

POLITICAL SCIENCE

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Political Science
907-474-7609
www.uaf.edu/polisci/

B.A. Degree

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 120 credits

The Department of Political Science offers a B.A. degree as well as minors in law and society, environmental politics and political science. Graduate-level courses in political science are available through the northern studies concentration in environmental politics and policy. Doctoral study in political science is available through the interdisciplinary studies program of the Graduate School.

The study of political science provides education for citizenship in a changing nation and world. Political science provides a sound preparation in the social sciences. As the study of power, political science explains who gets what, when, where and how. It examines the struggles over claims to authority that shape our lives and our world. As the study of values, it examines why citizens obey or rebel, the nature of just societies, and the ways individuals reconcile personal liberty with political authority. As the science of political behavior, it analyzes the actions of interest groups, political parties and public officials. Politics is an omnipresent force, not only in governments but in families, social organizations, schools and decision-making bodies of all types — from student councils to international institutions. A solid understanding of local, national and international politics will benefit any student throughout his or her career.

Courses are offered in the traditional fields of international and comparative politics, American government, political theory, public policy and public law. The department also offers classes in environmental policy and politics, Native American studies, the politics of science and women's studies. In addition to course offerings and faculty expertise, the department presents real world opportunities for political science students to apply their learning. Those include numerous internship and scholarship opportunities in Alaska and the rest of the United States. Students can participate in model United Nations simulations, join the political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha, aid faculty as research assistants and take part in numerous other department projects such as bringing speakers to campus or hosting roundtables on important issues. Graduate students may also serve as teaching assistants.

The political science B.A. has led students to graduate work in the social sciences; employment in the media and public relations; teaching at high school and university levels; and careers in business corporations and non-profits at the state and national levels. Political science provides a broad understanding of the formation, application and change of the law, as well as research techniques and standards of argumentation essential to legal practice. The study of political science also prepares students for work in various fields of government. Alaska offers job prospects for political science graduates as managers in state and local governments and as legislators and legislative staff members. Graduates are also qualified to work outside of Alaska in numerous public and private sector jobs.

Major — B.A. Degree

1. Complete the general university requirements. (See page 188. As part of the core curriculum requirements, complete PS F100X, PS F300X and HIST F100X.)
 2. Complete the B.A. degree requirements (page 188).
 3. Complete the following major (program) requirements:*
PS F101—Introduction to American Government and Politics3
PS F222—Political Science Research Methods3
PS F499W or PS F475 or the Alaska Universities Legislative Internship Program or other approved internship earning at least 3 transferable upper-division credits.....3
 4. Complete 24 credits in political science. Include at least one course from four of the following sub-disciplinary groups:*
 - a. Group A—American Government and Politics
PS F212—Introduction to Public Administration3
PS F301—American Presidency3
PS F302—Congress and Public Policy3
PS F401W—Political Behavior.....3
PS F403W—Public Policy.....3
PS F462—Alaska Government and Politics.....3
 - b. Group B—Public Law
PS F303—Politics and the Judicial Process.....3
PS/JUST F404—Introduction to Legal Research and Writing.....3
PS F435W—Constitutional Law I: Federalism3
PS F436W—Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties3
 - c. Group C—Comparative Politics
PS F201—Comparative Politics.....3
PS F202—Democracy and Global Society.....3
PS F460W—Government and Politics of Canada.....3
PS F464W—East Asian Governments and Politics3
PS/HIST F467W—Political Development in Latin America and the Caribbean3
PS F468W—Government and Politics of Russia.....3
 - d. Group D—International Politics
PS F321—International Politics.....3
PS F322O—International Law and Organization3
PS F323—International Political Economy3
PS F437—United States Foreign Policy3
 - e. Group E—Political Theory
PS F314W—Political Ideologies.....3
PS F315—American Political Thought.....3
PS/WGS F340—Women and Politics3
PS/PHIL F411W,O—Classical Political Theory.....3
PS/PHIL F412W—Modern Political Theory3
 5. Group E—Political Theory
PS F314W—Political Ideologies.....3
PS F315—American Political Thought.....3
PS/WGS F340—Women and Politics3
PS/PHIL F411W,O—Classical Political Theory.....3
PS/PHIL F412W—Modern Political Theory3
 6. Minimum credits required120
- * Students must earn a C- grade or better in each course.

Minor

1. Complete the following:
PS F101—Introduction to American Government and Politics3
2. Complete at least four political science courses at the F200, F300 or F400 level12
3. Minimum credits required15

Baccalaureate Core Requirements

Communication 9 Credits

- ENGL F111X—Introduction to Academic Writing.....(3)

Complete one of the following:

- ENGL F211X—Academic Writing about Literature.....(3)
- ENGL F213X—Academic Writing about the Social and Natural Sciences.....(3)

Complete one of the following:

- COMM F121X—Introduction to Interpersonal Communication.....(3)
- COMM F131X—Fundamentals of Oral Communication: Group Context.....(3)
- COMM F141X—Fundamentals of Oral Communication: Public Context.....(3)

Perspectives on the Human Condition 18 Credits

Complete all of the following four courses:

- ANTH F100X/SOC F100X—Individual, Society and Culture.....(3)
- ECON F100X or PS F100X—Political Economy.....(3)
- HIST F100X—Modern World History.....(3)
- ENGL/FL F200X—World Literature.....(3)

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Complete one of the following three courses:

- ART/MUS/THR F200X—Aesthetic Appreciation: Interrelationship of Art, Drama and Music.....(3)
- HUM F201X—Unity in the Arts.....(3)
- ANS F202X—Aesthetic Appreciation of Alaska Native Performance.....(3)

3

Complete one of the following six courses:

- BA F323X—Business Ethics.....(3)
- COMM F300X—Communicating Ethics.....(3)
- JUST F300X—Ethics and Justice.....(3)
- NRM F303X—Environmental Ethics and Actions.....(3)
- PS F300X—Ethics and Society.....(3)
- PHIL F322X—Ethics.....(3)

3

Or complete 12 credits from the above courses plus one of the following:

- Two semester-length courses in a single Alaska Native language or other non-English language
- Three semester-length courses (9 credits) in American Sign Language taken at the university level.

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Mathematics 3 Credits

Complete one of the following:

- MATH F113X—Concepts and Contemporary Applications of Mathematics.....(3)
- MATH F151X—College Algebra for Calculus*.....(4)
- MATH F152X—Trigonometry.....(4)
- MATH F156X—Precalculus.....(4)
- MATH F122X—Algebra for Business and Economics**.....(3)
- STAT F200X—Elementary Probability and Statistics.....(3)

* No credit may be earned for more than one of MATH F151X or F122X.

Or complete one of the following*:

- MATH F251X—Calculus I**.....(4)
- MATH F252X—Calculus II.....(4)
- MATH F253X—Calculus III.....(4)
- MATH F222X—Calculus for Business and Economics.....(4)
- MATH F232X—Calculus for Life Sciences.....(4)

* Or any math course having one of these as a prerequisite

** No credit may be earned for more than one of MATH F251X, F222X or F232X.

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Natural Sciences 8 Credits

Complete any two (4-credit) courses.

- ATM F101X—Weather and Climate of Alaska.....(4)
- BIOL F100X—Human Biology.....(4)
- BIOL F101X—Introduction to Animal Behavior.....(4)
- BIOL F103X—Biology and Society.....(4)
- BIOL F104X—Natural History.....(4)
- BIOL F115X—Fundamentals of Biology I.....(4)
- BIOL F116X—Fundamentals of Biology II.....(4)
- BIOL F120X—Introduction to Human Nutrition.....(4)
- BIOL F213X—Human Anatomy and Physiology I.....(4)
- BIOL F214X—Human Anatomy and Physiology II.....(4)
- CHEM F100X—Chemistry in Complex Systems.....(4)
- CHEM F103X—Basic General Chemistry.....(4)
- CHEM F104X—Beginnings in Biochemistry.....(4)
- CHEM F105X—General Chemistry.....(4)
- CHEM F106X—General Chemistry.....(4)
- GEOG F111X—Earth and Environment: Elements of Physical Geography.....(4)
- GEOS F100X—Introduction to Earth Science.....(4)
- GEOS F101X—The Dynamic Earth.....(4)
- GEOS F106X—Life and the Age of Dinosaurs.....(4)
- GEOS F112X—History of Earth and Life.....(4)
- GEOS F120X—Glaciers, Earthquakes and Volcanoes.....(4)
- GEOS F125X—Humans, Earth and Environment.....(4)
- MSL F111X—The Oceans.....(4)
- PHYS F102X—Energy and Society.....(4)
- PHYS F103X—College Physics.....(4)
- PHYS F104X—College Physics.....(4)
- PHYS F115X—Physical Science I.....(4)
- PHYS F175X—Astronomy.....(4)
- PHYS F211X—General Physics.....(4)
- PHYS F212X—General Physics.....(4)
- PHYS F213X—Elementary Modern Physics.....(4)

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Library and Information Research 0-1 Credit

- Successful completion of library skills competency test or LS F100X or LS F101X prior to junior standing

0-1

Upper-Division Writing and Oral Communication

Complete the following at the upper-division level:

- Two writing intensive courses designated (W) and one oral communication intensive course designated (O), or two oral communication intensive courses designated (O/2) (see degree and/or major requirements)

Total credits required 38-39

All degrees (e.g. B.A., B.S., etc.) require additional courses.

Refer to specific degree and program requirements.

Students must earn a C- grade or better in each course used toward the baccalaureate core.

