

# 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 global environmental 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 116. As part of the core curriculum requirements, complete PS 100X, PS 300X and HIST 100X.)
2. Complete the B.A. degree requirements (page 120).
3. Complete the following major (program) requirements: \*
  - PS 101—Introduction to American Government and Politics..... 3
  - PS 222—Political Science Research Methods..... 3
  - PS 499W or PS 475 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 212—Introduction to Public Administration..... 3
    - PS 301—American Presidency ..... 3
    - PS 302—Congress and Public Policy ..... 3
    - PS 401W—Political Behavior ..... 3
    - PS 403W—Public Policy ..... 3
    - PS 462—Alaska Government and Politics ..... 3
  - b. Group B—Public Law
    - PS 303—Politics and the Judicial Process..... 3
    - PS/JUST 404—Introduction to Legal Research and Writing ..... 3
    - PS 435W—Constitutional Law I: Federalism ..... 3
    - PS 436W—Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties ..... 3
  - c. Group C—Comparative Politics
    - PS 201—Comparative Politics ..... 3
    - PS 202—Democracy and Global Society ..... 3
    - PS 460W—Government and Politics of Canada ..... 3
    - PS 464W—East Asian Governments and Politics ..... 3
    - PS/HIST 467W—Political Development in Latin America and the Caribbean..... 3
    - PS 468W—Government and Politics of Russia..... 3
  - d. Group D—International Politics
    - PS 321—International Politics ..... 3
    - PS 322O—International Law and Organization..... 3
    - PS 323—International Political Economy..... 3
    - PS 437—United States Foreign Policy ..... 3
  - e. Group E—Political Theory
    - PS 314W—Political Ideologies..... 3
    - PS 315—American Political Thought ..... 3
    - PS/WMS 340—Women and Politics..... 3
    - PS/PHIL 411W,O—Classical Political Theory..... 3
    - PS/PHIL 412W—Modern Political Theory ..... 3
5. Minimum credits required..... 120

\* Student must earn a C grade or better in each course.

## Minor

1. Complete the following:
  - PS 101—Introduction to American Government and Politics..... 3
  - Complete at least four political science courses at the 200-, 300- or 400-level..... 12
2. Minimum credits required..... 15

## Baccalaureate Core Requirements

All degrees (e.g. B.A., B.S., etc.) require additional courses.  
Refer to specific degree and program requirements.

### COMMUNICATION (9)

Complete the following:

ENGL 111X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
*ENGL 190H may be substituted.*

Complete one of the following:

ENGL 211X OR ENGL 213X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete one of the following:

COMM 131X OR COMM 141X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMAN CONDITION (18)

Complete all of the following four courses:

ANTH 100X/SOC 100X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
ECON 100X OR PS 100X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
HIST 100X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
ENGL/FL 200X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete one of the following three courses:

ART/MUS/THR 200X, HUM 201X OR ANS 202X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete one of the following six courses:

BA 323X, COMM 300X, JUST 300X, NRM 303X,  
PS 300X OR PHIL 322X ..... (3) \_\_\_\_\_

OR complete 12 credits from the above courses PLUS

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

### MATHEMATICS (3)

Complete one of the following:

MATH 103X, MATH 107X, MATH 161X OR STAT 200X ..... (3-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
*\* No credit may be earned for more than one of MATH 107X or 161X.*

OR complete one of the following:\*

MATH 200X, MATH 201X, MATH 202X,  
MATH 262X OR MATH 272X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### NATURAL SCIENCES (8)

Complete any two (4-credit) courses:

ATM 101X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOL 100X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOL 103X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOL 104X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOL 105X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOL 106X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOL 111X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
BIOL 112X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
CHEM 100X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
CHEM 103X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
CHEM 104X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
CHEM 105X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
CHEM 106X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
GEOG 205X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
GEOS 100X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
GEOS 101X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
GEOS 112X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
GEOS 120X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
GEOS 125X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
MSL 111X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 102X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 103X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 104X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 115X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 116X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 175X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 211X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 212X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYS 213X ..... (4) \_\_\_\_\_

### LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESEARCH (0-1)

Successful completion of library skills competency test OR

LS 100X or 101X prior to junior standing ..... (0-1) \_\_\_\_\_

### UPPER-DIVISION WRITING AND ORAL COMMUNICATION (0)

Complete the following:

Two writing intensive courses designated (W) ..... (0) \_\_\_\_\_  
One oral communication intensive course designated (O) ..... (0) \_\_\_\_\_  
OR two oral communication intensive courses designated (O/2), at the upper-division level (see degree and/or major requirements) ..... (0) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED.....38-39**