

POLITICAL SCIENCE

(POLSC)

The Political Science major offers a program for undergraduates who wish to prepare for a variety of occupations. Graduates from Penn State Behrend in Political Science have pursued careers in business, education, law, and government service. Many have continued their studies in law school and in graduate degree programs. Graduates from the Political Science program have included Schreyer Scholars, finalists in national scholarship competitions, and matriculants in competitive graduate programs.

The Political Science department consists of five full-time professors, as well as part-time faculty. Among them, they offer courses that include all sub-fields within the major. The program is distinguished in several ways:

- All students enjoy an emphasis on developing writing and research skills through upper-level course work.
- Some students will work as interns in local, state, and congressional offices.
- Students with particular research interests often work in independent study or occasionally as research assistants.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Penn State Behrend graduates have been employed or have continued their education at the following locations, among others:

Graduate and Law Schools

University of Pennsylvania	The Johns Hopkins University
University of Buffalo	Boston University
Syracuse University	Duquesne University
University of Pittsburgh	George Washington University
Georgetown University	Case Western Reserve University
University of Maryland Law School	Catholic University
Emory University	University of Connecticut
Cornell University	The Ohio State University

Government Service

Office of U.S. Representative Phil English	Internal Revenue Service
Central Intelligence Agency	US Department of Labor
US Coast Guard	Dept. of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service
United States Army	U.S. Peace Corps
PA Department of Community Affairs	Ohio Attorney General's Office
Pennsylvania General Assembly	US Capitol Police
US Border Patrol	JAG Corps, US Navy

Business

HJ Heinz Company	H&R Block
United Way of Erie County	Toyota Motors
Erie Insurance	MBNA America
Fleet Bank	BP Oil Company
Royal Bank of Canada	Baltimore Orioles
Chicago Title Insurance Company	Humana Inc.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

(B.A., 120 credits)

Periodically students should review their degree audits via eLion at <http://eLion.psu.edu>

General Education (45 credits)

WRITING/SPEAKING (9 cr)

ENGL 015 or 030H (GWS) _____ (3)
ENGL 202A, B, C, or D (GWS) _____ (3)
CAS 100A, B, C, or H (GWS) _____ (3)

QUANTIFICATION (6 cr)

any GQ course _____ (3)
any GQ course _____ (3)

NATURAL SCIENCES (9 cr)

Students may complete any 9 credits of GN sciences as long as one course contains a lab.

_____ (3)
_____ (3)
_____ (3)

Lab course _____

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (3 cr)

Students may complete any 3 credits of GHA as long as the total equals 3 or more credits.

ARTS (6 cr)

GA courses*

_____ (3)
_____ (3)

HUMANITIES (6 cr)

GH courses*

_____ (3)
_____ (3)

SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL (6 cr)

GS courses*

_____ (3)
_____ (3)

*Courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major.

Note: A student may request an exception in order to establish a focus in one area. For example, a student may opt to take *one* course in the Social & Behavioral Sciences, *two* in the Arts, and *three* in the Humanities—referred to as the 3-6-9 sequence.

Additional Graduation Requirements

First-Year Seminar (Included in electives) _____ (1)
Writing Across the Curriculum in the major (W)** _____ (3)
International Cultures (IL)**+ _____ (3)
United States Cultures (US)**+ _____ (3)

**Can also be counted toward General Education or major requirements.

+ Effective for students enrolling in or after summer session 2005.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements (12–24 credits)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE (0–12 credits): students must attain 12th credit level proficiency.

_____ (4) _____ (4) _____ (4)

This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.

B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS (9 credits)

Formerly, students were required to complete 3 credits in each of three domains (Arts, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences). Effective Summer 2005, students are permitted to complete all 9 credits in any one of six domains or a combination thereof, but *courses may not be taken in the area of the*

student's primary major. The six domains are Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS), Natural Sciences (GN), Quantification (GQ), and Foreign Language *if* the coursework is in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit proficiency of the first foreign language.

_____ (3) _____ (3) _____ (3)

See complete list of courses at: <http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/gened/bad.html>

OTHER CULTURES (3 cr)† _____

†Cannot be used to satisfy the U.S. & International Cultures requirement. See: <http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/gened/bad.html#OCUL>

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (36 credits)

COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (12 cr)

- PL SC 001 (GS) American National Government _____ (3)
- PL SC 003 (GS) Introduction to Comparative Politics _____ (3)
- PL SC 014 (GS) International Relations
or INTST 100 Introduction to International Studies _____ (3)
- PL SC 017 (GS) or PL SC 017W (GS)
Introduction to Political Theory _____ (3)

The remaining 24 credits should include 4 courses (12 credits) at the 400 level and at least 3 credits from each of the following groups from courses listed on a program-approved list.

_____ (3)	_____ (3)
_____ (3)	_____ (3)
_____ (3)	_____ (3)
_____ (3)	_____ (3)

SUBFIELDS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Please see separate sheet listing approved courses for each subfield requirement.

American Government

International Politics

_____ (3)	_____ (3)
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Comparative Politics

Government in Theory and Practice

_____ (3)	_____ (3)
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400-Level Courses

_____ (3)	_____ (3)
_____ (3)	_____ (3)

Courses used to meet the 400 level requirement can also be used to meet a subfield requirement.

ELECTIVES (15 cr minimum)

_____ (3)	_____ (3)
_____ (3)	_____ (3)
_____ (3)	_____ (1)
	First-Year Seminar

Political Science Minor:

Students must take PL SC 001 (GS [3]), PL SC 003 (GS [3]), and select additional courses (at least 6 credits at the 400 level) in PL SC for a total of 18 credits.

Recent Student Internships

Office of Representative Phil English, Office of Senator Arlen Specter, Office of Senator Bob Casey, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Erie County Department of Health, Pennsylvania Governor's Northwest Regional Office, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington), Greenpeace International (Washington)

Student Political Groups

College Democrats hosted Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Ted Kennedy, Bob Casey, and three congressional candidates on campus in 2008, and led student voter registration efforts and worked on political campaigns.

College Republicans hosted Congressman Phil English on campus in 2008.

The Political Science Society led a voter registration effort and hosted a Harborcreek Township candidate forum on campus in 2007.

For more information about any of these groups, or to join, contact Dr. Robert Speel at rws15@psu.edu.

Full-Time Political Science Faculty

Dr. Christopher R. Cook (*Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara*), Assistant Professor. Teaching and research interests include international relations and American foreign policy, specifically US policy for humanitarian intervention and UN peacekeeping. He is currently conducting research on the US role for UN missions in Sierra Leone and the Congo.

Dr. John K. Gamble (*Ph.D., University of Washington*), Distinguished Professor. Teaching and research interests are international law, Canadian politics, the European Union, and comparative politics. Dr. Gamble is the author or editor of more than a dozen books and more than 50 articles. He received research grants from the Ford Foundation in 1991, 1994, and 1996. He has been active in the American Society of International Law including being a vice president (2001–2003). His articles have appeared in the *American Journal of International Law*, the *Chinese Yearbook of International Law*, *The Michigan International Law Journal*, and the *German Yearbook of International Law*.

Dr. Zachary T. Irwin (*Ph.D., Penn State University*), Associate Professor. Teaching and research interests include comparative politics and political theory, as well as the politics of Southeastern Europe. Dr. Irwin has published in scholarly journals such as *East European Quarterly*, *Problems of Communism*, and the *World Today*. He has contributed many book chapters particularly concerning former Yugoslavia. He has held fellowships from the Wilson Center, as well as Fulbright and IREX grants.

Dr. Celise C. Schneider (*Ph.D., University of Houston*), Assistant Professor. Her teaching and research interests include the political theories of Plato, Machiavelli, and Marx, and contemporary political ideologies. In addition to Introduction to American National Government, she also teaches Introduction to Political Theory, Contemporary Political Ideologies, American Political Theory, and War in World Politics.

Dr. Robert W. Speel (*Ph.D., Cornell University*), Associate Professor. Teaching and research interests include most aspects of American politics, comparative politics, electoral behavior, and ethnic and racial politics. Penn State University Press published his book, *Changing Patterns of Voting in the Northern United States: Electoral Realignment 1952–1996*, in 1998. He is currently conducting research for a book on political regionalism in the United States and for an edited volume on political regionalism in economically advanced democracies.

This publication is available in alternative media upon request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

List of Program-Approved Courses for Each Subfield Requirement in Political Science

Students must take at least three credits in each of the following four subfields. Courses listed in two different subfields can be used to meet the requirement in either subfield in which the course is listed; however, no course can be used to meet more than one subfield requirement.

American Government

PL SC 002	American Public Policy
PL SC 110	Rights in America
PL SC 123 (POLSC123)	Ethnic and Racial Politics
PL SC 130	American Political Campaigns and Elections
PL SC 177 (POLSC127)	Politics and Government in Washington DC
PL SC 299/PL SC 499	Foreign Studies/Foreign Study–Government (North American Politics)
PL SC 419 (POLSC 480)	The Bureaucratic State
PL SC 435	Foundations of American Political Theory
PL SC 442	American Foreign Policy
PL SC 471 (POLSC 407)	Constitutional Law
PL SC 472	The American Legal Process
PL SC 473 (POLSC 406)	American Judicial Behavior
PL SC 480W (POLSC 401W)	Congress and the Presidency
PL SC 482 (POLSC 408)	American State and Urban Politics

Comparative Politics

PL SC 020	Politics of Western Europe
PL SC 022	Politics of Developing Countries
PL SC 123 (POLSC 123)	Ethnic and Racial Politics
PL SC 132 (POLSC 132)	Politics of International Intolerance
PL SC 299/PL SC 499	Foreign Studies/Foreign Study–Government (North American Politics)
PL SC 423 (POLSC 423)	Post-Soviet Politics
PL SC 454	Government and Politics of Africa
PL SC 488 (POLSC 478)	Comparative Public Policy

International Politics

INTST 100	Introduction to International Studies
INTST 400	Advanced Seminar in International Studies
PL SC 132 (POLSC 132)	Politics of International Intolerance
PL SC 177 (POLSC 127)	Politics and Government in Washington DC
PL SC 437	War in World Politics
PL SC 439	The Politics of Terrorism
PL SC 442	American Foreign Policy
PL SC 481	Global Political Economy
PL SC 484W (POLSC 424W)	Foreign Policies of Soviet Successor States
PL SC 487 (POLSC 477)	International Law and Organizations

Government in Theory and Practice

PL SC 002	American Public Policy
PL SC 007	Contemporary Political Ideologies
PL SC 110	Rights in America
PL SC 155	Understanding Tyranny
PL SC 419 (POLSC 480)	The Bureaucratic State
PL SC 428	Gender and Politics
PL SC 430	Selected Works in the History of Political Theory
PL SC 431	Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories
PL SC 432	Modern and Contemporary Political Theories
PL SC 435	Foundations of American Political Theory
PL SC 471 (POLSC 407)	Constitutional Law
PL SC 472	The American Legal Process
PL SC 473 (POLSC 406)	American Judicial Behavior
PL SC 474	Civil Liberties and Due Process
PL SC 487 (POLSC 477)	International Law and Organizations
PL SC 488 (POLSC 478)	Comparative Public Policy
PL SC 489 (POLSC 479)	Public Administration

Special Topics courses will meet different subfield requirements depending on the topic of the specific course. See the program chair for guidance.