

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

---

Political science is a social science that investigates collective decision-making. It is concerned with governments, individuals' attitudes and choices, and the interactions between governing institutions and mass behavior. Among other things, political science addresses power, authority, influence, identity, ethics, law, liberty, justice, wealth, and violence.

The study of political science introduces students to a powerful set of analytical tools for understanding interactions within and among groups of people. These include systematic knowledge of recurring patterns and problems in political life and methods for collecting and analyzing data and other forms of evidence. Studying political science also cultivates critical thinking and effective communication and prepares students for active citizenship, professional success, and lifelong learning.

## 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 B.A. or B.S. in political science and a Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) degree in five years.

The Political Science Department also offers a joint degree program in conjunction with the University of Essex. This program enables students to receive either a B.A. or B.S. 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

Betz, Timm L, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Michigan, 2015

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

Bragg, Belinda L, Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2006

Cheibub, Jose A, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Chicago, 1994

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

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, Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2017

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

Fortunato, David, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Rice University, 2012

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

Fulton, Sarah A, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of California, Davis, 2006

Geva, Nehemia, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Ohio State University, 1977

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

Hollenbach, Florian M, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Duke University, 2015

Horz, Carlo, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, New York University, 2017

Ives, Anthony Lister, Instructional Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Texas at Austin, 2018

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

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

Koch, Michael T, Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of California, Davis, 2002

Lewis, Dominique H, Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, Michigan State University, 2017

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

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

Ogden, Benjamin G, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Boston University, 2016

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

Perry, Brittany N, Instructional Associate Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Duke University, 2013

Peterson, Erik J, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Stanford University, 2017

Pond, Amy, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Michigan, 2015

Rice, Mitchell F, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, Claremont Graduate School, 1976

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

Roblyer, Dwight A, Senior Lecturer  
Political Science  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2009

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

Santos, Adolfo, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Houston, 1998

Simpson, Hannah, Assistant Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, New York University, 2017  
JD, Harvard Law School, 2009

Smith, Jason M, Instructional Assistant Professor  
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

Teodoro, Manuel P, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 2007

Ura, Joseph D, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2006

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

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

Wood, Billy D, Professor  
Political Science  
PHD, University of Houston, 1987

## Majors

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