

# Political Science POLS

Associate in Arts Degree

**Division of Behavioral and Social Science**  
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## Political Science

Associate in Arts Degree

### Program Information

Sacramento City College offers a unique political science experience that combines both the science and arts of politics that can only be appreciated in the heart of California's capital. Faculty provide a strong orientation to the world of politics by blending theory and real-world activities, which students will value throughout their academic and professional careers.

### Career Opportunities

Completion of the degree will lead to professions in public or private sector in the areas of law, public relations, business, advocacy, lobbying, international relations, diplomacy, and academia. Completion of the degree will lead to opportunities in national, state, and local governments.

### Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of political science and governance.
- examine and apply theories, concepts, and practices in political theory.
- demonstrate a knowledge of contemporary comparative systems and governments.
- analyze world politics and diplomacy in the international system.
- analyze, investigate, and compare ideological approaches to governmental systems.
- demonstrate knowledge of practical applications and evaluations of policy outcomes in civic culture.
- analyze political theory and concepts using critical thinking skills.
- research specific topics of discussion in local, state, national, and international politics.
- demonstrate knowledge of basic research methods and applications.
- apply appropriate technology in the field of political science.
- demonstrate knowledge and competence in writing, analysis, and preparation of media release.

### Required Program

**Units**

A minimum of 9 units from the following:..... 9

- POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States (3)
- POLS 302 Introduction to Government: Foreign(3)
- POLS 310 Introduction to International Relations (3)
- POLS 480 Introduction to International Relations - Honors (3)
- POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States - Honors (3)

A minimum of 6 units from the following: ..... 6

- POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California (3)
- POLS 320 Introduction to Political Theory (3)
- POLS 322 Political Ideologies (3)
- POLS 340 Women in Politics (3)
- POLS 497 Internship in Political Science (1-4)

A minimum of 3 units from the following: ..... 3

- HIST 310 History of the United States (3)
- HIST 483 History of the United States Honors (3)
- HIST 311 History of the United States (3)
- HIST 484 History of the United States Honors (3)

**Total Units Required** **18**

### Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree

The Associate in Arts Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See SCC graduation requirements.

## Political Science (POLS)

### POLS 301 Introduction to Government: 3 Units United States

*Prerequisite: None*  
*Advisory: ENGWR 300 with a grade of "C" or better.*  
*General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F2; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H*  
*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*  
*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course will examine principles and problems of government, the political process, and democracy as practiced in the United States. This course fulfills federal, state, and local government requirements.

### POLS 302 Introduction to Government: 3 Units Foreign

*Prerequisite: None*  
*Advisory: Eligibility for ENGWR 300.*  
*General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H*  
*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*  
*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

The political systems of selected nations such as Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Japan, Mexico, Peoples' Republic of China, India, South Africa, and Cuba are analyzed. The course will also compare the formation of political institutions, the role of political culture, political parties and public policy.

**POLS 304 Introduction to Government: 3 Units  
California**

*Prerequisite:* None

*Advisory:* Completion of ENGWR 300 with a grade of "C" or better.

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

This course covers the essential organization, institutions, and processes of California state and local government.

**POLS 310 Introduction to International 3 Units  
Relations**

*Prerequisite:* None

*Advisory:* Eligibility for ENGWR 300

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

This course will examine the problems, motivating forces, and techniques of conflict resolution among actors within the global nation-state system. Particular emphasis is placed on comparing perspectives among developed and underdeveloped nations.

**POLS 312 Politics of the Middle East 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None

*Advisory:* Completion of ENGWR 100 with a grade of "C" or better, or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better.

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

Area Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to provide understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Area Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). It covers the region's history through the Ottoman Empire, colonialism, independence and the modern-day challenges of economic globalization and foreign intervention. The impact of economics, colonialism, struggles over natural resources, religious movements, social and cultural struggles, and ideology will be examined in the region on a country-by-country and regional basis. The question of Palestine and the Palestine-Israel conflict will be closely examined as a core issue in the politics of the region. The course includes an examination of dominant political institutions, actors, processes and grassroots movements within the context of political culture and history and an analysis of area political economy and foreign policy in an environment of global interdependence. Countries to be covered include, but are not limited to, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria. This course introduces students to the comparative politics of the Middle East and North Africa with a heavy emphasis on the political and economic roots of contemporary events.

**POLS 313 Latin America 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

Area Studies courses cover the government and politics of selected nations within a distinct geopolitical area of the world in order to provide understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area. This Area Studies survey course is designed to give students an understanding of past and contemporary Latin American politics. The impact of language, culture, religion, colonialism, neo colonialism, free market, ideology, revolutionary movements, conflict and resolution, and foreign and domestic policies will be examined in the region on a country-by-country basis. The course includes an examination of dominant political institutions, actors, processes, and belief systems within the context of political culture and an analysis of area political economy and foreign policy in the environment of global interdependence. Countries to be covered include but are not limited to Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. The course concludes with a summation of the region as it stands today and an assessment of where it is likely to go in the near future.

**POLS 320 Introduction to Political 3 Units  
Theory**

*Prerequisite:* None

*Advisory:* Eligibility for ENGWR 300

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

This course examines theoretical approaches to politics and ways of thinking about politics, covering important thinkers and topics during the ancient, medieval, and modern periods.

**POLS 322 Political Ideologies 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None

*Advisory:* Eligibility for ENGWR 300 or ENGWR 100 or ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 is advised,

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

This course will cover comparative, conceptual, and historical analysis of competing ideological approaches to government. Emphasis will be on the theories, values, and assumptions that make up a political ideology and the effect of such theories on a political system.

**POLS 340 Women in Politics 3 Units**

*Prerequisite: None.*

*Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better.*

*General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D4; CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

In this course, students will be provided a critical analysis of contemporary women's issues in American politics, with particular emphasis on current problems facing women political figures. Students will identify early American women's movements. Students will analyze the role and impact of political groups, cultural attitudes and traditions, and self-perceptions affecting women's political rights in America. Students will understand the struggle between women and public policy concerning employment, educational, familial, and reproductive issues. Students will critique current studies of women in American politics, including political ambition, familial issues, and gender gap and determine future goals of women's rights movements and women political figures in America.

**POLS 480 Introduction to International Relations - Honors 3 Units**

*Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program required.*

*Advisory: Eligibility for ENGWR 300*

*General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course will examine the problems, motivating forces, and techniques of conflict resolution among actors within the global nation-state system. Particular emphasis is placed on comparing perspectives among developed and underdeveloped nations. This honors section uses an intensive instructional methodology with extensive research projects on international institutions designed to challenge motivated students.

**POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States - Honors 3 Units**

*Prerequisite: None*

*General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F2; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H*

*Enrollment Limitation: Eligibility for the Honors Program*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course will examine principles and problems of government, the political process, and democracy as practiced in the United States. The class is conducted in a seminar format and requires a higher level of student academic engagement of course preparation with at least four texts and readers. This honors section uses an intensive instructional methodology with extensive research projects on American institutions designed to challenge motivated students.

**POLS 494 Topics in Political Science .5-4 Units**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Advisory: Eligibility for ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320.*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU; UC Transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted toward the minimum 60 units required for admissions.*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

Content will differ each time course is offered. The objective is to focus content on issues of local, national or international significance at the time of offering course.

**POLS 495 Independent Studies in Political Science 1-3 Units**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU; UC Transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted toward the minimum 60 units required for admissions.*

*Hours: 54 hours LAB*

See Independent Studies

**POLS 497 Internship in Political Science 1-4 Units**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Advisory: Concurrent enrollment in or completion of courses related to the major.*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 18 hours LEC; 75 hours LAB*

18 hours lecture and 75 hours of related paid activity or 60 hours of volunteer activity for one unit; 75 or 60 hours of activity for each additional unit.\* This course consists of a supervised internship and study in political, governmental, or related organizations. This course may be repeated for credit as long as there is new or expanded learning on the job.

**POLS 499 Experimental Offering in Political Science .5-4 Units**

*Prerequisite: None*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU; UC Transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted toward the minimum 60 units required for admissions.*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

See Experimental Offerings