

Political Science

Humanities Division

Program Description

This program examines the theory and practice of government and the powerful personalities that affect governmental decisions. This interplay of individual citizens, public leaders, elections, and world events make political inquiry relevant today. The program provides a broad base for the analysis of how government resolves social conflict within the United States and around the world.

Associate in Arts Degree

The Associate in Arts degree may be obtained upon completion of a total of 60 units, including the 18–unit major, general education requirements and electives.

Required Courses

	Units
POLSC 1—American Government	
OR	
POLSC 1H - Honors American Government	3
Select 15 units from the following:	15
IR 1—Global Interdependence (3 units)	
POLSC 2—Intro. to Comparative Political Systems (3 units)	
POLSC 3—Intro. to International Politics (3 units)	
POLSC 5—Constitutional Rights/Multicultural Society (3 units)	
POLSC 6—Basic Concepts in Political Thought (3 units)	
POLSC 16—Law and Society (3 units)	
POLSC 19—Human Rights & Sexual Orientation (3 units)	
POLSC 48—Special Topics (3 units)	
POLSC 49—Political Science Honors (1-3 units)	
POLSC 50—Student Leadership (1 unit)	
	18

POLSC 1 **3 Units**
Introduction to American Government and Politics
Course Advisory: ENGL 1 and SCC minimum math standard. Introduction to the theory and practice of American politics, this course includes an analysis of the operation of national, state, and local governments, as well as the U.S. and California Constitutions. (CAN GOVT 2). *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 1H **3 Units**
Honors Introduction to American Government and Politics
Prerequisites: Eligibility for Honors Program. Completion of English 1 with a grade of "B" or higher. Course Advisory: SCC minimum math standard. An honors course introducing the theory and practice of American politics, this course includes an analysis of the operation of national, state and local governments, as well as the U.S. and California Constitutions. This transferrable course meets the American institutions requirement. *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 2 **3 Units**
Introduction to Comparative Government
Course Advisories: POLSC 1; ENGL 1; SCC minimum math standard. The political institutions of selected industrialized and developing nations are examined comparatively. Emphasis is on the formation of political institutions; government; political culture; ethnic groups; citizen and interest participation; political parties; and modern bureaucratic public policy roles. *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 3 **3 Units**
Introduction to International Politics
Course Advisories: POLSC 1; ENGL 1; SCC minimum math standard. Introductory study of the international system focusing on such concepts as the nation state and nationalism, ethnicity, power, war and military strategy, and approaches to international peace and stability. *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 5**3 Units****Constitutional Rights in a Multicultural Society**

Course Advisories: POLSC 1; ENGL 1; SCC minimum math standard. Introduction to Constitutional rights, this course will highlight the impact of European, Native American, African American, Asian American, and Latino American cultures on United States and California law and government. The effect of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches will be explored. Cross-cultural issues will also be an integral part of this inquiry, including the freedom of expression, religious culture, and the politics of ethnic groups. Satisfies B or E requirements for graduation. *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 6**3 Units****Basic Concepts in Political Thought**

Course Advisory: ENGL 1 or ENGL 62. An inquiry into fundamental political concepts in political thought (e.g. justice, freedom, equality, power, authority, obligation and citizenship) as expressed by major political thinkers. Includes the study of basic skills, criticism, and method in political inquiry relevant to the life and education of citizens. Critical reading and writing are required. *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 16**3 Units****Law and Society**

Course Advisories: POLSC 1; ENGL 1; SCC minimum math standard. Introduction to the American legal system and influence of other legal systems, emphasizing the evolution of legal concepts in response to the changing environment. The American judicial system will be analyzed to include civil and criminal procedure, torts & contracts, as well as current legal issues including the death penalty, insanity defense, drugs, environmental law, right to die, forensic evidence and role of juries. *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 19**3 Units****Human Rights and Sexual Orientation**

Course Advisory: ENGL 1. An introduction to gay/lesbian studies with an analysis of a variety of concepts and theories in relation to political science, gay rights and the law, the politics of AIDS, health issues, the political/religious right, marriage and family, and current gay agenda issues. *Three hours lecture.*

POLSC 49**1-3 Units****Political Science Honors**

Prerequisites: Completion of 24 units of college credit with a minimum GPA of 3.3; a minimum of 6 units in the discipline with a grade of "B" or better; an ability to work independently; permission of the division Dean based on instructor availability. Independent study project which results in a critical examination of government, politics, or law. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units, including initial enrollment. *Three to nine hours weekly by arrangement.*

POLSC 50**1 Unit****Student Leadership**

Course Advisories: SCC minimum English and math standards. A class devoted to the practical application of the governmental process through participation in the student government program. Open to all students. Repeatable 3 times. *Two hours activity, one hour weekly by arrangement weekly.*

Special Topics

These courses, numbered 48 or 98, are courses of contemporary interest centered on changing knowledge and important issues in the field. Announcements of Special Topics courses appear in the Schedule of Classes.