

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

## What is Political science?

Political Science is a social science focused on the study of politics, government, and public policy at the local, state, national, and international levels. When we talk about politics, we're examining the dynamics of power and control, and exploring Harold Laswell's concept of "who gets what, when, and how." It helps us answer essential questions such as: How influential is citizen engagement? Do elections truly hold leaders accountable? How effective are different political institutions and systems across countries? How do states interact with each other in the international system? The study of government focuses on the different institutions that make public policies for a country, examining how these structures cooperate and conflict with each other as policies are developed. Public policy studies the decisions crafted by governing bodies—like laws, budgets, and rulings. It attempts to figure out which issues are prioritized in politics and why particular actions are taken. Through the study of politics, government mechanisms, and public policies, political science stands out in its capacity to analyze significant contemporary issues, including authority, influence, identity, ethics, law, freedom, fairness, justice, representation, wealth distribution, and conflict.

## Why Study Political Science?

The field of political science offers students a diverse set of skills and experiences that are valuable for their future. This degree equips students with analytical tools to comprehend how people interact in different social settings. It involves learning about common patterns and issues in politics and how to gather and assess data and evidence. Studying political science also enhances critical thinking and communication abilities, positioning students for jobs in law, government, and industry.

## Undergraduate Courses

The Department of Political Science offers courses in all facets of the discipline: American Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Political Methodology, Public Administration and Policy, and Race and Ethnic Politics.

## American Politics

American politics involves the study of the institutions of national government, law, mass political behavior, elections, political communication and media, interest groups, political parties, state and local governments, urban politics, and identity in politics in the United States.

## International Relations

International relations involve the study of relations between the governments of the world. Courses are offered in world politics, American foreign relations, and national security policy.

## Comparative Politics

This area of political science allows students to develop an in-depth understanding of foreign governments and politics. Courses are offered in European governments, Latin American governments, Asian

governments, Russia and the former Soviet states, and in the politics of inequality and globalization.

## Political Theory

The study of political theory provides students with an understanding of the fundamental relationships between governments and people. Courses range from the study of Greek antiquity to contemporary political ideologies.

## Public Administration and Policy

This area of political science encompasses the study of public administration and the role of public policy in American politics. Study in this area will provide the student with the opportunity to understand the fundamentals of administration within a political environment. Courses are offered in bureaucracy and administration, state and local finance, urban administration, and government and the economy.

## Political Methodology

These courses introduce students to scientific research design, statistical analysis, and game theory.

## Race and Ethnic Politics

These courses provide the student with an in-depth understanding of the role of diversity in politics.

## 5-Year Combined Degree Programs

The Political Science Department offers a combined degree program in conjunction with the Bush School of Government and Public Service. This program enables students to receive either a BA or BS in political science and a Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) degree in five years.

The Political Science Department also offers a combined degree program that enables students to receive either a BA or BS in political science and a Master of Arts or a Master of Science in Political Science in four and a half years.

## Honors Program

The Department of Political Science participates actively in the University honors program. Honors courses are available in all areas of political science. In addition, students may graduate with honors distinction in political science. Honor students also are offered individual instruction under POLS 497. Students interested in the Department's Honors Program should contact the Political Science Undergraduate Programs Office.

## Teacher Certification

Students desiring certification to teach civics or government in secondary schools in Texas must meet special additional requirements.

More complete information on requirements for teacher certification may be found in the College of Education and Human Development section under secondary certification.

## Faculty

Bond, Jon R, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1978

Burnham, Michael, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2022

Chin, Michelle, Instructional Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2001

Chupp, Jesse A, Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2012

Clark, William, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Rutgers University, 1994

Clifford, Scott, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Florida State University, 2013

Cook, Scott J, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Pittsburgh, 2014

Crisman-Cox, Casey, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Rochester, 2016

Dyer, Megan K, Senior Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2017

Escobar-Lemmon, Maria, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, The University of Arizona, 2000

Flaherty, Thomas Michael, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of California, San Diego, 2023

Fuhrmann, Matthew C, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Georgia, 2008

Goidel, Robert K, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Kentucky, 1993

Harmel, Robert, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Northwestern University, 1977

Haydon, Matthew R., Instructional Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Utah, 2022

Jares, Jake, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Stanford University, 2024

Jo, Hyeran, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Michigan, 2008

Jordan, Soren, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2015

Kellstedt, Paul M, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 1996

Kent, Charles Todd, Instructional Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2005

Li, Quan, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Florida State University, 1998

Lim, Phaik S, Senior Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Houston, 2003

Lipsmeyer, Christine S, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Vanderbilt University, 1999

Malis, Matt, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, New York University, 2022

Mehlhoff, Isaac Douglas, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2023

Nederman, Cary J, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, York University, 1983

Onder, Ilayda, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2024

Pacek, Alexander C, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1991

Pathakis, Kristy, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of California, San Diego, 2020

Reinemeyer, Anneliese, Instructional Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2001

Robertson, John D, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1979

Roblyer, Dwight A, Instructional Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2009

Rogers, James R, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, The University of Iowa, 1994

Simas, Elizabeth, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of California, Davis, 2011

Smith, Jason M, Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2009

Tarar, Ahmer S, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Rochester, 2003

Taylor, Michelle M, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Rice University, 1990

Von Vacano, Diego A, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Princeton University, 2003

Whitten, Guy D, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Rochester, 1994

- Race, Ethnicity and Gender Politics Minor (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/race-ethnic-gender-politics-minor/>)

## Majors

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/political-science-ba/>)
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Public Service and Administration, 5-Year Degree Program (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/political-science-ba-mps/>)
- Bachelor of Science in Political Science (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/political-science-bs/>)
- Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Master of Public Service and Administration, 5-Year Degree Program (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/political-science-bs-mps/>)

## Minors

- American Politics and Policy Minor (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/american-politics-policy-minor/>)
- Comparative Politics Minor (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/comparative-politics-minor/>)
- International Relations Minor (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/international-relations-minor/>)
- Legal Foundations Minor (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/legal-foundations-minor/>)
- Political Data and Research Minor (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/political-data-research-minor/>)
- Political Theory Minor (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/political-science/political-theory-minor/>)