

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Political Science

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Political Science, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of American Politics including governing institutions and branches, political actors and organizations, political behavior and the operation of government at both the national and sub-national levels.
2. Understand government and politics in a comparative perspective.
3. Understand government and politics in a global context.
4. Develop a deeper understanding of specialized political science topics.
5. Use critical thinking skills to apply methodological, theoretical, and research knowledge to political science issues in order to begin producing independent research in the field, including completion of research projects, research papers, articles, and poster sessions.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Political Science

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Political Science must complete:

- A minimum of 12 courses (36 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 60 credit hours outside of major requirements.
- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A minimum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) at the 300-level or above from course offerings in any of the following six fields: ANTH, ECON, HIST, PHIL, PSYC, SOCI.
- A minimum of 1 course (3 credit hours) from each of the following fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations.
- A minimum of 1 Statistics course offered by the Department of Political Science. The undergraduate statistics course is POLI 395.
- A minimum of 2 seminars taught by different instructors. **Note:** seminars are courses numbered at the 400-level.
- The requirements for one area of specialization (see list below). The Political Science major offers the following areas of specialization:
 - American Politics (p.), **or**
 - Comparative Politics (p.), **or**
 - International Relations (p.)

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major's academic advisor (or official certifier).

Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Political Science		36
Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Political Science		120

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
Introductory Courses ¹		
Select at least 2 from the following:		6
POLI 209	INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTIONALISM AND MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT	
POLI 210	AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	
POLI 211	INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
POLI 212	INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS	
Introduction to Statistics		
POLI 395	INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS	3
Upper-Level Courses in Approved Fields Outside Political Science		
Select 2 from the following departmental course offerings at the 300-level or above:		6
Anthropology (ANTH)		
Economics (ECON)		
History (HIST)		
Philosophy (PHIL)		
Psychology (PSYC)		
Sociology (SOCI)		
Area of Specialization ²		
Select 1 from the following Areas of Specialization:		21
American Politics		
Comparative Politics		
International Relations		
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Political Science		36
Additional Credit Hours to Complete BA Degree Requirements		24
University Graduation Requirements (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements) [*]		60
Total Credit Hours		120

Footnotes and Additional Information

- * Includes coursework completed as distribution credit, FWIS, LPAP, upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), 60 hours outside of the major (if applicable), and any additional academic program requirements. The "hours outside of the major" requirement may include all of the above university requirements.

¹ Students must complete 1 of the 2 required introductory courses in the area of specialization they are pursuing. The required introductory course for each area of specialization is noted below for each course. The second introductory course completed can be included in the requirement for courses taken in the fields outside the area of specialization selected.

² The credit hours for the Area of Specialization include one introductory course in the specialization and at least one seminar course.

Areas of Specialization

Students must complete the requirements as listed for one of the following areas of specialization as offered by the Political Science major. Note that courses taken as part of the Introductory Courses requirement and the Seminar Courses requirement can also be used to satisfy the requirements listed below. All courses referenced in the Area of Specialization requirements can be found in the Field Courses lists below the specialization requirements.

Area of Specialization: American Politics

To fulfill the remaining Political Science major requirements, students pursuing the American Politics area of specialization must complete a total of 7 additional courses (21 credit hours).

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Introductory Course		
POLI 210	AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	3
Breadth		
<i>Select a minimum of 1 course from the following fields (see below for Field Courses lists):</i> ¹		6
Comparative Politics field		
International Relations field		
Elective Requirements		
Select a total of 2 courses from the American Politics field (see below for Field Courses lists).		6
Seminar		
Select a total of 2 courses from Seminar courses (see below for Seminar courses). ²		6
Total Credit Hours		21

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ Note that Introductory Courses in these fields can be used to satisfy the Breadth requirement.

² At least 1 course (3 credit hours) must be an American Politics seminar course. Seminar courses are identified by any course at the 400-level or above in the Field Courses lists below. Both Seminar courses cannot be taught by the same instructor.

Area of Specialization: Comparative Politics

To fulfill the remaining Political Science major requirements, students pursuing the Comparative Politics area of specialization must complete a total of 7 additional courses (21 credit hours).

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Introductory Course		
POLI 212	INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS	3

Breadth

*Select a minimum of 1 course from the following fields (see below for Field Courses lists):*¹

American Politics field

International Relations field

Elective Requirements

Select a total of 2 courses from the Comparative Politics field (see below for Field Courses list).

Seminar

Select a total of 2 courses from Seminar courses (see below for Seminar courses).²

Total Credit Hours 21

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ Note that Introductory Courses in these fields can be used to satisfy the Breadth requirement.

² At least 1 course (3 credit hours) must be a Comparative Politics seminar course. Seminar courses are identified by any course at the 400-level or above in the Field Courses lists below. Both Seminar courses cannot be taught by the same instructor.

Area of Specialization: International Relations

To fulfill the remaining Political Science major requirements, students pursuing the International Relations area of specialization must complete a total of 7 additional courses (21 credit hours).

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Introductory Course		
POLI 211	INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3
Breadth		
<i>Select a minimum of 1 course from the following fields (see below for Field Courses lists):</i> ¹		6
American Politics field		
Comparative Politics field		
Elective Requirements		
Select a total of 2 courses from the International Relations field (see below for Field Courses list).		6
Seminar		
Select a total of 2 courses from Seminar courses (see below for Seminar courses). ²		6
Total Credit Hours		21

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ Note that Introductory Courses in these fields can be used to satisfy the Breadth requirement.

² At least 1 course (3 credit hours) must be an International Relations seminar course. Seminar courses are identified by any course at the 400-level or above in the Field Courses lists below. Both Seminar courses cannot be taught by the same instructor.

Field Courses

To satisfy the requirements listed above, students can find the Field Courses lists below.

American Politics Field Courses

American Politics Seminar courses can be selected from any course listed below at the 400-level or above.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
POLI 210	AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	3
POLI 301	STATE POLITICS	3
POLI 315	ELECTIONS AND VOTING BEHAVIOR	3
POLI 317	THE CONGRESS	3
POLI 318	THE PRESIDENCY	3
POLI 320 / RELI 320	THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE	2
POLI 321	AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW	3
POLI 322	POLITICS OF INFLUENCE IN THE UNITED STATES	3
POLI 325	AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS	3
POLI 328	LATINO POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES	3
POLI 329	HEALTH POLICY	3
POLI 330	MINORITY POLITICS	3
POLI 331	ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY	3
POLI 332	URBAN POLITICS	3
POLI 334	AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES	3
POLI 335	POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS	3
POLI 336	POLITICS OF REGULATION	3
POLI 337	PUBLIC POLICY	3
POLI 338 / SOSC 301	POLICY ANALYSIS	3
POLI 339	SOUTHERN POLITICS	3
POLI 342	POLITICS OF THE JUDICIARY	3
POLI 343	MEDIA AND POLITICS	3
POLI 350	URBAN LAB HOUSTON	1
POLI 380	POLITICAL BEHAVIOR	3
POLI 401	STATE POLITICS RESEARCH SEMINAR	3
POLI 417	CONGRESS AND THE CONSTITUTION	3
POLI 418	SEMINAR ON THE PRESIDENCY	3
POLI 419	POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS IN AMERICAN POLITICS	3
POLI 420 / COMP 435 / PSYC 420	ELECTION SYSTEMS, TECHNIQUES, AND ADMINISTRATION	3
POLI 421	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN AMERICAN POLITICS	3
POLI 430	SEMINAR IN TEXAS POLITICS	3
POLI 431	ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS	3
POLI 432	URBAN POLITICS	3
POLI 434	PUBLIC POLICY AND METROPOLITAN AREA GOVERNANCE	3
POLI 435	SEMINAR ON MONEY AND POLITICS	3
POLI 436	POLITICS OF REGULATION	3
POLI 437	EDUCATION POLICY	3
POLI 438	RACE AND PUBLIC POLICY	3
POLI 439	RESEARCH SEMINAR ON SOUTHERN POLITICS	3
POLI 442	SUBNATIONAL POLITICS	3

POLI 445	SEMINAR IN JUDICIAL PROCESS AND BEHAVIOR	3
POLI 480	SEMINAR IN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR	3

Comparative Politics Field Courses

Comparative Politics Seminar courses can be selected from any course listed below at the 400-level or above.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
POLI 212	INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS	3
POLI 250 / ASIA 251 / SWGS 250	SEX, MONEY, AND POWER AROUND THE WORLD	3
POLI 324 / FREN 324 / RELI 476	FROM DECOLONIZATION TO GLOBALIZATION	3
POLI 333	COMPARATIVE LEGISLATURES	3
POLI 345	URBAN LAB MIDDLE EAST	1
POLI 347 / ASIA 347	URBAN LAB SHANGHAI	1
POLI 348	URBAN LAB BUENOS AIRES	1
POLI 349 / ASIA 349	URBAN LAB ISTANBUL	1
POLI 352	THE POLITICS AND CULTURE OF MEXICO	3
POLI 353 / ASIA 353	EAST ASIAN DEMOCRACIES	3
POLI 354	LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS	3
POLI 355	GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST	3
POLI 356	REPRESENTATION AND POLICY MAKING	3
POLI 357	DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION	3
POLI 358	COMPARATIVE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR	3
POLI 360	WESTERN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES	3
POLI 362	COMPARATIVE URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY	3
POLI 365	BRITISH POLITICS	3
POLI 367	TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY	3
POLI 433	COMPARATIVE LEGISLATURES	3
POLI 444	PRACTICUM IN LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH	3
POLI 450	ELECTIONS IN THE AMERICAS	3
POLI 454	RESEARCH PRACTICUM IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS	3
POLI 457	CONDITIONS OF DEMOCRACY	3
POLI 458	GENDER AND POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST	3
POLI 459	SEX, GENDER, AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA	3
POLI 460	SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT	3
POLI 462	COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY	3
POLI 463	COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY	3
POLI 464	RESEARCH SEMINAR ON COMPARATIVE URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY	3

POLI 466	POLITICAL PARTIES AND VOTING BEHAVIOR IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES	3
POLI 483	U.S.: MEXICO BORDER ISSUES IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE	3
POLI 489 / ASIA 489	CHINESE POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE	3

International Relations Field Courses

International Relations Seminar courses can be selected from any course listed below at the 400-level or above.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
POLI 211	INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3
POLI 371	CIVIL WARS	3
POLI 372	AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY	3
POLI 373	WAR AND POLITICS	3
POLI 374	STRATEGIC INTERACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3
POLI 375	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	3
POLI 378	POLITICS OF AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY	3
POLI 379	PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3
POLI 469	CIVIL WAR AND TERRORISM	3
POLI 470	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3
POLI 471	POLITICS OF THE UNITED NATIONS	3
POLI 472	AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY	3
POLI 473	THE CRAFT OF INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS, PREDICTION AND CONNECTING THE DOTS	3
POLI 474	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: THEORIES AND PRACTICE	3
POLI 475	INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	3
POLI 476	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	3
POLI 478	US - CHINA: CONFLICT AND COOPERATION	3
POLI 479	SEMINAR IN QUANTITATIVE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	3
POLI 481	UNDERSTANDING WAR AND PEACE	3
POLI 482	THE CAUSES OF WAR AND THE WAR IN IRAQ	3

Theory and Methods Field Courses

Theory and Methods Seminar courses can be selected from any course listed below at the 400-level or above.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
POLI 209	INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTIONALISM AND MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT	3
POLI 310	THE BIOLOGY OF POLITICS	3
POLI 340	ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THEORY	3
POLI 395	INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS ¹	3
POLI 429	BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICS	3
POLI 441 / ENST 441	GOVERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMONS	3

POLI 461	POLITICS, RISK, AND ENERGY	3
POLI 490	POLITICS AND THE ARTS	3

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ POLI 395 is a statistics course required of all majors. It fulfills the minimum requirement of one course from the Theory and Methods field.

Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Political Science

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: <http://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Political Science should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Transfer credit coursework from online-only courses cannot be used to count towards the major.

For additional information, please see the Political Science website: <https://politicalscience.rice.edu/>.

Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Political Science

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Departmental Honors Program

Admission to the honors program requires the approval of the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. The faculty member supervising the thesis must have a full-time appointment in the Department of Political Science. During the first semester of the two-semester program, students take one reading course that provides them with a basis for drawing up a thesis prospectus. During the second semester, students write their honors thesis. An electronic copy of the thesis must be sent to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students may not combine the two honors courses into one semester. Those who successfully complete the honors program may substitute it for one of the seminars required for the major. Failure to complete the second semester of the honors program will result in loss of credit for the first semester of the honors program.

Work for the Honors Program must be original. It cannot be taken from other courses at Rice or other institutions. This includes using the same work for another honors program (i.e. using the same work for honors in political science and another discipline). If a student has a question about what is permitted, the student should consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies. This consultation should take place early in the first semester of the honors program.

Alternatively, students may earn honors in political science by successfully completing the Rice University Honors Program (RUSP), HONS 470/HONS 471. In addition to successfully completing this program, the student must complete a research project in political science, and the student must be supervised by a full-time faculty member in the political science department. See also Honors Programs (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/programs)

Directed Readings Courses

Directed readings courses are intended for students who have completed a substantial number of political science courses and who seek to explore a subject not covered in regular courses. They are available only if an appropriate faculty member agrees to supervise. The faculty member supervising a directed readings course must have a full-time appointment in the Department of Political Science. The student may not take more than one readings course from him or her. Students should submit a brief, one-page description of the work to be conducted in the readings course (including the name of the faculty supervisor) to the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies no later than two weeks into the semester in which they intend to take the course. Readings courses do not count toward the department's distribution requirement.

For additional information, please see the Political Science website at: <https://politicalscience.rice.edu/>.