This major attracts students whose interests include philosophy, law, economics, history, culture, psychology, and regional studies. It allows students the chance to better understand the vital questions associated with politics and government. These questions include the conditions that promote (or inhibit) democracy, freedom, justice, human rights, effective policymaking, and public service.

Opportunities for Students

- **Political Science Undergraduate Association**: PSU students enjoy many opportunities to socialize with professors, students, and administrators at academic and social events.

- **Study Abroad**: A major in political science allows students one of the most diverse arrays of overseas study available to Trojans. Choose to explore political issues on the international scale in locations ranging from Cairo to Sao Paulo, Florence to Tokyo.

- **Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics**: The mission of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics is to motivate students to become active in the world of politics and to encourage public officials to participate in the daily life of USC. The Unruh Research in Applied Politics Program supports research that addresses political topics of concern to the polity.

Notable Courses

- **POSC 248: Human Rights** — Overview of human rights controversies across the globe. Introduction to techniques of analysis for social issues, interdisciplinary research methods, and interpretation of complex political problems.

- **POSC 340: Constitutional Law** — Development of constitutional law by the courts; leading cases bearing on major constitutional issues; the federal system; powers of government; civil liberties.

- **POSC 366: Terrorism and Genocide** — Comparative analysis of the determinants of political violence, terrorism, and genocide and their social and moral consequences; application of theories to contemporary case studies.

- **POSC 441: Cultural Diversity and the Law** — Jurisprudential approach to the study of cultural differences. Consideration of circumstances under which law should accommodate cultural diversity in the United States and abroad.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Lower Division Course Requirements (select two)*
- POSC 100: Theory and Practice of American Democracy
- POSC 110: Ideology and Political Conflict
- POSC 120: Comparative Politics
- POSC 130: Law, Politics, and Public Policy

American Politics Course Requirement (select one)**
- POSC 320: Urban Politics
- POSC 328: Asian American Politics
- POSC 335: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections
- POSC 422: Political Attitude and Behavior

Comparative Politics Course Requirement (select one)**
- POSC 350: Politics of Latin America
- POSC 351: Middle East Politics
- POSC 450: Political Development
- POSC 463: European Politics

Law and Public Policy Course Requirement (select one)**
- POSC 345: International Law
- POSC 432: The Politics of Local Criminal Justice
- POSC 444: Civil and Political Rights and Liberties
- POSC 452: Critical Issues in Law and Public Policy

Political Thought Course Requirement (select one)**
- POSC 377: Asian Political Thought
- POSC 380: Political Theories and Social Reform
- POSC 381: Sex, Power, and Politics
- POSC 476: Contemporary Political Thought

Elective Course Requirements*
- Three (3) additional POSC courses, at least two (2) of which must be 300/400-level

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/politicalscience/. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.