: Causes, consequences and aftermath of drugs and thugs (war criminals, drugs/arms traffickers and modern-day caudillos, among others) and their role in contemporary international and human security.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 378 Politics of Antisemitism

Crosslisted with: JUDS 378

Description: A multidimensional survey of the history of local and global antisemitism, look at the calamity of the Holocaust, the creation and challenges of Israel, and current antisemitic attitudes in Nebraska, the US, and the world.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded

Offered: FALL/SPR

Groups: Human Rights and Security

POLS 383 Justice and the Good Life

Description: The questions of how we ought to live our lives via the study of classic texts in political thought. Debate what makes our actions - and, indeed our lives - just, choice-worthy, and even heroic.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 384 Liberalism and Its Critics

Description: The core ideas of liberal political thought. Critiques from both the Left and the Right to shed light on why the American experiment in governance - with its intellectual roots in the Enlightenment of 17th and 18th Century Europe - turned out as it did and how it might have been changed or improved.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 386 Truth and Progress

Description: Surveys the landscape of contemporary political theory, addressing some of the major debates of the past twenty years about reason, right action, human nature, good government, and truth.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 392 Special Topics in Political Science

Description: Topics vary.

Credit Hours: 1-6

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 6

Max credits per degree: 6

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 395 Internship in Political Science

Prerequisites: Junior standing; 12 hours of POLS; and permission.

Notes: Pass/No Pass only. Requires the assignment of and the supervision by a faculty member.

Description: Internship in government agencies, public-interest groups, political parties, or other organizations.

Credit Hours: 1-6

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 6

Max credits per degree: 6

Grading Option: Pass No Pass

Experiential Learning: Internship/Co-op

POLS 396 Independent Study in Political Science

Prerequisites: Permission.

Description: Independent reading or research under direction of a faculty member.

Credit Hours: 1-3

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 6

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 400 Democracy and Democratic Citizenship

Prerequisites: POLS 286 with a grade of C or higher. Political science major.

Description: Democracy as a form of government. Types of democracy, alternatives to democracy, and the history and consequences of democracy. Democratic citizenship, what makes a good democratic citizen, whether and how democratic citizenship can be promoted.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

POLS 425 Congress and Public Policy

Crosslisted with: POLS 825

Description: The policy making role of the Congress including the institutionalization of the House and the Senate, an analysis of congressional behavior, the committee process, and the policy responsiveness of Congress.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 426 Topics in American Public Policy

Crosslisted with: POLS 826

Description: A significant public policy in American politics. Topics: science, technology, and public policy; or health politics.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 430 Political Communication**Crosslisted with:** COMM 430

Description: Role of communication in the political process, with emphasis on communication strategies in political campaigns. Includes communication variables important in the political process, an application of communication theory and principles to political rhetoric, and analysis and criticism of selected political communication events.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 441 Constitutional Law****Crosslisted with:** POLS 841

Description: Supreme Court doctrine determining the distribution of powers within the national government and between the national government and the state governments.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 442 Civil Liberties: Freedom of Expression and Conviction****Crosslisted with:** POLS 842

Description: Supreme Court doctrine interpreting the First Amendment, covering freedom of speech, assembly, and association; freedom of the press; and freedom of religion.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 443 Civil Liberties: Issues of Fairness and Equality****Crosslisted with:** POLS 843

Description: Supreme Court doctrine covering the rights of the accused, the right to privacy and the right to racial and sexual equality.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 450 Conducting Research in Political Psychology****Prerequisites:** POLS 286 with a grade of C or higher.

Description: Advanced consideration of the theories, methods, and findings in the application of biological and psychological techniques to politics. Focus on experimental and survey research design, quantitative data analysis using statistical software (R/RStudio), and written and oral presentation of research findings.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**ACE:** ACE 6 Social Science**Experiential Learning:** Research**POLS 459 International Political Economy****Crosslisted with:** POLS 859

Description: Interface of politics and economics in the international arena. Political dimension of international economic issues emphasized. Includes: liberal, mercantile, and radical approaches; theories of imperialism; dependency and interdependency; distribution of the global product; the global division of labor; the political aspects of markets; the politics of trade, aid, investment, multinational corporations, food, and energy.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 463 American Foreign Policy and the Use of the Military****Crosslisted with:** POLS 863

Description: Military action as an instrument of American foreign policy. Constitutional basis of the president's and Congress's war powers; assessments of the role of the White House, Congress, CIA, senior pentagon officials, the American public, and military alliances - NATO and coalitions of the willing - in supporting and directing the use of military action abroad; and the political and strategic consequences of various American applications of military force.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 466 Pro-seminar in International Relations****Crosslisted with:** ECON 466, POLS 866, AECN 467, ECON 866, HIST 479, HIST 879**Prerequisites:** Senior standing and permission.**Notes:** Open to students with an interest in international relations.**Description:** Topic varies.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**POLS 469 International Law****Crosslisted with:** POLS 869**Prerequisites:** Junior or Senior Standing

Description: Rules and principles accepted by the members of the community of nations as defining their rights and duties, and the procedure employed in protecting their rights and performing their duties.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**Offered:** SPRING**POLS 470 International Human Rights****Crosslisted with:** POLS 870

Description: Development of international norms on human rights and attempts to implement those standards. Emphasis on political process, with attention to law, philosophy, economics, and culture. Coverage of the United Nations, regional organizations, private agencies, and national foreign policies.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

POLS 472 State Terror

Description: Use of terror as an instrument of state policy. A series of case studies of large scale politically based killings. Why and which states use terror and politicide against their own citizens.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 473 Problems in International Law and Organization

Crosslisted with: POLS 873

Notes: POLS 361 or 469 highly recommended.

Description: Selected issues in international law and organization. Content varies. Includes: US Senate's treatment of treaties, use of customary law by US courts, current cases before the World Court, leading legal issues handled by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, etc.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 475 Water Quality Strategy

Crosslisted with: NRES 475, NRES 875, SOIL 475, WATS 475, PLAS 475, AGRO 875, CIVE 475, CIVE 875, CRPL 475, CRPL 875, GEOL 475, GEOL 875, AGST 475, AGST 875, POLS 875

Prerequisites: Senior standing.

Notes: Capstone course.

Description: Holistic approach to the selection and analysis of planning strategies for protecting water quality from nonpoint sources of contamination. Introduction to the use of methods of analyzing the impact of strategies on whole systems and subsystems; for selecting strategies; and for evaluating present strategies.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

POLS 476 Ethnic Conflict and Identity

Crosslisted with: JUDS 476, POLS 876

Description: Theories of natinalism and ethnic conflict. Case studies of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The post-Cold War era as multi-polar and multi-cilizational. The states and different cultures that compete for influence and authority to dominate the "New World order." The division of the world along ethnic, religious, and class lines rather than by ideology. The future of international politics and the reassessment of the causes of "conflicts of culture" and their containment.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 477 Israel and the Middle East

Crosslisted with: JUDS 477, POLS 877

Description: Israeli politics, society, and relations with its neighbors, particularly the Palestinians. Rise of Zionism and the Palestinian response to it; wars between Israel and Arab neighbors, and the eventual peace agreements between the two; the internal dynamics of Israeli political life; and state of Zionism today.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 478 Pro-seminar in Latin American Studies

Crosslisted with: HIST 478, MODL 478, EDPS 478, HIST 878, POLS 878, MODL 878, EDPS 878, ETHN 478

Prerequisites: Junior standing and permission.

Description: An interdisciplinary analysis of topical issues in Latin American Studies.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 479 Insurgency, Guerrilla Warfare, and Terrorism

Description: Nature, strategies, and mechanics of insurgency, guerrilla warfare and terrorism, where they fit in the spectrum of conflict, and various techniques and methods for analyzing them.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 480 Restorative Justice

Description: Examine the theory of restorative justice and critically evaluate the restorative processes. Discuss if restorative justice works, how it compares to retributive justice, and to what extent a restorative approach can work in the aftermath of extreme societal violence.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded

Offered: FALL/SPR

POLS 481 Marx and the Aftermath of Marxism

Description: Arguments in favor of and opposed to Marxism, both in theory and practice.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 492 Special Topics in Political Science

Crosslisted with: POLS 892

Description: Topics vary.

Credit Hours: 1-6

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 6

Max credits per degree: 6

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 499 Undergraduate Thesis

Prerequisites: Permission.

Description: Independent research leading to a thesis.

Credit Hours: 1-3

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 6

Grading Option: Graded with Option

POLS 499H Honors Undergraduate Thesis

Prerequisites: Permission.

Description: Independent research leading to a thesis.

Credit Hours: 1-3

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 6

Grading Option: Graded with Option

PLEASE NOTE

This document represents a sample 4-year plan for degree completion with this major. Actual course selection and sequence may vary and should be discussed individually with your college or department academic advisor. Advisors also can help you plan other experiences to enrich your undergraduate education such as internships, education abroad, undergraduate research, learning communities, and service learning and community-based learning.

Political Science (B.A.) Career Information

The following represents a sample of the internships, jobs and graduate school programs that current students and recent graduates have reported.

Transferable Skills

- Contextualize political, social, and historical events
- Defend and discuss complex issues from multiple angles
- Develop and defend evidence based arguments
- Communicate clearly using different forms of writing to and for a variety of different audiences
- Gain global perspective and high levels of intercultural awareness
- Make decisions carefully, using appropriate theoretical frameworks
- Read, understand, and critically review scientific information
- Simplify complex information and present it to others
- Understand the connection between people, places, and communities
- Use various qualitative and quantitative research methodologies
- Analyze and explain data
- Compose convincing arguments and present logical information
- Analyze and interpret difficult texts
- Collaborate with a team to develop solutions
- Comprehend and critically evaluate complex information

Jobs of Recent Graduates

- Administrative Aide, State of Nebraska – Lincoln, NE
- Campaign Organizer, Impact Organization/Environment New Mexico – Albuquerque, NM
- Compliance Officer, Tagge Rutherford Financial Group – Omaha, NE
- Director of Voting Rights, Nebraskans for Civic Reform – Lincoln, NE
- Legal Assistant, Learner & Rowe Attorneys – Chicago, IL
- Legislative Aide, Nebraska Legislature – Lincoln, NE
- Operations Director, The Nebraska Democratic Party – Lincoln, NE
- Policy Assistant, Center for Rural Affairs – Lyons, NE
- Program Analyst, General Dynamics Information Technology – Springfield, MO
- Staff Assistant, United States Congress – Washington, DC

Internships

- Legislative Research Aide, Lancaster County Veteran Services - Lincoln NE
- Intern, Great Plains National Security Education Consortiu - Lincoln NE
- Country Assistance Coordinator Intern, United States Dept of State - Washington DC

- Legislative and Lobbying Intern, Nebraskans for Civic Reform - Lincoln NE
- Community Development Intern, Nebraska Dept of Economic Development - Lincoln NE
- Senator Deb Fischer Intern, United States Senate - Lincoln NE
- CommerceConnect Intern, United States Dept of Commerce - Washington DC DC
- School of Government Internship, Sun Yat-Sen University - Guangzhou, China ZZ
- Congressman Adrian Smith Intern, United States House of Representatives - Washington D.C. DC
- National Intern, Project Vote Smart - Philipsburg MT

Graduate & Professional Schools

- Master's Degree, Community & Regional Planning, University of Nebraska–Lincoln – Lincoln, NE
- Master's Degree, Geographical Information Science, Texas State University – San Marcos, TX
- Master's Degree, International Affairs, Texas A&M University – College Station, TX
- Master's Degree, International Security, University of Denver – Denver, CO
- Master's Degree, Political Economy, Georgetown University – Washington, DC
- Master's Degree, War Studies, King's College London – London, England
- Juris Doctor Degree, University of Nebraska College of Law – Lincoln, NE
- Juris Doctor Degree, Yale Law School – New Haven, CT
- Doctoral Degree, Economic Analysis and Policy, Stanford University – Stanford, CA
- Doctoral Degree, Political Science, University of Rochester – Rochester, NY