

MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, POWER, JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRACY CONCENTRATION

The Power, Justice, and Democracy concentration is designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills to analyze the connections between power, authority, and democratic processes. It is designed to help students to pursue careers in the non-profit sector, legal profession, and political activism. Students will learn about the politics of power, the creation of (in)justice in government and politics, and theories of democracy, among other topics. Power, Justice, and Democracy students are strongly encouraged to complete an internship to gain practical experience working in the field.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Reason through political claims and assertions by political actors.
2. Recognize and respond to diverse ideological perspectives.
3. Locate political issues and controversies within their relevant institutional and historical contexts.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the institutional processes of politics in numerous global and domestic political arenas.
5. Demonstrate confidence in expressing opinions and presenting analyses of political problems and their solutions.
6. Demonstrate confidence in evaluating the exercise of power in democratic settings.
7. Articulate political science theories of justice and injustice.

Requirements Effective Spring 2025

Political science majors must achieve a minimum grade of C (2.000) in each of the political science (POLS) courses counted toward meeting the requirement of the major. Students may enroll in either the standalone major or (at most) one of the concentrations under the Major in Political Science.

Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	1A	3
POLS 101	American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	3C	3
POLS 272	Politics of Power, Justice, and Democracy (GT-SS1)	1C	3
1B (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)		1B	3
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		3B	6
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		3A	4
Historical Perspectives (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)		3D	3
Electives			5
Total Credits			30

Sophomore

POLS 232	International Relations (GT-SS1)	1C	3
POLS 241	Comparative Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	1C	3
Select one course from the following:			3
CO 300	Writing Arguments (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301A	Writing in the Disciplines: Arts and Humanities (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301B	Writing in the Disciplines: Sciences (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301C	Writing in the Disciplines: Social Sciences (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301D	Writing in the Disciplines: Education (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 302	Writing in Digital Environments (GT-CO3)	2	
JTC 300	Strategic Writing and Communication (GT-CO3)	2	
LB 300	Specialized Professional Writing	2	
International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration/American Politics and Law (300-level courses only; see list below) ^{1,2}			3
Support Option (see list below)			3-12
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		3A	3

Electives			6-15
Total Credits			33
Junior			
Political Theory (select one course from the following):			3
POLS 420	History of Political Thought	4A,4B	
POLS 421	Contemporary Political Theories	4A,4B	
POLS 422	Democratic Theory	4A,4B	
POLS 423	American Political Theories	4A,4B	
International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration/American Politics and Law (courses not previously taken; see list below) ^{2,3}			3-6
Power, Justice, and Democracy Course List (courses not previously taken; see list below) ^{2,3}			3-6
Support Option (see list below)			6-12
Electives ⁴			3-15
Total Credits			33
Senior			
POLS 492 ⁵	Capstone Seminar	4A,4B,4C	3
Power, Justice, and Democracy Course List (courses not taken previously; see list below) ^{1,2}			3-6
Support Option (see list below)			6-12
Electives ⁴			6-15
Total Credits			24
Program Total Credits:			120

International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration, American Politics and Law Course List

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
Select 6 unique credits (including at least one course from any two of the subfields listed below), taken in the sophomore, junior and/or senior years. ^{2,3}			
International Relations			
POLS 331	Politics and Society Along Mexican Border		3
POLS 332/ECON 332	International Political Economy		3
POLS 362	Global Environmental Politics		3
POLS 431	International Law		3
POLS 433	International Organization		3
POLS 435	United States Foreign Policy		3
POLS 436	Comparative Foreign Policy		3
POLS 437	International Security		3
Comparative Politics			
POLS 341	Western European Government and Politics		3
POLS 345	Russian, Central, and East European Politics		3
POLS 347	Comparative Authoritarianism		3
POLS 441	Comparative Indigenous Politics--Americas		3
POLS 442	Environmental Politics in Developing World		3
POLS 443	Comparative Social Movements		3

POLS 444	Comparative African Politics	3
POLS 445	Comparative Asian Politics	3
POLS 446	Latin American Politics	3
POLS 447	Politics in Mexico, Central America, Caribbean	3
POLS 448	Comparative Racial/Ethnic Politics	3
POLS 449	Middle East Politics	3
American Politics and Law		
POLS 302	U.S. Political Parties and Elections	3
POLS 303	Politics of Organized Interests	3
POLS 304	Legislative Politics	3
POLS 305	Judicial Politics	3
POLS 306	Executive Politics	3
POLS 307	Media and Politics	3
POLS 308	Political Psychology	3
POLS 309	Urban Politics	3
POLS 405	Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Politics	3
POLS 409	Urban and Regional Politics	3
POLS 410	American Constitutional Law	3
POLS 413	U.S. Civil Rights and Liberties	3
Public Policy and Administration		
POLS 351	Public Administration	3
POLS 361	U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy	3
POLS 364	Air, Climate, and Energy Policy Analysis	3
POLS 460	Public Policy Process	3
POLS 462	Globalization, Sustainability, and Justice	3
POLS 463	Urban Policy and Management	3
A maximum of six credits from the following may be used from the following courses:		
POLS 392	Washington DC Semester Seminar	
POLS 486A	Practicum: Legislative Politics	
POLS 486B	Practicum: Government	
POLS 487	Internship – Washington DC Semester	
POLS 496	Washington DC Semester Colloquium Group Study	

Power, Justice, and Democracy Course List

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
Select 12 unique credits (courses taken here must be different than those taken to fulfill "International Relations/Comparative Politics/Public Policy and Administration/American Politics and Law" requirements) ^{1,2}			
POLS 332/ECON 332	International Political Economy		3
POLS 367	Power, Equity and Inclusion in Env Justice		3
POLS 405	Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Politics		3
POLS 413	U.S. Civil Rights and Liberties		3
POLS 421	Contemporary Political Theories		3

POLS 422	Democratic Theory	3
POLS 441	Comparative Indigenous Politics--Americas	3
POLS 443	Comparative Social Movements	3
POLS 462	Globalization, Sustainability, and Justice	3

Support Option

Political Science majors must complete one of the following five Support Options.

Minor or Interdisciplinary Minor Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
Select a minor or interdisciplinary minor in consultation with advisor.		21-24

Student-Selected Course Group Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
A program of courses proposed by student and approved by advisor containing a minimum of 21 credits, of which at least 12 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).		21

Second Major Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
Select a second major in consultation with advisor. This option may require as much as 36 credits. Credit range shown is approximate, and may require more or less, depending on the second major chosen.		27-36

Foreign Language Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
A minimum of 5 courses totaling at least 15 credits in a single foreign language, including at least 2 courses of language instruction or in the language at the upper-division level.		15-22

Methods Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
Methods Support Option		21
POLS 320	Empirical Political Analysis	3
STAT 301	Introduction to Applied Statistical Methods	3
Select two from the following:		6
PHIL 120	History and Philosophy of Scientific Thought (GT-AH3)	
PHIL 327	Philosophy of Behavioral Sciences	
PHIL 415	Logic and Scientific Method	
Select one from the following:		3

Freshman

Semester 1

CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)
POLS 101	American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)	
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)	
Elective	

Total Credits

STAT 305	Sampling Techniques	
STAT 341	Statistical Data Analysis I	
STAT 342	Statistical Data Analysis II	
Select two from the following:		6
ANTH 441	Method in Cultural Anthropology	
AREC 335/ ECON 335	Introduction to Econometrics	
SOC 210	The Power of Numbers--Statistics in Sociology	
SOC 311	Sociological Research Methods	

- 1 Select a minimum of 12 upper-division (300- to 400-level) credits. Sophomores may take only 300-level courses from this section.
- 2 Courses selected to fulfill the "International Relations/Comparative Politics/Public Policy and Administration/American Politics and Law" requirements may not also fulfill "Power, Justice, and Democracy" requirements, and vice versa.
- 3 Sophomores are advised to only take only 300-level courses from this list.
- 4 Select enough elective credits to bring the program total to a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 42 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).
- 5 Students must complete one upper-division course in each of four of the five departmental subfields (American Politics and Law, Political Theory, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Public Policy and Administration) prior to taking POLS 492.

Major Completion Map

Distinctive Requirements for Degree Program:

Political science majors must achieve a minimum grade of C (2.000) in each of the political science (POLS) courses counted toward meeting the requirement of the major. Students may enroll in either the standalone major or (at most) one of the concentrations under the Major in Political Science.

Upper-Division course in at least four subfields of political science required to register for POLS 492.

Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
X		1A	3
X		3C	3
	X	3B	3
	X	3A	4
	X		2
Total Credits			15

Semester 2		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 272	Politics of Power, Justice, and Democracy (GT-SS1)			1C	3
1B	(http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)	X		1B	3
Arts and Humanities	(http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		X	3B	3
Historical Perspectives	(http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)		X	3D	3
Elective			X		3
CO 150 must be completed by the end of Semester 2.		X			
Total Credits					15
Sophomore					
Semester 3		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 232	International Relations (GT-SS1)	X		1C	3
Support Option	(See option list on Concentration Requirements Tab)	X			3-12
Biological and Physical Sciences	(http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		X	3A	3
Electives			X		0-9
Total Credits					18
Semester 4		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 241	Comparative Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	X		1C	3
Select one course from the following:		X			3
CO 300	Writing Arguments (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301A	Writing in the Disciplines: Arts and Humanities (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301B	Writing in the Disciplines: Sciences (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301C	Writing in the Disciplines: Social Sciences (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301D	Writing in the Disciplines: Education (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 302	Writing in Digital Environments (GT-CO3)			2	
JTC 300	Strategic Writing and Communication (GT-CO3)			2	
LB 300	Specialized Professional Writing			2	
International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration/American Politics and Law	(See Department list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3
Electives			X		6
Total Credits					15
Junior					
Semester 5		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration/American Politics and Law	(courses not previously taken; see list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3-6
Power, Justice, and Democracy Course List	(courses not previously taken; See Department list on Concentration Requirements Tab)	X			3-6
Support Option	(See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3-6
Elective			X		0-9
Total Credits					18
Semester 6		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
Political Theory	(select one course from the following:	X			3
POLS 420	History of Political Thought			4A,4B	
POLS 421	Contemporary Political Theories			4A,4B	
POLS 422	Democratic Theory			4A,4B	
POLS 423	American Political Theories			4A,4B	
Support Option	(See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3-6

Electives			X		3-6
Total Credits					12
Senior					
Semester 7		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
Power, Justice, and Democracy Course List (courses not taken previously; see list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			3-6
Support Option (See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			3-6
Elective			X		0-6
Total Credits					12
Semester 8		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 492	Capstone Seminar	X		4A,4B,4C	3
Support Option (See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			3-6
Electives			X		6-9
The benchmark courses for the 8th semester are the remaining courses in the entire program of study.		X			
Total Credits					15
Program Total Credits:					120