

Political Science

Degree: Bachelor of Arts
Specializations: Political Science, Pre-Law
Minors: Political Science, Pre-Law
Department: Government
Building 50, Room 120
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govt@uwf.edu
College: Arts and Sciences
Semester Hours Required for Degree: 120

Faculty: A.G. Cuzán (Chairperson), J.D. Alvis (Pre-Law Advisor), R.L. Anderson (Emeritus), J. Evans, M.L. Goel (Emeritus), W.G. Howard, D.S. Myers (Emeritus), J.A. Robinson (President Emeritus), M. Williams (International Studies Advisor), J. Witt (Emeritus)

“Man is by nature a political animal.” Aristotle

One of the oldest fields of study, Political Science is an integral component of a liberal arts education. Beginning with Plato and Aristotle; through Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, de Tocqueville, Marx, and Mill; to Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton, as well as contemporary political scientists, serious thinkers have pondered at length fundamental questions pertaining to the governance of human societies, including the origin and evolution of law and justice, the comparative performance of democracies and dictatorships, the exercise of political leadership, the origins of war, and the maintenance of peace. It is our task to analyze competing theories purporting to throw light on these questions, subjecting them to the test of reason, history, and experience.

The Pre-Law Specialization emphasizes American government, with special attention paid to constitutional law and the judicial branch. To appreciate the value of our Pre-Law program, be it noted that in “Preparation for Legal Education,” the American Bar Association declined to prescribe a particular major or even specific courses for students contemplating going to law school. Instead, it is advised that undergraduates acquire generic language, research, and organizational skills; knowledge of American history, government, and society; political theory, including theories of justice; philosophy and ethics; economics and business; and international relations.

Although there is no single undergraduate path to law school, nationwide the major of choice among students taking the LSAT is Political Science. This is not surprising; the study of government requires students to develop the very skills and to learn exactly the kind of knowledge mentioned by the American Bar Association (ABA). At the University of West Florida, Political Science Pre-Law is a rigorous and rewarding program. Students take courses in political theory, American government and constitutional law, as well as in history, economics, philosophy, literature, communications, and statistics or computer science. They are required to do library research; read, analyze, and evaluate difficult material; and communicate their findings and conclusions clearly, both orally and in writing. Upon graduation, our majors successfully compete with those of other majors and institutions when it comes to the LSAT and admission to law school. Our graduates have gone on to study the law at Florida State University, the University of Florida, Stetson, as well as other schools in the Southeast.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In addition to general University requirements, students seeking the B.A. in Political Science must meet the following requirements. The average GPA for mandatory core courses must be 2.0.

As a prerequisite, students majoring in Political Science need to earn at least a “C” in POS 2041, or to transfer 3 sh of an equivalent lower-division course in American government or political science with a grade of “C” or higher.

Course descriptions are listed alphabetically by prefix in the back of this *Catalog*.

General Studies (36 sh)

For additional information see the General Studies section of this *Catalog*.

Common Prerequisites (6 sh)

State mandated common prerequisites must be completed prior to graduation, but are not required for admission to the program.

Two introductory courses in Political Science
with POS, INR, or CPO prefix 6

Lower Division Electives (18-21 sh)

Sufficient 1000/2000 level electives to complete at least 60 semester hours in the lower division. Current UWF students may use elective courses at any level (1000-4999) to meet this elective requirement. Recommended electives are CPO 2002, INR 2002, and POS 2041.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SPECIALIZATION

Major (30-39 sh)

POS	3734	Political Science Research Methods	3
POT	4204	American Political Thought	3
POT	4601	Masters of Political Thought	3
PUP	3000/4000	level course	3
CPO	3000/4000	level course	3
INR	3000/4000	level course	3
		3000/4000 level Political Science (CPO, PAD, POS, POT, PUP) electives	6

Choose one:

POS	3283	Judicial Process	3
POS	3603	American Constitutional Law	3

Choose one:

POS	3122	Issues in American Government and Politics	3
POS	3424	The Legislative Process	3

If not completed at the lower division:

CPO	2002	Comparative Politics	3
INR	2002	International Politics	3
POS	2041	American Politics	3

Major-Related (0 sh)

Upper Division Electives (21-30 sh)

Sufficient 3000/4000 level electives to meet UWF’s requirement of 48 semester hours in the upper division or completion of all departmental requirements at the 3000/4000 level, whichever is greater.

PRE-LAW SPECIALIZATION

Major (30 sh)

Core (21 sh)

POS	2041	American Politics	3
POS	3122	Issues in American Government & Politics	3
POS	3283	Judicial Process	3
POS	3424	Legislative Process	3
POS	3603	American Constitutional Law	3
POT	4204	American Political Thought	3
POT	4601	Masters of Political Thought	3

Pre-Law Specialization Courses (9 sh)

Choose three:

PLA	3103	Legal Research and Writing	3
POS	3623	Bill of Rights	3
POS	3625	First Amendment Freedoms	3
POS	4673	Jurisprudence	3

Major-Related (15 sh)

Take at least one course from any five of the following categories:

History

AMH	4111	Colonial America	3
AMH	4150	Early American Republic: 1789-1860	3
AMH	4231	America Between the Wars, 1920-1940	3
AMH	4420	History of Florida	3
EUH	3122	High Middle Ages	3
EUH	4503	English Constitutional & Legal History	3

Philosophy

PHH	3100	Greek Philosophy	3
PHH	3400	Modern Philosophy	3
PHH	4200	Medieval Philosophy	3
PHH	4600	Contemporary Philosophy	3
PHI	2100	Introduction to Logic	3
PHI	3130	Modern Logic	3
PHI	3670	Ethics	3
PHI	4300	Theory of Knowledge	3
PHM	3200	Social and Political Philosophy	3

English/American Literature

AML	4102	American Fiction	3
AML	4330	American Authors	3
ENL	4230	18th Century Authors	3
ENL	4240	Romantic Movement	3
ENL	4273	20th Century British Literature	3
ENL	4333	Shakespeare	3

Business

ACG	2021	Principles of Financial Accounting	3
ECO	3003	Principles of Economic Theory & Public Policy	3
FIN	3140	Personal Financial Planning	3
GEB	3032	Business Foundations for Non-Business Majors	3
GEB	3212	Writing for Business: Theory and Practice	3

Skills

CGS	2570	Personal Computer Applications	3
CGS	3464	Programming Using Visual Basic for Non-Majors	3
STA	2023	Elements of Statistics	3

Communication

		2000/3000/4000 level foreign language course	3
COM	3462	Persuasive Communication	3
COM	4110	Business & Professional Communication	3
SPC	3301	Interpersonal Communication	3

Upper Division Electives (15 sh)

Sufficient 3000/4000 level electives to meet UWF's requirement of 48 semester hours in the upper division or completion of all departmental requirements at the 3000/4000 level, whichever is greater.

MINORS

Political Science minors require 15 sh of course work. A grade of "C" or higher is required in all courses.

Political Science (15 sh)

All courses must be completed at UWF and directed studies may not be taken to fulfill requirements. Political Science majors may not earn this minor.

Choose one:

CPO	2002	Comparative Politics	3
INR	2002	International Politics	3
POS	2041	American Politics	3

Choose two:

POS	3122	Issues in American Government & Politics	3
POS	3283	Judicial Process	3
POS	3424	Legislative Process	3
POS	3603	American Constitutional Law	3
POS	3734	Political Science Research Methods	3
POT	4204	American Political Thought	3
POT	4601	Masters of Political Thought	3

Choose one:

INR	3006	Conflict, Violence and Peace	3
INR	3225	Vietnam and American Politics	3
INR	4334	National Security Policy	3

Choose one:

CPO	3103	Politics of Western Europe	3
CPO	3513	Politics of the Far East-Japan & China	3
CPO	4303	Politics of Spain, Portugal & Latin America	3
CPO	4314	Democracies	3
CPO	4531	Politics and Culture of India	3

Pre-Law (15 sh)

This minor is designed for students who seek to gain a theoretical understanding of the law pursuant to applying to law school. Political Science majors may not earn this minor.

POS	2041	American Politics	3
POS	3283	Judicial Process	3
POS	3603	American Constitutional law	3

Choose one:

POT	4204	American Political Thought	3
POT	4601	Masters of Political Thought	3

Choose one:

POS	3623	Bill of Rights	3
POS	3625	First Amendment Freedoms	3
POS	4606	Constitutional Controversies	3
POS	4673	Jurisprudence	3