Department of Political Science

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949-824-5361
http://www.polisci.uci.edu/

Overview

The Department of Political Science offers a wide variety of courses at the introductory, lower-division and more specialized upper-division levels. The curriculum is organized into four areas: American politics, political theory, international relations, and comparative politics. In addition to the traditional fields of political science, the department offers an introductory course in Law and a variety of upper-division courses where students can explore specialized areas in Law. The department also offers an Honors Program in Political Science for juniors and seniors, culminating in a senior honors thesis.

The department is composed of a strong and diverse faculty especially interested in analyzing central questions of political science related to such topics as policy-making, political structures, participation, conflict, change and development, transition to democracy, voting theory, power and authority, and interstate relations. The faculty has particular strength in interdisciplinary approaches, in comparative analysis, and in democratic theory.

Undergraduate Program

Requirements for the B.A. in Political Science

All students must meet the University Requirements. All students must meet the School Requirements.

Departmental Requirements for the Major

School requirements must be met and must include 12 courses (48 units) as specified below:

A. Select four lower-division (one or two digit) POL SCI courses below. One must be the introductory course for the module selected under II below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 6A</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science: Political Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 6B</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science: Macropolitics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 6C</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science: Micropolitics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 21A</td>
<td>Introduction to American Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 31A</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 41A</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 51A</td>
<td>Introduction to Politics Around the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 61A</td>
<td>Introduction to Race and Ethnicity in Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL SCI 71A</td>
<td>Introduction to Law</td>
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</table>

Complete any one additional lower-division POL SCI course (not used above) (4 units)

B. Seven upper-division POL SCI courses (28 units) chosen from among the POL SCI modules numbered 120–179. Three of these courses must be from one module.

American Politics and Government (POL SCI 120-129)
Political Theory and Methods (POL SCI 130-139)
International Relations (POL SCI 140-149)
Comparative Politics (POL SCI 150-159)
Public Law (POL SCI 170-179)

Honors Program in Political Science

The Honors Program in Political Science is open to all senior political science majors who meet the minimum academic qualifications (3.5 GPA in political science courses and 3.2 GPA overall). Students submit an application to the department office before the end of their junior year. In addition to satisfying the requirements for the major in political science, honors program participants must complete additional course work as specified below.

During the year prior to the year in which the thesis will be written, a prospective honors program student should identify a Department of Political Science faculty member who is willing to supervise the student’s thesis. Students are ordinarily expected to take an upper-division political science course or a POL SCI 199 Independent Study course with the advisor prior to their senior year.

During their senior year, students must enroll in the Honors Thesis Workshop (POL SCI H182A), offered during the fall quarter. This course is in addition to the seven upper division courses required for the regular major. Honors students also enroll in three quarters of the senior thesis course (POL SCI 190) with their advisor, which are independent study courses for writing the thesis. The POL SCI 190 courses do not count toward the upper-division political sciences courses required for the major although they are counted as “other” upper-division social science courses towards graduation
requirements. Students write their senior thesis, which is designed and completed under their faculty advisor’s supervision. Upon successful completion of the program, including approval of their senior honors thesis by the faculty advisor and a GPA of at least 3.5 in their political science courses, the students will graduate with honors in Political Science and their transcripts note that they were in the Honors Program in Political Science.

**Minor in Political Science**

**Political Science Minor Requirements**

Requirements for the minor in Political Science are met by taking seven political science courses (28 units) as specified below:

A. Select one of the following:

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<td>POL SCI 6C</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science: Micropolitics</td>
</tr>
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</table>

B. Three upper-division POL SCI courses, chosen from one POL SCI module.

C. Select three courses from the following:

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<td>POL SCI 20–79</td>
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<td>POL SCI 120–179</td>
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**Graduate Program**

**Ph.D. in Political Science**

The Department of Political Science offers a Ph.D. program in Political Science. The department has attained a reputation for producing the very best innovative and interdisciplinary scholarship. Faculty are engaged in the study of such key questions as the politics of advanced and democratizing societies, international cooperation and peace, the politics of racial and ethnic minority groups, and the origins of altruism and morality and their impact on world politics.

Graduate students can pursue concentration in public choice and specializations in democracy studies, international relations, and race and minority politics. The Ph.D. program offers big payoffs to graduate students, in fact, because of the extended range of inquiry an interdisciplinary program affords.

Political science faculty members are regular participants in and help direct several research units on campus. The Center for the Study of Democracy, an Organized Research Unit at UCI, sponsors research and education aimed at improving the democratic process in the United States and expanding democracy around the world. The UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality explores questions concerning the origins and causes of morality. The Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (CGPACS), housed in the School of Social Sciences, is a multidisciplinary program dedicated to promoting scholarly, student and public understanding of international conflict and cooperation. The Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Sciences, also located in the School of Social Sciences, offers opportunities for participation in ongoing faculty research, notably with faculty members engaged in fields of public choice and political economy.

**Admissions**

The deadline for application for fall quarter admission is January 15. Students are admitted for winter or spring quarters only under exceptional circumstances. Additional information is available in the general section on admission to social science graduate programs. Please note especially the required examinations.

**Requirements**

During the first two years in the doctoral program, students must complete three of the following five seminars: Field Seminar in American Politics, Field Seminar in Comparative Politics, Field Seminar in International Relations, Field Seminar in Political Theory, and Foundations of Political Science. Prior to advancement to Ph.D. candidacy, doctoral students must complete two fields of study, one of which must come from the following list: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, or Political Theory. Each student must complete a second field, which may come (1) from one of the four listed above; (2) from an area of faculty strength, such as democracy studies, methodology and modeling, critical theory, ethics, political psychology, political economy/public choice, race and ethnicity, or public law; or (3) from a specialized area of interdisciplinary study. If the student chooses the specialized area of interdisciplinary study (3), this area must be approved by the student's advisor and the graduate committee. Students must complete four or five courses in their first field and three–five courses in their second field. The precise number is to be determined in each field by the field faculty. The field seminar in each field counts as one of the required courses.

Students are expected to have successfully completed course work resulting in knowledge of basic introductory statistics. Students who do not have this preparation must acquire the equivalent background during their first or second year in graduate school. Undergraduate statistics courses are considered to be remedial, and thus will not count toward graduate course credit needed for the Ph.D. Competition in a foreign language is required. Students may substitute mastery of an advanced research skill or an advanced qualitative skill in place of a foreign language. To acquire such a quantitative skill (which could involve course work in such disciplines as economics, mathematics and computer science, or statistics), students must
complete at least one year of upper-level, undergraduate course work in mathematics, economics, or computer science or one year in graduate-level statistics beyond the required minimum of two quarters of introductory statistics. To acquire a qualitative skill, students must complete at least one year of graduate-level course work in qualitative or interpretative research methods. A student electing to meet the foreign language requirement should select a foreign language which is useful for research in his or her dissertation or in which there is a substantial body of scholarly literature.

Reviews and Examinations

Students ordinarily are expected to maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or better. At the completion of the first year, a review of performance in the graduate program will be conducted for each student by the political science faculty.

Students must complete two qualifying papers. The first qualifying paper must be completed and approved by the end of the winter quarter of a student’s second year in the program; the second qualifying paper must be completed and approved by the winter quarter of a student’s third year in the program. There must be two faculty readers on each qualifying paper, and only one faculty reader may serve as a reader on both papers. Upon successful completion of these papers and demonstration of competence in a foreign language, mastery of an advanced quantitative skill, or an advanced qualitative skill, a candidacy committee is appointed to oversee the qualifying examination and the formal advancement to candidacy. Students are expected to advance to candidacy by the end of their eighth quarter in the Ph.D. program. All students must pass the advancement to candidacy examination by the end of the tenth quarter in the Ph.D. program.

After the student advances to candidacy, the doctoral committee, usually composed of three members of the candidacy committee, reviews a dissertation prospectus and supervises work toward completion of the dissertation. Within six months of the oral qualifying examination (the formal advancement to candidacy), students are expected to meet with their doctoral committee, in order to discuss with the members a dissertation prospectus.

The normative time for completion of the Ph.D. is six years, and the maximum time permitted is seven years.

Ph.D. in Political Science with a Concentration in Public Choice/Political Economy

Public choice is an interdisciplinary field, at the intersection of political science and economics, which draws on sophisticated quantitative tools to model the functioning of political institutions. Public choice examines such areas as theories of voter and party choice; the theory of constitutions; the theory of committees and elections; models of regulation; problems of public goods and externalities; rent-seeking models; and issues in social choice, social welfare, and demand revelation.

This concentration is administered by an interdisciplinary committee of faculty from the Departments of Political Science and Economics.

Requirements

Students who elect this concentration are admitted under the normal procedures for the program in political science and must fulfill all the requirements for the political science degree, with the following modifications:

1. Students must complete the three-quarter core sequence in public choice, which is taught jointly by political science and economics faculty. This sequence is usually taken in the student’s second or third year.

2. Students must complete three additional graduate-level, four-unit courses in related fields with the consent of their graduate advisor, chosen from a set of courses designated by the interdisciplinary committee. The courses chosen are to be tailored to the individual interests and academic background of the student and usually will include at least two economics courses (such as Econometrics, Game Theory, and Law and Economics) and one political science course (such as those on electoral systems, party systems, constitutions, courts).

3. Students are expected to write their dissertation on a topic related to public choice. Usually the dissertation advisor will be a political science member of the interdisciplinary committee.

4+1 M.A. Degree in Philosophy, Political Science and Economics (PPE)

The goal of this program is to train students in three critically important and related approaches to understanding the social world around us. Philosophy develops analytic rigor and trains students to reason logically. Political Science provides an understanding of how institutions impact modern societies and helps students evaluate the choices that such institutions regularly make. And economics is the study of how individuals, firms, and governments make decisions which together determine how resources are allocated. An appreciation of economics has increasingly become crucial for an understanding of institutional policy making. The objective of the M.A. in PPE is to prepare students for careers in government, law, private or public corporations, and non-profit organizations.

In order to be admitted to the program, undergraduate students must submit an application in the winter quarter of their third year. More information can be found in the School of Social Sciences’ Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science.

Program in Law and Graduate Studies (J.D./Ph.D.)

Highly qualified students interested in combining the study of law with graduate research and/or professional qualifications in political science are invited to undertake concurrent degree study under the auspices of UC Irvine’s Program in Law and Graduate Studies (PLGS). Students in this program pursue a coordinated curriculum leading to a J.D. degree from the School of Law in conjunction with a Ph.D. degree in political science. Additional information is available from the PLGS program director’s office, 949-824-4158, or by email to plgs@law.uci.edu. A full description of the program, with
links to all relevant application information, can be found at the School of Law Concurrent Degree Programs website (http://www.law.uci.edu/academics/interdisciplinary-studies/concurrent-degrees.html).

**Faculty**

Edwin Amenta, Ph.D. University of Chicago, *Professor of Sociology*; *Political Science* (political sociology, historical and comparative sociology, social movements, social policy)

Matthew N. Beckmann, Ph.D. University of Michigan, *Associate Professor of Political Science*

Graeme T. Boushey, Ph.D. University of Washington, *Associate Professor of Political Science*; Planning, Policy, and Design

Daniel R. Brunstetter, Ph.D. University of California, Davis, *Associate Professor of Political Science*; European Languages and Studies (political theory, international relations, French political thought)

Alejandro E. Camacho, J.D., LL.M. Harvard University, Georgetown University, *Professor of School of Law*; *Political Science*

David O. Carter, J.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *Lecturer of Political Science*

Simone Chambers, Ph.D. Columbia University, *Professor of Political Science*

Erwin Chemerinsky, J.D. Harvard University, *Dean of the School of Law*, Raymond Pryke Professor of First Amendment Law and Distinguished Professor of School of Law; *Political Science*

James N. Danziger, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Professor Emeritus of Political Science*

Louis Desipio, Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin, *Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies*; *Political Science* (ethnic politics, Latino politics, immigration, naturalization, U.S. electoral politics)

David Feldman, Ph.D. University of Missouri-Columbia, *Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design*; *Political Science*

Martha S. Feldman, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Roger W. and Janice M. Johnson Chair in Civic Governance and Public Management and Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design*; *Paul Merage School of Business*; *Political Science*; Sociology (organization theory and behavior, stability and change in organizations, decision-making and information processing, public management, qualitative research methods)

Mark J. Fisher, M.D. University of Cincinnati, *Professor of Neurology*; Anatomy and Neurobiology; *Political Science*

David John Frank, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Professor of Sociology*; Education; *Political Science* (globalization, sexuality, the natural environment, higher education)

Howard A. Gillman, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *Chancellor and Professor of Political Science*; *Criminology, Law and Society*; History; *School of Law*

Sara Goodman, Ph.D. Georgetown University, *Associate Professor of Political Science*

Bernard N. Grofman, Ph.D. University of Chicago, *Professor of Political Science*; Economics

Heidi Hardt, Ph.D. University of Maryland, College Park, *Assistant Professor of Political Science*

Richard L. Hasen, J.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *UCI Chancellor's Professor of School of Law*; *Political Science*

Marek Kaminski, Ph.D. University of Maryland, College Park, *Associate Professor of Political Science*; Economics

Pamela A. Kelley, J.D. Yale University, *Lecturer of Political Science*

Claire J. Kim, Ph.D. Yale University, *Professor of Asian American Studies*; *Culture and Theory*; *Political Science*

Jeffrey Kopstein, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, *Department Chair and Professor of Political Science*

Ines Levin, Ph.D. California Institute of Technology, *Assistant Professor of Political Science*

Cecelia M. Lynch, Ph.D. Columbia University, *Professor of Political Science*; Religious Studies

Richard Matthew, Ph.D. Princeton University, *Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design*; *Political Science*

Carrie Menkel-Meadow, J.D. University of Pennsylvania, *UCI Chancellor's Professor of Political Science*; *School of Law*

David S. Meyer, Ph.D. Boston University, *Professor of Sociology*; Planning, Policy, and Design; *Political Science* (social movements, public policy, peace and war, social justice)
Kristen R. Monroe, Ph.D. University of Chicago, UCI Chancellor's Professor of Political Science

Patrick M. Morgan, Ph.D. Yale University, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

Kevin E. Olson, Ph.D. Northwestern University, Professor of Political Science; Culture and Theory (contemporary European political theory, cultural politics, politics of diversity, popular sovereignty, citizenship, nineteenth- and twentieth-century political theory)

Mark P. Petracca, Ph.D. University of Chicago, Associate Professor of Political Science; Planning, Policy, and Design

Davin Phoenix, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Shawn W. Rosenberg, M.S. Oxford University, Professor of Political Science (political psychology, deliberative democracy, ideology, social theory, social and development psychology)

Kamal Sadiq, Ph.D. University of Chicago, Associate Professor of Political Science

William R. Schonfeld, Ph.D. Princeton University, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

Sherilyn K. Sellgren, MB.A. University of California, Irvine, Lecturer of Political Science

Caesar D. Sereseres, Ph.D. University of California, Riverside, Associate Professor of Political Science

Charles Smith, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Professor of Political Science

Etel Solingen, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Thomas T. and Elizabeth C. Tierney Chair in Global Peace and Conflict Studies and Professor of Political Science

Dorothy J. Solinger, Ph.D. Stanford University, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

Rein Taagepera, Ph.D. University of Delaware, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

Michael Tesler, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Associate Professor of Political Science

Keith Topper, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Associate Professor of Political Science; Culture and Theory (political theory, critical theory, poststructuralism, theories of power, language and politics, theory and politics of interpretation, politics of culture, philosophy of the social sciences)

Rodolfo D. Torres, Ph.D. Claremont Graduate University, Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design; Political Science

Carole J. Uhlaner, Ph.D. Harvard University, Professor of Political Science

Robert M. Urie, Ph.D. Columbia University, Associate Professor of Political Science

Martin P. Wattenberg, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Professor of Political Science

Christopher A. Whytock, J.D. Georgetown University, Professor of School of Law; Political Science