Political Science

Why do Hindus and Muslims live in harmony in one city and fight bitterly in another just a few miles away? Why is the U.S. the only industrialized nation without a complete national health insurance? What is the legacy of slavery in the U.S.? Why and how does democracy flourish? Just what is democracy? How do emotions shape our political behavior? What do war movies tell us about the USA? Would less government lead to more social justice? What is social justice? How does smuggling (of drugs, guns, and people) reshape international relations? How do immigrants see the American Dream? What is the American dream?

Political science is about questions like these. You can grapple with every one of them—and many more—in the classrooms of the Brown political science department. We study how people—nations, regions, cities, communities—live their common lives. How people solve (or duck) their common problems. How people govern themselves. How they think, talk, argue, fight, and vote. Students passionate about social challenges may also choose to pursue the Engaged Scholars Program, which allows them to connect theory and practice and gain hands-on experience working with community partners.

The undergraduate concentration is organized around three broad tracks, or programs of study: American politics, international and comparative politics, and political theory. Twelve courses are required overall: ten within the Department of Political Science and two from areas outside the department related to your chosen track. Thirteen courses are required if the methods requirement is fulfilled with a course outside the department.

Requirements:

Two introductory courses:

For the American politics track, the following two introductory courses are required:

- POLS 0010 Introduction to the American Political Process

-or-

- POLS 0110 Introduction to Political Thought

-or-

- POLS 0200 Introduction to Comparative Politics

-or-

- POLS 0400 Introduction to International Politics

For the international and comparative politics track, the following two introductory courses are required:

- POLS 0200 Introduction to Comparative Politics

-or-

- POLS 0400 Introduction to International Politics

-and-

- POLS 0010 Introduction to the American Political Process

-or-

- POLS 0110 Introduction to Political Thought

For the Political Theory track, the following two introductory courses are required:

- POLS 0110 Introduction to Political Thought

-and-

- POLS 0010 Introduction to the American Political Process

-or-

- POLS 0110 Introduction to Political Thought

One course in the American Politics subfield

One course in the political theory subfield

Two courses in the international and comparative politics subfield

Three upper-level courses in the chosen subfield

One methods course from Political Science:

One research seminar from the POLS 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823 or 1824 offerings that is track related

Two upper-level courses from outside the department related to the specialized track, chosen with the approval of the concentration advisor.

Honors

Students wishing to undertake the honors program need to complete the same requirements as shown for the concentration. Completion of the methods requirement is required prior to applying to the Honors program. Students must also complete an honors research project and take POLS 1910 and POLS 1920 during the senior year. POLS 1910 and POLS 1920 will count as one credit towards the 10 required Political Science courses for the concentration.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.