

## **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

POLS 672: International Political Economy  
POLS 673: International Organizations  
POLS 675: Russian Foreign Policy  
POLS 677: U.S. National Security Policy  
POLS 629: Topics in Public Policy: \_\_\_\_\_ (1-3)

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 565: 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)