

POLITICAL SCIENCE, M.A.

Credits: 30
CIP Code: 451001

Program Overview

For the M.A. degree in political science, the Department requires a minimum of twenty-four (24) graduate hours, attendance at the weekly Departmental Seminar and a thesis. A final oral examination of the thesis and courses taken by the student is required. Blacks and the American Political System, Scope and Methods of Political Inquiry courses are required of all students pursuing the Master of Arts degree in Political Science. Students will select other courses according to their research interests.

Admissions Requirements

In addition to the General Admissions Requirements as published in this Catalog, applicants to the **Master of Arts Degree in Political Science** must have been awarded a Bachelor's degree with a major in Political Science from a regionally accredited four-year college or university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Consideration may be given to other applicants whose academic preparation in related social sciences suggests that they are capable of successfully pursuing the **Master of Arts Degree in Political Science**. The Graduate Records Examination (GRE) is required.

Program Objectives

1. Present major theories, concepts, systems, and methodologies used in the study of politics and international relations.
2. Discuss the foundations, institutions, processes and values that shape politics within and among states and the world and emphasize the importance of political engagement.
3. Prepare students to explore issues or problems in national and global political systems.
4. Apply key analytic and theoretical frameworks to sub-fields of political science to formulate hypotheses, research questions and evaluate arguments based on these frameworks.
5. Prepare students for advanced studies and careers in political science or related fields.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students pursuing the **Master of Arts Degree in Political Science** will:

1. Identify and analyze the structure and operation of the U.S. and other political systems.
2. Construct and evaluate analytical and logical arguments in national and global politics.
3. Communicate effectively in oral and written formats issues on political systems to diverse audiences.
4. Explore the theoretical and practical values of national and international political systems, political engagement, and global citizenship.
5. Identify and gather information from credible primary and secondary sources to conduct qualitative and/or quantitative research.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the General Degree Requirements as published in this Catalog, students pursuing the **Master of Arts Degree in Political Science** must complete a minimum of thirty (30) graduate credits of coursework including six (6) graduate credits in Thesis Research.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
CPSC 500	Departmental Seminar	0
CPSC 553	Blacks & the Amer Pol System	3
CPSC 602	Scope & Method of Polt Inquiry	3
Electives in Political Science		
Select 18 credits of the following:		18
African Politics:		
CPSC 572	Int'l Relations of Afr Studies	
CPSC 590		
CPSC 591	Gov't & Politics of Modern Afr	
CPSC 595	Seminar in African Politics	
CPSC 596		
CPSC 598	African Political Economy	
CPSC 599	Soc Clev & Political Conflict.	
Comparative Politics:		
CPSC 529	Comparative Political Systems	
CPSC 530	Gov't & Politics of Latin Amer	
CPSC 531	Politics in Developing States	
CPSC 532		
CPSC 534		
CPSC 535	Politics of Revolutionary..	
CPSC 536		
CPSC 537	Gov't & Politics of Caribbean	
CPSC 538		
CPSC 539	Third World Women & Dev.	
CPSC 540	Politics of Multinational Corp	
CPSC 541	Politics and Education	
CPSC 542	Seminar on Comparative Politic	
International Politics:		
CPSC 533		
CPSC 570	International Relations	
CPSC 571		
CPSC 573	U.S. Foreign Policy	
CPSC 574	Third Nations & Int'l Politics	
CPSC 575		
CPSC 576	Military Power in Int'l Rel.	
CPSC 577	International Organizations	
CPSC 578		
CPSC 579	Politics of Int'l Trade	
Theory and Methodology:		
CPSC 543	Political Theory	
CPSC 560	Afr Amr Political Thought	
CPSC 600	African Political Ideas	
CPSC 601	Philosophy of Science	
CPSC 603		
CPSC 605	Seminar in Political Theory	

CPSC 606	Feminist Theory
CPSC 608	Problems in Political Sci Res.
CPSC 609	
US Government and Politics:	
CPSC 502	
CPSC 503	
CPSC 504	
CPSC 505	Political Parties
CPSC 506	
CPSC 507	
CPSC 508	Seminar in Southern Politics
CPSC 509	The United States Presidency
CPSC 510	
CPSC 511	American Federalism
CPSC 513	American Political Process
CPSC 514	
CPSC 515	
CPSC 516	
CPSC 517	Women in Political Seminar
CPSC 548	U.S. Constitutional Law
CPSC 550	
CPSC 551	
CPSC 552	Seminar in US Gov't & Politics
CPSC 554	
Urban Politics:	
CPSC 512	Black City Politics
CPSC 518	Seminar in Urban Problems
CPSC 519	Urban Politics
CPSC 520	
CPSC 522	Urban Political Movements
CPSC 523	Atlanta City Politics
CPSC 525	Political Demo & Urban Change
CPSC 526	Approaches..Study of Urban Pol
CPSC 640	Independent Research
Total Hours	24

Departmental Seminar

The Department of Political Science Graduate Seminar is a long-standing tradition that is central to the vision and mission of the graduate program. The Departmental Seminar brings together all faculty and students in a mandatory weekly discussion that includes:

- Departmental orientation
- An exchange of ideas and understandings about political theory, praxis, and contemporary issues often with invited guests.
- Presentations of faculty and student research
- Student organization meetings

Departmental Seminar attendance is mandatory. Students in the M.A. program are required to attend until the formal acceptance of their thesis proposal. Master's students must attend at the very minimum two (2) full semesters of the Departmental Seminar. Students receiving extended financial support beyond the completion of coursework or the formal acceptance master's thesis proposal may be required to attend additional semesters of the Departmental Seminar.

Research Tool

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree must demonstrate proficiency in the use of one research tool from among the following: a foreign language, statistical analysis, or computer information systems. Each student in consultation with their adviser will decide which research tool will best facilitate their program of study. The research tool is not counted among the total required political science courses (24).

Master's Thesis: 6 Credits

All students pursuing the **Master of Arts degree in Political Science** must complete a scholarly analysis and presentation of a significant research problem in political science. As a preliminary phase to this process, each candidate must fully constitute a thesis committee and submit and orally defend a thesis proposal that outlines the methodological procedures and theoretical framework that will be employed in completing the proposed research. Students must enroll in at least six (6) hours of thesis research or consultation courses. Six (6) hours thereof will be awarded upon completion of the thesis

Code	Title	Hours
CPSC 701	M.A. Thesis Consultation ¹	1-6
or CPSC 705	M.A. Thesis Research	
Total Hours		1-6

¹ Students may need to take CPSC 701 M.A. Thesis Consultation (1 credit) depending on progress toward thesis research.

Final Examination

An oral examination covering the student's Thesis Research and graduate courses is required.

Political Science, M.A.

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
First Semester		
CPSC 500	Departmental Seminar	0
CPSC 553	Blacks & the Amer Pol System	3
CPSC 602	Scope & Method of Polt Inquiry	3
CPSC XXX	Graduate Elective ¹	3
Hours		9
Second Semester		
CPSC 500	Departmental Seminar	0
CPSC XXX	Graduate Elective ¹	3
CPSC XXX	Graduate Elective ¹	3
CPSC XXX	Graduate Elective ¹	3
Hours		9
Second Year		
First Semester		
CPSC 500	Departmental Seminar	0
CPSC XXX	Graduate Elective ¹	3
CPSC 701	M.A. Thesis Consultation ²	1-3
or CPSC 705	or M.A. Thesis Research	
Hours		4-6
Second Semester		
CPSC 500	Departmental Seminar	0
CPSC XXX	Graduate Elective ¹	3

CPSC 701 or CPSC 705	M.A. Thesis Consultation ² or M.A. Thesis Research	1-3
Hours		4-6
Total Hours		26-30

¹ All electives must be at graduate level and in Political Science.

² Students may need to take CPSC 701 M.A. Thesis Consultation (1 credit) depending on progress toward thesis research