

Political Science

Political Science Major BA degree

Faculty and Fields of Interest

Requirements

Political Science offers a variety of courses in the major subfields of the discipline: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, public administration, and public policy. The program emphasizes the development of analytical and communications skills linked to a substantive understanding of politics, governments, and administration. These skills and a knowledge of political science are useful in a broad range of career pursuits.

UMass Dartmouth Political Science graduates are pursuing successful careers in state, local, and federal government, public law, administration, social work, urban planning, the diplomatic service, and business. Some have careers in politics as elected officials, legislative aides, or in lobbying, campaign management, and polling analysis. The departmental program offers several opportunities for student internships that provide practical experience in many of these areas. Finally, many of the department's graduates enroll in some of the nation's leading law, graduate, and professional schools where they go on to careers in college teaching, law, and corporate management.

The Political Science faculty is active in research, government, and community service, and publishes many books and articles in the several subfields of the discipline.

Michael Baum comparative politics (Western and Southern Europe Africa, Latin America), theory, development studies and policy

John J. Carroll (chairperson; director of university academic advising) American politics (institutions, state governments), public law

Robert Darst international politics, environmental politics

John Fobanjong American government, ethnic politics, public administration, international relations (Africa)

Kenneth L. Manning constitutional law, judicial behavior, American politics

Philip H. Melanson public policy, American politics (governmental secrecy, political violence)

Michael Steinman (dean of the college of arts and sciences) American politics, public policy

Political Science majors complete 39 credits in political science. In addition, majors must satisfy specific a cognate requirement in selecting their distribution courses for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

The following courses are required:

	Credits
--	---------

PSC 101	Intro. to American Politics	3
PSC 151	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
PSC 161	Introduction to International Relations	3
PSC	200-level elective	3
PSC 349	Research Methods in Political Science	3

One courses in Political Theory from the following list:

	3
--	---

PSC 320	American Political Thought I	
PSC 321	American Political Thought II	
PSC 351	Modern Political Thought	
PSC 352	Classical Political Thought	
PSC 353	Non-Western Political Thought	
PSC 354	Contemporary Political Thought	
PSC 357	Marxian Political Theory	

One course in American Politics/Policy

	3
--	---

One course in Comparative Politics/International Relations. A course can be selected that will also satisfy the non-western course requirement.

PSC 300/400-level electives

	6
--	---

PSC 305 Internship

	3
--	---

Additional Internship credits may be counted as free electives.

PSC 400-level Research Seminars

	6
--	---

(One each in junior and senior years)

Total **39**

Cognate requirement:
ECO 232 Macroeconomics
A non-western course

Macroeconomics complements and supports the major concentration and also satisfies a portion of the distribution requirements in social sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. The non-western course requirement may be satisfied by a course in a discipline other than Political science or by an appropriate Political Science course.

Political Science Minor

Political Science Courses

General Education Departmental Requirements

Students majoring in Political Science will meet their departmentally-controlled General Education requirements as follows:

Area E: Satisfied by ECO 232
Area I, Tier 2: Satisfied by PSC 349
Area W, Tier 2: Students may choose a course from the approved list
Area O: Satisfied by two PSC 400-level seminars.

Political Science Honors Program

The Political Science Department offers an Honors Program to qualified majors. To be admitted to the program, students must demonstrate outstanding scholarship during their first five semesters. Details of the program may be obtained from the Department Chairperson.

Students choosing to Minor in Political Science must achieve at least a 2.5 average in all Political Science courses and a 2.0 cumulative grade point average. Students must formally declare the minor by the end of their fifth semester and must have completed 54 credits. Appropriate forms will be available from faculty advisors in the Political Science department.

Requirements

The minor in political science consists of 21 credits. Minor course credits must be taken with at least three different professors.

The following courses are required:

	Credits
PSC 101 Intro. to American Politics	3
PSC 151 Intro. to Comparative Politics	3
PSC 349 Research Methods in Political Science	3
PSC 300-level electives	9
PSC 400-level Research Seminar	3
Total	21

PSC 101 three credits E

Introduction to American Politics

Theory and practice of national government in Congress, the Presidency, and the Supreme Court, and the interaction of these institutions with interest groups, political parties, public opinion and the mass media.

PSC 151 three credits G

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Study of political processes, ideologies, constitutional systems and governmental structure of foreign countries including Great Britain, France, Germany, the C.I.S. and selected Third World nations. Comparison with American system of government. Stress laid on the use of the analytical methods.

PSC 161 three credits G

Introduction to International Relations

Helps students relate, organize, and analyze political events that occur on the international level. Students will learn how to think critically about international relations and its impact on lives and well-being in the present and future. The concept of power, the factors that shape the foreign policies of states, the politics of economic relations, the use of force, and a broad range of global issues are examined.

PSC 201-249 three credits

American Political Issues and Ideas

Issues and ideas courses on selected topics to be developed by instructors as student interest and faculty preference indicate. Students who are not political science majors are particularly invited to enroll in such courses. Anticipated offerings in this category include Introduction to Political Economy, Local Politics, Political Essay, Political Assassinations in America, Fundamentals of Political Behavior.

The following are regularly offered:

PSC 201 three credits

Class, Power, and the State

PSC 210 three credits

Politics of Health Care Reform

PSC 212 three credits

Politics in Film

PSC 228 three credits

Problems of Law in Political Science

PSC 239 three credits C, D

African American Politics

A study of the role of African Americans in

Gen Ed Key

C	Cultural and Artistic Literacy
E	Ethics and Social Responsibility
G	Global Awareness
D	Diversity
W	Writing-Intensive Course
I	Information and Computer Literacy
O	Oral Skills

the American political system, both historically and contemporarily, with special attention given to the alternative political strategies used in the struggle for political inclusion. Various philosophies that have been adopted to open up the political process and increase the democratic participation of African Americans are studied. Cross-listed as AAS 239.

In addition, the following have been offered recently:

PSC 208 three credits
Politics of Welfare Reform

PSC 222 three credits
Political Assassination in America

PSC 224 three credits
Modern Employment Laws and Development in the Workplace

PSC 227 three credits
Campaigning for Congress

PSC 235 three credits
Environmental Policy

PSC 236 three credits
People and Politics

PSC 237 three credits
Politics of Free Speech and Religion

PSC 242 three credits
Ethnic Politics
Prerequisites: PSC 101
The complex ethnic structure of the American political landscape. The course examines the role that ethnicity plays in American politics in a comparative examination of the politics of major racial and ethnic minority groups. Previously offered as PSC 266. Cross-listed as AAS 243; LST 243.

PSC 251-299 three credits
World Political Issues and Ideas
Issues and ideas courses on selected topics to be developed by instructors as student interest and faculty preference indicate. Students who are not political science majors are particularly invited to enroll in such courses. Anticipated offerings in this category include Contemporary Issues in the Middle East, Contemporary Issues in World Politics, and Contemporary Issues in Human Rights.

The following are regularly offered:

PSC 258 three credits
Political Psychology

PSC 261 three credits **G**
Problems US/China Relations

PSC 266 three credits
Introduction to the Politics of Developing Countries

PSC 291 three credits
Contemporary Issues in Human Rights
Central concepts in human rights and international barriers to action. This discussion course addresses questions like, Can or should human rights be protected internationally? Is it possible to balance conflicting rights? What is the continuing role of torture in Europe and elsewhere?

In addition, the following have been offered recently:

PSC 253 three credits
Contemporary Issues: US and Middle East

PSC 277 three credits
Africa in World Politics

PSC 286 three credits
Contemporary Issues in World Politics

PSC 301 three credits
The Presidency
Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing
The development of the contemporary presidency and its position within the American constitutional framework. Special attention will be paid to the presidential selection system, to alternate models of the presidency and to presidential power.

PSC 302 three credits
The Legislative Process
Prerequisites: PSC 101 or permission of the instructor; and upper-division standing
A thorough study of the United States Congress and its power to make law. Elections, legislative leadership, congressional committees, inter-branch relations, and the dynamics of the legislative process are some of the sub-themes.

PSC 303 three credits **C, D, G**
Cape Verdean Politics and Society
A study of Cape Verdeans as an ethnic sub-population in the United States, and as comprising an independent, self-governing nation-state. The historical, political, social,

and economic contributions of Americans of Cape Verdean descent in the United States and in Cape Verde are examined. Cross-listed as AAS 303; LST 303.

PSC 304 three credits **W**
Bureaucratic Politics
Prerequisite: PSC 101 or prior coursework in social science

A broad overview of the development and performance of bureaucratic institutions in the U.S. political system, exploring the extraordinary expansion of bureaucratic authority in recent decades and various explanations of government growth. A review of the historical development of bureaucratic institutions will set the stage for subsequent discussions of the performance of public sector organizations and prospects for significant reform in the next decade.

PSC 305 three to fifteen credits
Internship
Students take part in internship opportunities in the public and private sector, in conjunction with a series of five on-campus seminars with core readings designed to integrate the student's real-world experience with the academic discipline. Students are placed on congressional and state legislative staffs, in state and local government, in the judicial system, in prosecutors' offices, in law firms, and a variety of other public and non profit organizations.

PSC 306 three credits **C, D**
Civil Rights Movements in the United States
A study of the politics of civil rights and the various philosophical approaches that have been used to extend such rights to groups that have traditionally had no access to the agenda setting processes within the legislative system. Emphasis is placed on the philosophy of nonviolence and on the political effectiveness of such organizing strategies as marches, sit-ins, and public demonstrations; and how the American experience with civil rights has influenced civil rights movements in other parts of the world. Cross-listed as AAS 306; LST 306.

PSC 311 three credits
State Politics
Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing
An exploration of politics and government in the American states. The course is a comparative analysis of the 50 states, although special attention will be given to Massachusetts.

PSC 312 three credits

Massachusetts Politics

Prerequisites: PSC 101 or consent of instructor and upper-division standing
An analysis of selected aspects of Massachusetts politics and government: the state legislature, electoral trends, parties, courts, and executive policy are potential subjects. There will be a special emphasis on student research.

PSC 313 three credits **D**

Urban Politics

Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing
A critical examination of the urban political community in the United States. Particular attention is given to the adequacy of the city as an arena of conflict resolution and decision-making as well as such current problems as urban reconstruction in the ghettos. Field research in the area by individuals or groups is encouraged but not required. Cross-listed as AAS 313.

PSC 315 three credits

Public Policy in America

Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing
The policy-making roles, processes, and dynamics of U.S. political institutions, including the federal bureaucracy, media, think tanks, and universities. Major theme and dynamics examined include: governmental secrecy, covert action, the role of scientific experts, and the right to privacy.

PSC 320 three credits

American Political Thought I

American political thought from the Revolution to the Civil War with particular emphasis on ideas of state-building and political economy. Readings may vary, but will likely include the Declaration of Independence, early state constitutions, the Articles of Confederation, The U.S. Constitution, The Federalist, selections from the Jacksonian democrats, and articles by George Fitzhugh.

PSC 321 three credits

American Political Thought II

American political thought from the end of Reconstruction to the New Deal, with particular emphasis on ideas of state-building and political economy. Readings may vary but will likely include William Graham Sumner, selected American Socialists, J. Allen Smith, and Herbert Croly.

PSC 322 three credits **O, W**
Constitutional Law

Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing
Course centers on the development of the constitutional framework of American government. Supreme Court cases will cover judicial review, the powers of the three branches, and federalism.

PSC 323 three credits **E**

Civil Liberties

Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing.
In effect the second half of the course on Constitutional Law. The Civil Liberties course deals with the relations between the individual and the state as defined by U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Topics may include rights of racial minorities, freedom of speech, church-state relations, and the rights of criminal defendants.

PSC 326 three credits

**Labor Relations:
Law, Practice, and Policy**

An examination of the political and legal framework of U.S. labor relations. The course will include analysis of legislation and Supreme Court and NLRB cases which shape national labor policy and define relations among workers, employers, and the state. Cross-listed as LST 326.

PSC 331 three credits

Political Parties and Interest Groups

Prerequisites: PSC 101 or written permission of instructor; and upper-division standing
The development and function of political parties and political interest groups in American politics. Strategies for lobbying and for creating interest groups also examined. Cross-listed as LST 332.

PSC 332 three credits

Sex Roles and Politics

Prerequisites: PSC 101 or PSC 238 or WMS 100, and upper-division standing
An examination of the impact of gender as a variable in American politics. The course analyzes women in the electorate as candidates, as office holders, and as political participants including participation in political organizations and lobbying groups. Cross-listed as WMS 332.

PSC 333 three credits

Political Behavior

Prerequisites: PSC 101 or PSC 238 and PSC 349, or written permission of instructor; and upper-division standing
Examines political behavior within the American political system. Special emphasis on quantitative methods to examine

participation. Original data sets which have provided the sources for assigned readings are supplied. Emphasis on socio-economic models of participation.

PSC 339 three credits **D**

Women and Public Policy

Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing
Examines public policies and landmark Supreme Court opinions relating to gender equality and women's interests in the United States. Topics may include educational policies, employment policies, child care policies, health care policies, reproductive rights, and policies relating to women as criminals. Cross-listed as WMS 339.

PSC 341 three credits

Governmental Secrecy

Prerequisite: PSC 101
A survey of the political issues and policies relating to the federal secrecy system and the individual agencies within it, such as the CIA, FBI, Pentagon, and National Security Agency. Major topic areas include classification and declassification systems, rights to privacy, national secrecy, and proposed changes and reforms. The balance between secrecy and the public right to know in a democratic system is a primary focus, and legal processes for citizens to obtain information are explored: Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, administrative and legal challenges to government withholding of information regarding both individual files and topics concerning political/historical events.

PSC 342 three credits

Public Administration

Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing
Examination of the general nature of the bureaucracy in public and private organization and in various cultural contexts. Attention is given to administrative responsibility. Cross-listed as LST 342.

PSC 347 three credits

Environmental Law

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
An introduction to basic concepts of environmental law. The emphasis is on broad introductory themes.

PSC 349 three credits

Political Science Research Methods

Prerequisites: PSC 101, 151, or 161, or permission of instructor; and upper-division standing
An introduction to the various subfields of

political science from a practitioner's point of view. Students will learn how to study politics "scientifically" using theories, hypotheses, and concepts to explore the relationships among variables. Students will also learn how to define and critique concepts commonly used in professional journals. The course concludes with an overview of descriptive statistics and their application to data analysis within a Political Science framework.

PSC 351 three credits
Modern Political Thought

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
European political theorists from the 16th through 19th centuries. Course will focus on the development of modern liberalism with some attention to its nineteenth century critics. Readings may vary, but most likely will include the major political writings of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Bentham.

PSC 352 three credits
Classical Political Thought

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
European political theorists from ancient Greece through the 15th century. Readings may vary, but most likely will include the major political writings of Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, and others.

PSC 353 three credits **G**
Non-Western Political Thought

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
The political philosophy of non-western thinkers whose ideas had a deep impact on the political institutions in lands outside Europe. Emphasis is on Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim thinkers who at different periods of history gave insightful expositions of human nature in politics.

PSC 354 three credits
Contemporary Political Thought

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
The recent ideological currents in advanced capitalist societies: neo-conservatism, neo-liberalism, syndicalism, postmarxian socialism, eco-anarchism, and corporate fascism. The course will focus on political thinkers who have made significant contributions to the interpretation of contemporary political and economic developments.

PSC 357 three credits
Marxian Political Theory

Prerequisite: PSC 201 or 204, ECO 232, SOC 200; or permission of the instructor
The basic concepts of 'Radical' political economy. Course will include an in-depth

analysis of Marx's *Capital*, Vol. I, as well as a survey of current trends in the development of a critical theory of the state. Cross-listed as LST 357.

PSC 360 three credits **G**
Politics and Governments of Western Europe

Prerequisite: PSC 151 or upper-division standing
The political culture, historical political development, and governmental institutions of major Western European nations, including the European Union. The course will focus on Britain, France, Germany, and Italy.

PSC 361 three credits
Chinese Government and Politics

Prerequisites: PSC 151 and upper-division standing
An introduction to the People's Republic of China and its political process. The interrelationships between China's revolutionary heritage and the development of Maoist ideology and mass mobilization politics, economic policy, and foreign policy will be examined. Finally, post-Mao politics will be studied to determine the degree and direction of change and its implication for Chinese politics and for the Chinese people.

PSC 363 three credits **C, G**
Politics and Government of the Middle East

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
The politics of the Middle East in terms of the region's history, geography, culture and the impact of the West. Country studies include Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf States.

PSC 366 three credits **C, G**
Islam and Politics

The political and cultural history of Islam. Students will learn about the contemporary revolutionary religious movements in Muslim countries and their effect on world politics.

PSC 367 three credits **C, D, G**
African Political Systems

A study of the contemporary politics of African states and governments, and providing exposure to the African historical backgrounds, political cultures, political trends, and ideology. The colonial heritage of African states, the quest for modernization and nation-building, and the transition to democratic governance are explored. Cross-listed as AAS 367.

PSC 368 three credits **G, W**

Politics of the Post Communist World

Prerequisites: PSC 151 or permission of the instructor, and upper-division standing
Examination of the factors which led to the demise of the former Soviet Union as well as the politics of transition during the post-Soviet period including the relationships between political and economic change, institution building, and state capability, and the evolution of new sources of political legitimacy.

PSC 369 three credits
Transitions to Democracy

Transitions from non-democratic to democratic regimes in three major areas of the world, Southern Europe, the Soviet Union and East-Central Europe, and South America, from a comparative theoretical perspective. Theoretical problems include what democracy is and is not, democratic transition and democratic consolidation, how and why transitions to democracy have occurred, and factors that influence the success or failure of democratization.

PSC 381 three credits
Contemporary International Relations

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing
Problems in international relations with emphasis on changing characteristics of contemporary world politics. Attention is given to super-power politics and accommodations (detente) in Europe, East Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, and the problems associated with the emergence of a new world order.

PSC 382 three credits
American Foreign Policy

Prerequisite: PSC 161 or permission of the instructor
Policy choices made by the United States and the actors, institutions, and influences that affect those decisions. Students gain an understanding of the foreign policy positions of presidential candidates and presidents, the various influences on the making of American foreign policy and the American foreign policy process, and the impact of the changing international environment on American foreign policy.

PSC 383 three credits **G, W**
The Politics of International Economic Relations

Prerequisites: PSC 151 or PSC 161 or permission of instructor, and upper-division standing
Examination of the politics and impact of international economic issues globally,

including how international economic policies are made, their differential impact on industrialized and less-industrialized countries, and the evolution and behavior of important actors in the global economy (governments, international organizations, NGOs).

PSC 385 three credits
Multiculturalism and Diplomacy in World Affairs

Prerequisites: PSC 151, 161
Diplomacy, negotiation, and foreign policy decision-making. Students will learn the theory of negotiation from structured student-participation discussions. Students then participate in a multi-university, multi-national foreign policy web-based simulation exercise that helps illustrate the problems and possibilities of international interactions, in which students negotiate with other "state" diplomats to achieve foreign policy goals concerning such issues as drug trafficking, terrorism, human rights, world health, the environment, and debt and development.

PSC 386 three credits
International Conflict

Prerequisite: PSC 161
Analysis of the causes of and state responses to international conflict and violence. A particular emphasis is placed on ethnic conflict, managing conflict, and the future of international conflict. Can conflict be minimized or controlled? Is our world more or less safe than it was before? Are we heading toward a World War III?

PSC 393 three credits **G**
Portugal and the European Union

Prerequisite: sophomore standing or above
Examines the political, economic, and demographic shifts in Portuguese society that have accompanied the process of European integration. This is a four-week summer course offered in a study-abroad format in Portugal. Various field trips and guest lectures will shed light on the impact of EU integration.

PSC 394 three credits **G**
The Politics of European Integration

Prerequisite: sophomore standing or above
Topics on European integration, the historical development of the European Union, eastward expansion, treaties, the Single Market, the EURO, theories of European integration, and challenges facing small states in the EU. This is a four-week summer course offered in a study-abroad format in Portugal. Various field trips and

guest lectures will shed light on the impact of EU integration.

PSC 395 three credits **G**
Politics and Development of Modern Portugal

The politics and economic development of 20th century Portugal. This course will explore the links between changes in the socio-economic structures of the country and the transformation of the political system. Portuguese colonialism, the corporatist Estado Novo, and the transition to and consolidation of democracy will be examined from a comparative European perspective.

PSC 400-449 three credits
Seminars in American Politics and Ideas

Recently offered seminars include:

PSC 401 three credits **O**
Seminar: American Presidency

PSC 403 three credits
Seminar: The Corporate State

PSC 405 three credits
Seminar: Sports and Politics

PSC 407 three credits
Seminar: Identity Politics

PSC 408 three credits
Seminar: Judicial Process

PSC 409 three credits
Seminar: Campaigns and Elections

PSC 412 three credits
Seminar: Contemporary American Political Ideas

PSC 444 three credits
Seminar: Politics of Assassination

PSC 445 three credits
Research Seminar in American Politics and Ideas

PSC 450-494 three credits
Seminars in World Politics and Ideas

Recently offered seminars include:

PSC 451 three credits **G**
Seminar: Politics of Developing Countries

PSC 456 three credits
Seminar: Globalization

PSC 477 three credits
Research Seminar: African Political Systems

PSC 495 variable credit
Independent Study

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing; permission of instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area not otherwise part of the discipline's course offerings. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

PSC 196, 296, 396, 496 variable credit
Directed Study

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area covered in a regular course not currently being offered. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

PSC 499 variable credit
Thesis

Undergraduate thesis under the supervision of a faculty member, by arrangement.

Course for the Master of Arts in Teaching

PSC 501 three credits
Teaching Political Science in Secondary Schools

Analysis of the policy-making process, particularly in contemporary American national, state and local politics; comparative analysis of other political systems; development of issue oriented case studies and units for use in secondary school social studies courses; development of critical thinking and communications skills.