

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Undergraduate Academic Center 355A  
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Political science is the study of government, the most important decision-making part of society, and of the social, economic, and other institutions and practices that influence this decision-making process. On the one hand, it is a discipline that can trace its roots to the ancient Greek political community, the polis; but it is also a modern social science, which uses techniques such as content analysis, public opinion surveys, and statistical analysis to create and evaluate generalizations about how government and people behave.

As a liberal arts discipline, the department is dedicated to developing analytical skills, effective oral and written communication, and promoting critical thinking. Students are encouraged to reflect not simply on their career goals, but also on what type of persons they want to become, and on their rights and duties as citizens. The department offers students the opportunity to earn up to six credit hours in an internship program in which students gain practical experience by working for various federal, state, local or non-profit community agencies.

Political science prepares students for careers in various fields, not only in government, law, and education but also in business, journalism, urban planning, and many fields on which public policies have a significant effect.

## Recognition of Student Scholarship

### The Annual Professor Henderson Award

The Department of Political Science annually presents the Professor Henderson Award to the graduating Political Science major with the highest overall GPA (the award may be for either a December or May graduate of the current academic year). The award has the purpose of recognizing and honoring a student of Political Science who has, as a student at Texas State, displayed academic excellence and character in the tradition and values cherished and exhibited by Richard B. Henderson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

### The Howard M. "Prof" Greene Award

This award honors an academic mentor in politics to Lyndon B. Johnson and thousands of other Texas State alumni and goes to one or more graduating Political Science majors who have earned overall Texas State grade-point averages of 3.9 or above.

Interested students who believe they may be eligible for these awards should consult with the Department Chair.

## Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

- Major in Political Science (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/political-science/political-science-ba>)
- Major in Political Science (Teacher Certification in Social Studies, Grades 7-12: Geography Minor and History Third Field) (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/political-science/teacher-certification-social-studies-grades-7-12-geography-minor-history-third-field-ba>)

- Major in Political Science (Teacher Certification in Social Studies, Grades 7-12: History Minor and Geography Third Field) (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/political-science/teacher-certification-social-studies-grades-7-12-history-minor-geography-third-field-ba>)

## Bachelor of Public Administration (B.P.A.)

- Major in Public Administration (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/political-science/public-administration-bpa>)

## Minors

- Political Communication (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/political-science/political-communication-minor>)
- Political Science (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/political-science/political-science-minor>)
- Public Administration (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/political-science/public-administration-minor>)

## Courses in Political Science (POSI)

### POSI 2310. Principles of American Government.

A survey of the principles of political science, of the American system of government, and of the origins and development of the constitutions of the United States and Texas. Satisfies the legislative requirements for teacher certification.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Govt/Pol Science Core 070

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**TCCN:** GOVT 2306

### POSI 2320. Functions of American Government.

This course is a study of functions performed in the American system of government, both national and state, within the framework of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Govt/Pol Science Core 070

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**TCCN:** GOVT 2305