

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Political science studies the critical issue of governance in modern times. From federal institutions to local businesses, political structures exist to provide means and processes through which public needs are met. Studying political science introduces political values, processes, institutions, and strategies for analyzing equity within society. Instruction includes classes in American government, state and local government, and international relations.

A background in political science may lead to employment in local, state, or national government, law, journalism, special interest groups, teaching, and research. Political science knowledge can enhance citizens' roles in community service and/or public office, and for those interested in a law degree, political science may be an excellent undergraduate major.

See the [Political Science page](#) for program and contact information.

## Programs

### Transfer

#### Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer

- [Political Science - Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer \(AAOT\)](#)

## Courses

#### PS 188 Special Studies: Political Science (1-4 Credits)

Explores topics of current interest in the discipline.

#### PS 199 Selected Topics: Political Science (1-4 Credits)

This course is in development.

#### PS 201 Introduction to US Government and Politics (4 Credits)

**Recommended preparation:** WR 121.

Examines the American political system with its separation of powers, limited authority and guarantee of individual liberty. Includes a study of political ideology, parties, voting, media, and interest groups. Special emphasis will be placed on a detailed study of the Constitution and its application in today's America.

#### PS 203 State/Local Government (3 Credits)

**Recommended preparation:** or to be taken with WR 121.

Examines the thousands of governments located at the state and local levels. Explores separation of powers between governors, legislatures and state court systems. Opportunity for individual involvement in the administration, innovation and promotion of democracy is investigated.

#### PS 204 Introduction to Comparative Politics (4 Credits)

**Recommended preparation:** WR 121.

Surveys the field of comparative politics through in-depth analyses of countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Comparative structures of these governments will be explored and analyzed in light of separation of powers, limited authority, and individual rights.

#### PS 205 Introduction to International Relations (4 Credits)

**Recommended preparation:** WR 121.

Introduces complex relations among the nations of a rapidly changing world. Focuses on the nature of the international system and factors affecting conflict and cooperation within the system.

#### PS 206 Introduction to Political Thought (4 Credits)

**Recommended preparation:** WR 121.

Introduces the broad range of issues and approaches in political theory. Examines the diversity of the field, as it includes both classic and historical texts as well as contemporary thought. From Plato to Machiavelli, and from Locke to Nietzsche, this course examines the major political themes of justice, equality, democracy, power, and liberty.

#### PS 280 Co-op Work Experience Political Science (1-4 Credits)

**Prerequisites:** instructor approval.

Provides experience in which students apply previous classroom learning in an occupational setting. Credits depend on the number of hours worked. P/NP grading.

#### PS 288 Special Studies: Political Science (1-4 Credits)

Explores topics of current interest in the discipline.

#### PS 298 Independent Study: Political Science (1-4 Credits)

**Prerequisites:** instructor approval.

**Recommended preparation:** prior coursework in the discipline.

Individualized, advanced study to focus on outcomes not addressed in existing courses or of special interest to a student. P/NP grading.

#### PS 299 Selected Topics: Political Science (1-4 Credits)

This course is in development.