

# Political Science POLS

**Degree:**

- A.A. – Political Science
- AA-T – Political Science for Transfer

**Division of Behavioral and Social Science**

**To be Announced, Dean  
Rodda Hall North 226  
916-558-2401**

## 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 fully 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 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)  
or HIST 483 History of the United States Honors (3)
- HIST 311 History of the United States (3)  
or 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.



**Associate Degree  
for Transfer**  
*A Degree with a Guarantee.*

## Political Science

### Associate in Arts for Transfer

**Program Information**

This program is designed to provide a clearly articulated curricular track for Sacramento City College students preparing for seamless transfer in Political Science at the California State University while also serving the diverse needs of students interested in the breadth and depth of the field. This program will expose students to some of the principles and techniques of political science and help students build a foundation for their personal, academic, or professional interests. Sacramento City College offers a unique political science experience that combines both the science and art 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.

The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) student completion requirements (as stated in SB1440 law):

- (1) Completion of a minimum of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
  - (A) The California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).
  - (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.
- (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a “C” or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis.

**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 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 a 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.

<b>Required Program</b>	<b>Units</b>
POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States (3).....	3
or POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States – Honors (3)	
POLS 302 Introduction to Government: Foreign .....	3
POLS 310 Introduction to International Relations (3).....	3
or POLS 480 Introduction to International Relations – Honors (3)	
POLS 320 Introduction to Political Theory.....	3
A minimum of 6 units from the following: .....	6
COMM 335 Conflict Management (3)	
ECON 302 Principles of Macroeconomics (3)	
HIST 311 History of the United States (3)	
or HIST 484 History of the United States – Honors (3)	
PHIL 368 Law, Justice, and Punishment (3)	
POLS 303 Contemporary Politics of Africa (3)	
POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California (3)	
POLS 312 Politics of the Middle East (3)	
POLS 313 Latin America (3)	
POLS 322 Political Ideologies (3)	
POLS 340 Women in Politics (3)	
SOC 345 Global Women's Issues (3)	
or WGS 302 Global Women's Issues (3)	
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>18</b>

**Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree**

The Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

**Political Science (POLS)****POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

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

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(a); AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8;

CSU Area F2; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

In this course, students 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. (C-ID POLS 110)

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

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better

*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, People's Republic of China, India, South Africa, and Cuba are analyzed. The course will also compare the formation of language, culture, religion, and political institutions, and the role of political culture, political parties, and public policy. (C-ID POLS 130)

**POLS 303 Contemporary Politics of Africa 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better

*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 African politics. The impact of language, culture, religion, colonialism, neo colonialism, free market, ideology, liberation and revolutionary movements, ethnic conflict and resolution, rise of populist leadership, indigenous politics, impact of global economic integration, 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 Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Nigeria, Namibia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. 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 304 Introduction to Government: California 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

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

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(a); AA/AS Area V(b); 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. The state's diversity will be a key theme in explaining California's political history, participation, and policies.

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

*Prerequisite:* None.

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

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

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

In this course, students 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. (C-ID POLS 140)

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

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* ENGWR 300 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

This course covers the government and politics of selected nations within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in order to provide an understanding of the institutions and dynamics of the area as a whole. It covers the region's political 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 course will also analyze ethnicity, ethnocentrism, and/or racism and how they shape and explain ethnic experiences. 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. In this course, students will be introduced 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.

*Advisory:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better

*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, rise of populist leadership, indigenous politics, 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 Theory 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

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

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

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

In this course, students will examine theoretical approaches to politics and ways of thinking about politics, covering important thinkers and topics during the ancient, medieval and modern periods. (C-ID POLS 120)

**POLS 322 Political Ideologies 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

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

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

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

In this course, comparative, conceptual, and historical analysis of competing ideological approaches to government will be covered. 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 300 with a grade of "C" or better

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

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

In this course, students will learn about current problems affecting women's political participation, particularly running for office, in the United States. Students will analyze the role and impact of cultural attitudes and traditions, self-perceptions, and political groups affecting women's political participation in America. Students will also critique current studies of eligible women candidates and the decision to run for office, including political ambition, familial issues, political recruitment, perceptions of the electoral environment and campaign process, and gender gap to determine future goals of improving women's representation in electoral politics.

**POLS 350 Environmental Politics 3 Units**

*Prerequisite: None.*

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

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

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

This course is an introduction to environmental political thought and politics. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the theoretical roots, including capitalism, industrialism, and liberalism, of current arguments in environmental politics and policy. Students will analyze how competing perspectives in environmental politics inform policy processes, both in the United States and globally.

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

*Prerequisite: None.*

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

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

*IGETC Area 4H*

*Enrollment Limitation: Eligibility for admission to the Honors Program.*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

In this course students 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. (C-ID POLS 140)

**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 admission to the Honors Program.*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

In this course students will examine principles and problems of government, the political process, and democracy as practiced in the United States. The classes are conducted in a seminar format and requires a higher level of student academic engagement and 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. (C-ID POLS 110)

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

*Prerequisite: None.*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 72 hours LEC*

Content will differ each time course is offered. The objective is to focus content on topics and issues of local, national, or international significance at the time of offering course. (Credit may be earned for HIST 494 or POLS 494, but not for both.) 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 towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.

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

*Prerequisite: None.*

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

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 162 hours LAB*

An independent studies project involves an individual student or a small group of students in study, research, or activities beyond the regularly offered political science courses. 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 towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.

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

*Prerequisite: None.*

*Enrollment Limitation: According to Education Code Title 5 regulations, a student must be in a paid or unpaid job, volunteer position, or internship.*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 2 hours LEC; 300 hours LAB*

According to Title 5, code 55252, an Internship in Political Science is supervised employment extending classroom – based occupational learning at an on-the-job learning station related to the student's educational or occupational goal. This course is designed for students working in a paid or unpaid job, volunteer position or internship directly related to their major. The course will provide students with a structured program designed to teach them new soft skills and employability skills that will assist them in securing a job in the future and an opportunity to explore occupational interests that will assist them in the academic major and career decision making process. The student must have a job, volunteer, or internship position secured to remain enrolled in the course. Course content includes understanding the application of education to the workforce; responsibilities of an intern or employee in a workforce setting; completion of Title 5 Education Code documents (i.e. Student Application, Learning Objectives, Time Sheet, and Evaluation), that document the student's progress and hours spent in the workplace; and development of workplace soft skills and employability skills relevant to the 21st century workplace. Learning objectives will be developed between the student, employer, and Work Experience/Internship Instructor to best meet the students' level of learning. The student will be required to attend an orientation at the beginning of the course and complete a minimum of 75 hours to a maximum of 300 hours of paid work; or a minimum of 60 hours to a maximum 240 hours of unpaid work per unit per semester. This course consists of a supervised internship and study in political, governmental, or related organizations.

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

*Prerequisite: None*

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours: 54 hours LEC*

See Experimental Offering. 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 towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.