KU Political Science Major

All political science majors are expected to have a broad understanding of politics and how political scientists study political actions, institutions, processes and events. All majors must complete four required courses (12 hours) and six elective courses (18 hours), for 30 hours total.

*Required Courses:

(1) Introduction to U.S. Politics (POLS 110 or 111), and either
(2) Introduction to Comparative Politics (POLS 150 or 151) or Introduction to International Politics (POLS 170 or 171)

(3) Introduction to Political Theory (POLS 301 or 302) and
(4) Political Science Methods of Inquiry (POLS 306) and

*Additional Requirements for Major:

(5) Electives- 18 required credit hours (15 hours at 400 level or above)

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*Electives: The department typically offers about 10 upper-division courses each semester that students can pursue as electives. Most courses listed in the KU Catalog are offered each year, though some are offered every other year.

Electives may be drawn from across the political science curriculum with some limitations:

(1) Students must take elective courses from at least two (out of five) subfields.
   a. Field I- Political Philosophy and Empirical Theory
   b. Field II- U.S. Political Institutions and Processes
   c. Field III- Public Policy and Public Administration
   d. Field IV- Foreign Governments and Comparative Politics
   e. Field V- International Relations

(2) A student may count a total of no more than 6 hours toward the major from the following courses (internships and fieldwork):
POLS 492: Field Work in Politics and Policy-making
POLS 493: Directed Readings (no more than three hours)
POLS 494/495: Washington/Topeka Semester Intern Seminar
POLS 496/497: Washington/Topeka Semester Fieldwork
POLS 498: Honors Thesis

*Majors can pursue general studies in the major or choose electives from a suggested track, as described below:

(1) General studies: Students may complete their major without having any particular emphasis and instead choose freely among a wide variety of courses in various subfields. Students interested in business or teaching, those wanting to pursue graduate studies in political science, and those simply wanting to have an opportunity to pursue a wide variety of interests may choose this option.
Suggested Tracks (which include courses across several subfields):

(2) A track in Electoral Politics. Students wanting to enter politics, journalism, campaign management and polling, and electoral politics are encouraged to fulfill their upper-division electives by choosing among the following courses in the indicated subfields or areas of focus.

Political Theory (Field I)
  POLS 603: Democratic Theory

American National Politics (Field II)
  POLS 515: American Political Parties
  POLS 516: Public Opinion and American Democracy
  POLS 615: Campaigns and Elections
  POLS 616: Interest Group Politics
  POLS 617: The Congress
  POLS 618: The Presidency
  POLS 670: U.S. Foreign Policy

State and local politics (Field II)
  POLS 613: Comparative U.S. State Politics
  POLS 614: Urban Politics

Comparative politics (Field IV)
  POLS 564: Elections and Political Parties around the World

Analytical skills and applications (Fields I, II, or III)
  POLS 520: Political Communication
  POLS 521: Rhetoric, Politics and the Mass Media
  POLS 620: Formulation of Public Policy
  POLS 626: Political Polling and Survey Research

Identity Politics (Fields II, IV or V)
  POLS 630: Politics of Identity
  POLS 512: Latino Politics
  POLS 562: Women and Politics
  POLS 612: Psychology in Politics

Internships
  POLS 494: Washington Semester Intern Seminar
  POLS 495: Topeka Semester Intern Seminar
  POLS 496: Washington Semester Field Work (3-6)
  POLS 497: Topeka Semester Field Work (3-6)
(3) **A track in Pre-law.** Students who want to enter law school, prepare for paralegal careers, or seek careers in intelligence or law enforcement are encouraged to select electives from the following options:

Constitutional law and judicial processes (Fields I or V)

- POLS 610: Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers
- POLS 611: Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
- POLS 684: International Law: The State and the Individual
- POLS 685: International Law: Laws of Armed Conflicts
- POLS 713: Law & Society
- POLS 774: International Law

Other courses focusing on justice (Fields I, III, IV, or V)

- POLS 501: Contemporary Political Thought (theories of justice)
- POLS 528: Environmental Justice and Public Policy (EVRN 528)
- POLS 644: Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Society
- POLS 686: International Human Rights

Students wanting to pursue particular areas with the field of law may also wish to take courses in such other areas as public policy and identity politics (as listed below).

(4) **A track in Public Policy** (Fields II, III, IV, or V)- Students interested in administrative and policy analysis positions with local, state or federal governments or with public agencies, universities or volunteer organizations (such as labor unions, farm organizations, chambers of commerce, and civil rights groups) are encouraged to select electives from the following:

- POLS 320: Introduction to Public Policy
- POLS 330: Introduction to Public Administration
- POLS 528: Environmental Justice and Public Policy (EVRN 528)
- POLS 553: Comparative Environmental Politics
- POLS 563: Comparative Political Economy
- POLS 566: Social Welfare, Taxation, and the Citizen
- POLS 614: Urban Politics
- POLS 620: Formulation of Public Policy
- POLS 621: Public Policy Analysis
- POLS 622: Government and the Economy
- POLS 623: The Politics of Social Policy
- POLS 624: Environmental Politics and Policy (EVRN 620)
- POLS 625: Extremist Groups and Government Response
- POLS 628: The Politics of Public Health
- POLS 630: Politics of Identity
- POLS 634: Bureaucratic Politics
- POLS 640: Politics of Reproductive Policy
- POLS 644: Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies
- POLS 670: U.S. Foreign Policy
Many students with interests in public policy and administration have found internships in Washington DC and Topeka (offered during the spring semester) to be interesting and helpful.

(5) A track in World Politics- Students who want a career in international affairs in the public, private, and non-profit spheres can choose among a wide variety of upper-division courses that provide in-depth examination of particular regions of the world, that provide broader cross-national comparisons of political processes, and that examine such aspects of international relations as US Foreign Policy, international conflict and cooperation, and international economics. Useful courses include:

Particular regions of the world (area studies) (Field IV or V):
POLS 658: Theories and Politics in Latin America
POLS 659: Political Dynamics of Latin America
POLS 665: Politics in Africa
POLS 561: Liberation in Southern Africa

POLS 656: Political Change in Asia
POLS 656: Governments and Politics of East Asia
POLS 657: Government and Politics of Southeast Asia
POLS 666: Political Economy of East Asia
POLS 668: Reform in Contemporary China
POLS 676: International Relations of Asia
POLS 678: Chinese Foreign Policy

POLS 661: Politics of the Middle East
POLS 650: Palestinians and Israelis
POLS 667: Islam and Politics

POLS 652: Politics in Europe
POLS 655: Politics of East-Central Europe
POLS 654: Politics and Government of Russia and the Central Eurasian States
POLS 675: Russian Foreign Policy

Cross-National analyses (Fields I, IV or V)
POLS 612: Psychology in Politics
POLS 562: Women and Politics
POLS 600: Contemporary Feminist Political Theory
POLS 553: Comparative Environmental Politics
POLS 563: Comparative Political Economy
POLS 644: Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies
POLS 653: Gender, War, and Peace
POLS 660: The Politics and Problems of Developing Countries
POLS 669: Topics in Comparative Politics:___ (2-3)

International politics (Field V)
POLS 670: United States Foreign Policy
POLS 671: International Cooperation
POLS 672: International Political Economy
POLS 673: International Organization
POLS 674: International Ethics
POLS 675: Russian Foreign Policy
POLS 677: U.S. National Security Policy
POLS 678: Chinese Foreign Policy
POLS 679: International Conflict
POLS 680: International Relations in Political Philosophy
POLS 681: Comparative Foreign Policy
POLS 684: International Law: The State and the Individual
POLS 685: International Law: Laws of Armed Conflicts
POLS 686: International Human Rights
POLS 689: Topics in International Relations:____ (2-3)