



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AT IUPUI

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Learning about politics and the ways it changes our lives

Political science is the study of power: who has it, who doesn't, and how it is used and controlled. In our classes, you will examine how governments come into power, how they are run, and the effects of the decisions they make. These decisions affect all of us, every day, which is why it is important to understand how they are made, and who makes them.

Political scientists study the people who run governments, the people who make laws and policies, and the sources of their authority. What motivates their decisions? What influences them most? Who impacts government and who doesn't?

We study presidents and prime ministers, democracies and dictatorships, parties and elections, bureaucracies and interest groups, non-governmental organizations, political violence and civil war. We look at the theories that explain political behavior and we study political decisions in fields as diverse as the economy, welfare, the environment, criminal justice, civil rights and liberties, defense, and foreign policy. In short, we cover everything you need to know to understand the political world around you.

WHY CHOOSE POLITICAL SCIENCE?

Political Science is one of the most popular courses of study in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. We have about 250 majors, and about 2,500 students enroll in our courses each year. Class sizes range from 15 students to a maximum of 45, which means plenty of faculty-student interaction. We design our schedule to offer a good range of daytime and evening courses, designed to meet the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students.

The Department has twelve full-time faculty trained in all the major fields of political science: from US politics to Indiana state politics, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, and public policy. We also bring in part-time faculty who work in politics and law, and can apply their real-world experiences to the classroom. These part-time faculty have included attorneys, a former member of Congress, a member of the Indiana state legislature, and a former state party chair.

In addition to learning about politics and government in the classroom, the department also offers many ways in which you can become involved in politics

outside the classroom and prepares you for careers in many different fields.

MAJOR AND MINOR

There are two degree courses of study available at the undergraduate level: a 33 hour **major** and a 15 hour **minor**. (See reverse for additional information.)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Certificate in Paralegal Studies

Designed for active or prospective paralegals who already have a Bachelor's Degree or who are working on a degree in another area. The certificate program requires 30 hours of study in topics such as litigation, legal research, property, contracts, family law, and bankruptcy. All of the courses are taught by practicing attorneys and legal scholars.

Law in Liberal Arts BA

Designed for active or prospective paralegals who wish to receive a Bachelor's Degree. The Law in Liberal Arts degree requires 33 hours of study in topics such as litigation, legal research, property, contracts, family law, and bankruptcy in addition to the School of Liberal Arts baccalaureate competencies. All of the courses are taught by practicing attorneys and legal scholars.

Pre-law Program

Political Science is one of the preferred undergraduate majors for anyone planning to go to law school. We offer a program of advising, courses, and seminars to help.

Minor in Legal Studies

A 15 hour multidisciplinary minor focusing on law and legal institutions and the relationship of law to other aspects of society and culture.

MA in Political Science

A 33 hour graduate program with a general track in political science. This is a recent addition to our offerings, and exploits the location of IUPUI close to the seats of Indiana state government and Indianapolis city government.

Five-Year Political Science BA/MA

This is available to political science majors, and allows them to complete a BA and MA in five years

instead of six, with three years of undergraduate coursework, a fourth year of combined undergraduate and graduate coursework, and a final year devoted to graduate work (see reverse for additional information).

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

The Department offers a variety of activities in which you can be involved including the Political Science Students Association, an internship program, special presentations by visiting experts, volunteering with the Indianapolis Model United Nations, and participating in the Midwest Model European Union.

CAREERS

Like most degrees in Liberal Arts, Political Science doesn't train you for a particular job. Instead, it gives you skills that prepare you to work in a wide variety of different fields. You will learn how to think critically about politics and government, how to develop an argument and draw reasoned conclusions, how to communicate ideas in an effective and compelling way, how to better understand and assess what you read, hear or see in the news, how to place politics today into historical perspective, and how to better understand the way that society functions. Skills like these can prepare you for careers in:

- Governmental or Non-Governmental Service - working for state, local, or national government, for an interest group, lobbying organization or non-governmental organization, for a political party, or for an election campaign
- Law - many of our majors go on to law school, where Political Science is seen as valuable preparation
- Business or Education - analytical skills developed in Political Science will serve you well
- International Affairs - an understanding of the international political and economic system is critical
- Graduate School - to study a variety of subjects with the intellectual foundation provided by Political Science

CONTACT US

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THE MAJOR

In addition to the courses needed for a Bachelor's degree in the IU School of Liberal Arts, you will need the following:
(Courses are 3 credits; must receive a C or better.)

Required courses:

- Y103 Introduction to American Politics
- Y205 Elements of Political Analysis
- Y215 Introduction to Political Theory
- Y490 Senior Seminar (to be taken senior year, after completion of Y205)

One of the following:

- Y217 Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Y219 Introduction to International Relations

The balance of 18 hours is made up of six electives from political science courses, five of which must be numbered 300 or above.

THE MINOR

In addition to the courses needed to earn a bachelor's degree, and for your major, you will need 15 hours of political science courses with a C or better.

The 15-hour minor consists of two core political science courses (Y103, Y213, Y215, Y217, and Y219), two elective political science courses numbered 300 or above, and one elective political science course at any level.

FIVE-YEAR POLITICAL SCIENCE BA/MA

The five-year BA/MA is open to juniors with:

- A GPA of 3.3 or better, and a GPA in their major of 3.5 or better.
- A grade of B or better in *POLS Y205: Elements of Political Analysis*.
- At least 60 of their undergraduate credit hours and at least 15 of their political science credit hours completed at IUPUI.
- At least 12 hours of introductory-level required political science courses completed.

Interested students should apply for admission to the BA/MA program before April 1 of their junior year.