# POLITICAL SCIENCE

**(POLSC – B.A., 120 credits)**

The Political Science major offers a program for undergraduates who wish to prepare for a variety of occupations. Graduates from Penn State Behrend in Political Science have pursued careers in law, business, education, government service, politics and policy. Many have continued their studies in law school and in graduate degree programs. Graduates from the Political Science program have included Schreyer Scholars, finalists in national scholarship competitions, and matriculants in competitive graduate programs.

The Political Science department consists of five full-time professors, as well as part-time faculty. Among them, they offer courses that include all sub-fields within the major. The program is distinguished in several ways including all students enjoying an emphasis on developing writing and research skills through upper-level course work; some students working as interns in local, state, and congressional offices; and students with particular research interests often work in independent study or occasionally as research assistants.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Penn State Behrend graduates have been employed or have continued their education at the following locations, among others:

**GRADUATE AND LAW SCHOOLS:** University of Pennsylvania, University of Buffalo, Syracuse University, University of Pittsburgh, Georgetown University, University of Maryland Law School, University of Michigan, Cornell University, The Johns Hopkins University, Michigan State University, Duquesne University, George Washington University, Case Western Reserve University, Oregon State University, University of Illinois, Ohio State University

**GOVERNMENT SERVICE:** US State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, US Coast Guard, US Department of Justice, NASA, Pennsylvania General Assembly, US Border Patrol, Internal Revenue Services, US Department of Labor, US Marshals Service, US Peace Corps, Pennsylvania State Police, US Capitol Police, JAG Corps, US Navy

**BUSINESS & NON-PROFIT:** Erie Insurance, Toyota Motor North America, Raytheon, Ballotpedia, Houston Astros, Consol Energy

**EDUCATION:** Erie School District, Millcreek School District, UCLA, Florida State University, Baltimore School District, University of Notre Dame

**POLITICS & POLICY:** Edelman Public Relations, Council for a Livable World, Center for Economic & Policy Research, Advisory Board Company, Geospatial Intelligence Review

**Program Chair: Dr. Robert Speel, 814-898-6206, rws15@psu.edu**

behrend.psu.edu/politicalscience

## GENERAL EDUCATION (45 credits)

Key to Symbols

\* Students may complete any 9 credits of GN sciences.

\*\* Students may complete any 3 credits of GHA as long as the total equals 3 or more credits.

\*\*\* A student may request an exception in order to establish a focus in one area. For example, a student may opt to take *one* course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, *two* in the Arts, and *three* in the Humanities—referred to as the 3-6-9 sequence.

| **Writing/Speaking Courses (9 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ENGL 015 or 030H (GWS) |  | 3 |
| ENGL 202A, B, C or D (GWS) |  | 3 |
| CAS 100A, B, C, or H (GWS) |  | 3 |

| **Natural Science Courses (GN)\* (9 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Quantification Courses (GQ) (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Health and Physical Activity (GHA)\*\* (3 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 1.5 |
|  |  | 1.5 |

| **Arts Courses (GA)\*\*\* (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Humanities Courses (GH)\*\*\* (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Social/Behavioral Courses (GS)\*\*\* (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

### Additional Graduation Requirements

Key to Symbols

\*\*Can also be counted toward General Education or major requirements.

+ Effective for students enrolling in or after summer session 2005.

| **Course Type: Additional Requirements** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| First-Year Seminar (Included in electives or general education) |  | 1 |
| Writing Across the Curriculum in the major (W)\*\* |  | 3 |
| International Cultures (IL)\*\*+ |  | 3 |
| United States Cultures (US)\*\*+ |  | 3 |

## Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements (12–24 credits)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE (0–12 credits):** students must attain 12th credit level proficiency.

This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.

| **Courses: Foreign Language** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 4 |
|  | 4 |
|  | 4 |

## B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS (9 credits)

Formerly, students were required to complete 3 credits in each of three domains (Arts, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences). Effective Summer 2005, students are permitted to complete all 9 credits in any one of six domains or a combination thereof, but *courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major*. The six domains are Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS), Natural Sciences (GN), Quantification (GQ), and Foreign Language *if* the coursework is in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit proficiency of the first foreign language.

See complete list of courses at: <http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/barequirements/>

| **Courses: Knowledge Domains** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |

## OTHER CULTURES (3 cr)†

Key to Symbol

**†**Cannot be used to satisfy the U.S. & International Cultures requirement.

See: http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/barequirements/otherCultures

| **Course: Other Cultures** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (36 credits)

### PRESCRIBED COURSES (6 credits)

| **Courses: Prescribed** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
| PL SC 001: American National Government | 3 |
| PL SC 003: Introduction to Comparative Politics | 3 |

### ADDITIONAL COURSES (6 credits)

| **Courses: Additional** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
| PL SC 014 or INTST 100 | 3 |
| PL SC 017 or PL SC 017W | 3 |

### REMAINING COURSES (24 credits)

The remaining 24 credits should include 4 courses (12 credits) at the 400-level and at least 3 credits from each of the following groups from courses listed on a program-approved list.

| **Your Courses: Remaining** | **Credits** | **Your Courses (continued)** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 3 |  | 3 |
|  | 3 |  | 3 |
|  | 3 |  | 3 |
|  | 3 |  | 3 |

### ELECTIVES (15 credits)

| **Elective Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |

### SUBFIELDS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (24 credits)

Please see separate sheet listing approved courses for each subfield requirement.

Key to Symbol

\* Courses used to meet the 400-level requirement can also be used to meet a subfield requirement.

| **Course Type: Subfields in Political Science** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| American Government Selection |  | 3 |
| International Politics Selection |  | 3 |
| Comparative Politics Selection |  | 3 |
| Government in Theory and Practice Selection |  | 3 |
| 400-Level Course\* |  | 3 |
| 400-Level Course\* |  | 3 |
| 400-Level Course\* |  | 3 |
| 400-Level Course\* |  | 3 |

## RECENT STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Political Science students have recently completed internships with the following politicians and organizations: Office of Senator Bob Casey, Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, Erie Country Department of Health, Pennsylvania Governor’s Northwest Regional Office, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington), Greenpeace International (Washington), Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott

## STUDENT POLITICAL GROUPS

College Democrats hosted Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Ted Kennedy, and Senator Bob Casey, as well as several other congressional and legislative candidates.

College Republicans hosted Alaska Governor Sarah Palin on campus in 2008 and meet often with local members of congress.

The Political Science Society has hosted a number of political forums on campus, sponsors a Harborcreek candidate forum every other year, and has led voter registration drives on campus.

For more information about any of these groups, or to join, contact Dr. Robert Speel at rws15@psu.edu.

**For a full list of Faculty in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, visit**[**http://psbehrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/faculty-staff-directory**](http://psbehrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/faculty-staff-directory)

**This publication is available in alternative media upon request.** Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

**List of Program-Approved Courses for Each Subfield Requirement in Political Science**

Students must take at least three credits in each of the following four subfields. Courses listed in two different subfields can be used to meet the requirement in either subfield in which the course is listed; however, no course can be used to meet more than one subfield requirement. Special Topics courses will meet different subfield requirements depending on the topic of the specific course. See the program chair for guidance.

| **American Government Course List** | **Course List (continued)** |
| --- | --- |
| **PL SC 002:** American Public Policy | **PL SC 433:** Political Foundations of the Early American Republic |
| **PL SC 110:** Rights in America | **PL SC 442:** American Foreign Policy |
| **PL SC 123:** Ethnic and Racial Politics | **PL SC 471:** Constitutional Law |
| **PL SC 130:** American Political Campaigns and Elections | **PL SC 472:** The American Legal Process |
| **PL SC 177:** Politics and Government in Washington, DC | **PL SC 473:** American Judicial Behavior |
| **PL SC 178:** Organized Crime, Law, and Politics | **PL SC 480W:** Congress and the Presidency |
| **PL SC 299/PL SC 499:** Foreign Studies/Foreign Study-Government (North American Politics) | **PL SC 482:** American State and Urban Politics |
| **PL SC 419:** The Bureaucratic State |  |

| **Comparative Politics Course List** | **Course List (continued)** |
| --- | --- |
| **INTST 400:** Advanced Summer in International Studies | **PL SC 299/PL SC 499:** Foreign Studies/Foreign Study-Government (North American Politics) |
| **PL SC 020:** Politics of Western Europe | **PL SC 423:** Post-Soviet Politics |
| **PL SC 022:** Politics of Developing Countries | **PL SC 456:** Politics and Institutions of Latin American Nations |
| **PL SC 123:** Ethnic and Racial Politics | **PL SC 458:** Government and Politics of East Asia |
| **PL SC 132:** Politics of International Intolerance | **PL SC 488:** Comparative Public Policy |

| **International Politics Course List** | **Course List (continued)** |
| --- | --- |
| **AFR 110:** Introduction to Contemporary Africa | **PL SC 458:** Politics and Government of East Asia |
| **INTST 400:** Advanced Seminar in International Studies | **PL SC 461:** Politics of the European Union |
| **PL SC 132:** Politics of International Intolerance | **PL SC 467:** International Relations of the Middle East |
| **PL SC 177:** Politics and Government in Washington DC | **PL SC 481**: Global Political Economy |
| **PL SC 437:** War in World Politics | **PL SC 484W:** Foreign Policies of Soviet Successor States |
| **PL SC 439:** The Politics of Terrorism | **PL SC 487:** International Law and Organizations |
| **PL SC 442:** American Foreign Policy |  |

| **Government in Theory & Practice Course List** | **Course List (continued)** |
| --- | --- |
| **PL SC 002:** American Public Policy | **PL SC 431:** Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories |
| **PL SC 007:** Contemporary Political Ideologies | **PL SC 432:** Modern and Contemporary Political Theories |
| **PL SC 110:** Rights in America | **PL SC 433:** Political Foundations of the Early American Republic |
| **PL SC 111:** Debating the Purpose of Government | **PL SC 471:** Constitutional Law |
| **PL SC 155:** Understanding Tyranny | **PL SC 472:** The American Legal Process |
| **PL SC 178:** Organized Crime, Law, and Politics | **PL SC 473:** American Judicial Behavior |
| **PL SC 308:** Introduction to Political Research | **PL SC 487:** International Law Organizations |
| **PL SC 419:** The Bureaucratic State | **PL SC 488:** Comparative Public Policy |
| **PL SC 428:** Gender and Politics | **PL SC 489:** Public Administration |
| **PL SC 430:** Selected Works in the History of Political Theory |  |