

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Overview

Political science studies people and the institutions that govern them across different political, social, and economic contexts. Central to the discipline is knowledge of the government and politics of nations and their subunits, analysis of political principles and ideas, international dynamics, political conflict, policymaking, elections, social movements, and political participation. The program pays special attention to the skills necessary to analyze the political world in a systematic and rigorous way, including a focus on research design, qualitative and quantitative research methodology, and original research.

Political science courses at New College are structured into four subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory), reflecting traditional intellectual emphases within the discipline. Students have considerable flexibility in planning their studies across topics and geographic areas; some concentrate on the politics of the United States, while others develop an interest in areas such as Latin America, Europe, Asia, or Africa, and still others create their own specializations. Beyond courses and tutorials, many of our students complete internships or work in organizations or on campaigns to gain the experience needed not only to understand but also to participate in political processes. Each student's program of study culminates in a senior project under the close guidance of a faculty member. Our program provides a strong foundation for students, whether they plan to further their education in political science or related fields or pursue careers in government service, law, diplomacy, journalism, electoral politics, or nonprofit advocacy.

Faculty in Political Science

Frank Alcock (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/frank-r-alcock/>), Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies (On Leave)

David Ellis (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/david-ellis/>), Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science

Michael Gorup (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/michael-gorup/>), Assistant Professor of Political Science

Barbara Hicks (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/barbara-e-hicks/>), Professor of Political Science/Social Sciences Division Chair

Richard Izquierdo (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/richard-izquierdo/>), Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science

Jack Reilly (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/jack-reilly/>), Associate Professor of Political Science (On Leave)

Nat Colletta (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/nat-colletta/>), Adjunct Professor of International Studies

Requirements for the AOC in Political Science

A minimum of ten (10) course units.

Code	Title
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Introductory Courses

Select **two** of the following:

POLS 2041	American Government and Civics*
POLS 2200	Comparative Politics*
POLS 2300	Introduction to World Politics*
POLS 2400	Introduction to Political Theory*

Quantitative Political Analysis or Statistics Course

POLS 2500	Quantitative Political Analysis I* ¹
Research Design Workshop	
POLS 3500	Research Design Workshop in Political Science (recommended for 3rd-year students)
3000- or 4000-Level Courses	
Select at least six courses at the 3000- or 4000- levels, with at least one course in three of the following four subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory). At least two of the six must be advanced seminars at the 4000-level, each in a different subfield:	
American Politics	
POLS 2041	American Government and Civics*
POLS 2750	US Campaigns, Elections, and Voting 2022*
POLS 3110	Politics of Congress
POLS 3130	U.S. Constitutional Law: Structures and Powers of Government
POLS 3135	U.S. Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
POLS 3140	Florida Politics and Government*
POLS 3160	Rural Politics in the United States
POLS 3600	Power and Public Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3610	Politics of Health Care Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3650	U.S. Immigration Policy from Origins to Current Issues
POLS 3710	Public Opinion, Polarization, and the Politics of Identity in the United States
POLS 4100	Advanced Seminar: American Political Development
POLS 4110	Citizenship, Political Authority and the Public Sphere in the U.S.
POLS 4120	Party Realignment in American Politics
POLS 4710	Advanced Seminar: Social Networks and the Context of Political Behavior
POLS 4810	Political Geography
Comparative Politics	
POLS 2200	Comparative Politics*
POLS 2850	Sustainable Development*
POLS 3210	Politics of Russia
POLS 3220	Politics of China: Communism and Change
POLS 3230	Politics of the European Union
POLS 3240	Politics of Central and Eastern Europe: From "Soviet Bloc" to United Europe
POLS 3250	Modern Authoritarianism
POLS 3260	Politics of Latin America
POLS 3850	Transitions from War to Peace
POLS 4250	Transitions to Democracy in Comparative Perspective

POLS 4710	Advanced Seminar: Social Networks and the Context of Political Behavior
POLS 4810	Political Geography
International Relations	
POLS 2300	Introduction to World Politics*
POLS 2850	Sustainable Development*
POLS 2860	Governing the Marine Environment
POLS 2870	Climate Change: Science, Policy, Media, and Politics
POLS 3310	Global Environmental Politics
POLS 3350	International Political Economy
POLS 3850	Transitions from War to Peace
POLS 4300	International Law and Politics
Political Theory	
POLS 2400	Introduction to Political Theory*
POLS 3450	Democratic Theory
POLS 4450	Freedom and Slavery in Political Thought
POLS 4110	Citizenship, Political Authority and the Public Sphere in the U.S.
POLS 4480	Contemporary Republican Theory

Additional Requirements

Senior Thesis or Senior Capstone Project in Political Science, and Baccalaureate Exam

Highly Recommended

Additional courses in areas such as Economics, History, Sociology, Philosophy, Psychology, Statistics, and Data Science that complement individual concentrations in Political Science.

¹ Alternate Statistics class accepted if approved by Political Science faculty advisor.

Requirements for the Joint AOC in Political Science

A minimum of eight (8) course units.

Code	Title
Introductory Course	
Select one of the following:	
POLS 2041	American Government and Civics*
POLS 2200	Comparative Politics*
POLS 2300	Introduction to World Politics*
POLS 2400	Introduction to Political Theory*
Quantitative Political Analysis or Research Design Workshop	
Select one of the following:	
POLS 2500	Quantitative Political Analysis I* ¹
POLS 3500	Research Design Workshop in Political Science (recommended for 3rd-year students)

3000- or 4000-Level Courses

Select **six** or more courses at the 3000- or 4000- levels, with at least **one** course in each of three of the following four subfields (**American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory**). At least **one** of the five must be an advanced seminar at the 4000-level: ²

American Politics	
POLS 2041	American Government and Civics*
POLS 2750	US Campaigns, Elections, and Voting 2022*
POLS 3110	Politics of Congress
POLS 3130	U.S. Constitutional Law: Structures and Powers of Government
POLS 3135	U.S. Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
POLS 3140	Florida Politics and Government*
POLS 3160	Rural Politics in the United States
POLS 3600	Power and Public Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3610	Politics of Health Care Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3650	U.S. Immigration Policy from Origins to Current Issues
POLS 3710	Public Opinion, Polarization, and the Politics of Identity in the United States
POLS 4100	Advanced Seminar: American Political Development
POLS 4110	Citizenship, Political Authority and the Public Sphere in the U.S.
POLS 4120	Party Realignment in American Politics
POLS 4710	Advanced Seminar: Social Networks and the Context of Political Behavior
POLS 4810	Political Geography
Comparative Politics	
POLS 2200	Comparative Politics*
POLS 2850	Sustainable Development*
POLS 3210	Politics of Russia
POLS 3220	Politics of China: Communism and Change
POLS 3230	Politics of the European Union
POLS 3240	Politics of Central and Eastern Europe: From "Soviet Bloc" to United Europe
POLS 3250	Modern Authoritarianism
POLS 3260	Politics of Latin America
POLS 3850	Transitions from War to Peace
POLS 4250	Transitions to Democracy in Comparative Perspective
POLS 4710	Advanced Seminar: Social Networks and the Context of Political Behavior
POLS 4810	Political Geography
International Relations	
POLS 2300	Introduction to World Politics*
POLS 2850	Sustainable Development*

POLS 2860	Governing the Marine Environment
POLS 2870	Climate Change: Science, Policy, Media, and Politics
POLS 3310	Global Environmental Politics
POLS 3350	International Political Economy
POLS 3850	Transitions from War to Peace
POLS 4300	International Law and Politics
Political Theory	
POLS 2400	Introduction to Political Theory*
POLS 3450	Democratic Theory
POLS 4450	Freedom and Slavery in Political Thought
POLS 4110	Citizenship, Political Authority and the Public Sphere in the U.S.
POLS 4480	Contemporary Republican Theory

¹ Alternate Statistics class accepted if approved by Political Science faculty advisor.

² Students may only double count two courses to fulfill the requirements of the two Joint AOCs.

Requirements for a Secondary Field in Political Science

A minimum of five (5) course units.

Code	Title
Introductory Course	
Select two of the following:	
POLS 2041	American Government and Civics*
POLS 2200	Comparative Politics*
POLS 2300	Introduction to World Politics*
POLS 2400	Introduction to Political Theory*
3000- or 4000-Level Courses	
Select at least three courses at the 3000- or 4000- levels, with at least one course in each of three of the following four subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory):	
American Politics	
POLS 2041	American Government and Civics*
POLS 2750	US Campaigns, Elections, and Voting 2022*
POLS 3110	Politics of Congress
POLS 3130	U.S. Constitutional Law: Structures and Powers of Government
POLS 3135	U.S. Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
POLS 3140	Florida Politics and Government*
POLS 3160	Rural Politics in the United States
POLS 3600	Power and Public Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3610	Politics of Health Care Policy in the U.S.
POLS 3650	U.S. Immigration Policy from Origins to Current Issues

POLS 3710	Public Opinion, Polarization, and the Politics of Identity in the United States
POLS 4100	Advanced Seminar: American Political Development
POLS 4110	Citizenship, Political Authority and the Public Sphere in the U.S.
POLS 4120	Party Realignment in American Politics
POLS 4710	Advanced Seminar: Social Networks and the Context of Political Behavior
POLS 4810	Political Geography
Comparative Politics	
POLS 2200	Comparative Politics*
POLS 2850	Sustainable Development*
POLS 3210	Politics of Russia
POLS 3220	Politics of China: Communism and Change
POLS 3230	Politics of the European Union
POLS 3240	Politics of Central and Eastern Europe: From "Soviet Bloc" to United Europe
POLS 3250	Modern Authoritarianism
POLS 3260	Politics of Latin America
POLS 3850	Transitions from War to Peace
POLS 4250	Transitions to Democracy in Comparative Perspective
POLS 4710	Advanced Seminar: Social Networks and the Context of Political Behavior
POLS 4810	Political Geography
International Relations	
POLS 2300	Introduction to World Politics*
POLS 2850	Sustainable Development*
POLS 2860	Governing the Marine Environment
POLS 2870	Climate Change: Science, Policy, Media, and Politics
POLS 3310	Global Environmental Politics
POLS 3350	International Political Economy
POLS 3850	Transitions from War to Peace
POLS 4300	International Law and Politics
Political Theory	
POLS 2400	Introduction to Political Theory*
POLS 3450	Democratic Theory
POLS 4450	Freedom and Slavery in Political Thought
POLS 4110	Citizenship, Political Authority and the Public Sphere in the U.S.
POLS 4480	Contemporary Republican Theory

Transfer Students

Students transfer to complete their majors and degrees at the new institution, so the AOC should largely be completed here. That said,

transfer students are welcome and we will seek to accommodate their tighter schedules to graduation.

1. A student may transfer up to two full-semester courses for credit to the AOC in Political Science at New College.
2. Transfer students will be admitted directly to 3000-level courses, even if they do not have the pre-requisite of an introductory course in Political Science at the time.
3. Transfer students may also receive a third course credit for work in statistics or quantitative analysis if their introductory statistics course or sequence covered not only basic variables and hypothesis testing, but also the logic of confounding variables and statistical control, particularly in the context of multiple regression, and using replicable and reproducible statistical methods. Please bring your syllabus or syllabi for these courses and consult with your faculty advisor.

Beyond the Classroom

Students are encouraged to obtain field experience through internships or other work experience with agencies of government, political parties, interest groups, or non-profit organizations. In recent years, students have interned with U.S. Congressmen, the Governor of Florida, U.S. AID, the U.S. Department of State, the American Civil Liberties Union, multiple law offices, and county planning agencies. They have helped in political campaigns, handled publicity for the Sarasota Peace and Justice Center, challenged decisions of the local Airport Authority, and become radio news announcers. Occasionally, students with highly specialized interests plan to spend a semester at another college or university; this is encouraged when appropriate. Those with interests in comparative politics and international relations are encouraged to spend a semester abroad.

Representative Senior Theses in Political Science

- The Moral Majority and the Interaction of Religion and Politics in America
- Islam and Politics in Egypt and Iran
- The Urban Policy of the Italian Communist Party
- Pluralism in the Defense Appropriations Process
- Small Local Governments in Florida: Mayor vs. Manager
- What Must Remain Public? Essays on Privatization, the Constitution, and Public Administration
- Race Riots in the United States: Two Explanatory Models
- Tainted Transitions: The Historical Legacy of Imperialism and the Failure of Democratization in the Caucasus