**Majoring in Political Science → The NEW CURRICULUM (2017)**

The political science (POSC) major program offers students an in-depth study of political institutions, processes, and behavior. The new POSC curriculum adds a thematic focus to the major, with topical Concentrations in the study of politics. Department majors must complete ten courses (40 units) in political science. Students must fulfill 4 requirements for the major: 1. Lower Division Requirement (8 units), 2. Distribution (Field) Requirement (12 units), 3. Concentration Requirement (12 units), 4. Elective Requirement (8 units).

All students pursuing a BA in Dornsife College are required to complete a total of **128 units, 32 units** of which must be in Upper Division classes. All POSC majors are required to complete **104 units** of their coursework within Dornsife. If you are pursuing a double-major B.A. (e.g. POSC and Psychology), a second bachelor’s degree, or a minor from any department, **only 96 units** need to be completed within Dornsife. If you are pursuing a double-major B.A. in Dornsife and a professional school (e.g. Annenberg School of Journalism), you are exempt from the Dornsife 104-unit requirement.

For course descriptions, please see the USC Course Catalogue or the USC Schedule of Classes.

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**Political Science B.A. Requirements:**

1. **Lower Division Requirement (8 Units) → Two** of the following introductory, sub-field courses:

   - **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

   *AP Government courses may be substituted for Lower Division credit, with POSC department approval.*

2. **Distribution Requirement (12 units) → One** upper-level course from 3 of the 4 sub-fields:

   **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

   - **POSC 300:** Principles, Institutions, and Great Issues of American Democracy
   - **POSC 301:** Political Analysis
   - **POSC 305:** Regulations of Elections and Political Finance
   - **POSC 320:** Urban Politics
   - **POSC 321:** Urban Political Problems
   - **POSC 323:** Applied Politics: Civic Engagement and Leadership
   - **POSC 323:** Applied Politics: Values-Based Political Leadership and Public Policy
   - **POSC 323:** Applied Politics: Great Races: From City Hall to the White House
   - **POSC 325:** State Politics
   - **POSC 328:** Asian American Politics
   - **POSC 334:** Interest Groups and Elite Behavior
   - **POSC 335:** Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections
   - **POSC 348:** Environmental Sustainability and Public Participation
   - **POSC 420:** Practicum in the American Political Process
   - **POSC 421:** Ethnic Politics
   - **POSC 422:** Political Attitudes and Behavior
   - **POSC 423:** Presidents and the Presidency
   - **POSC 424:** Political Participation and American Diversity
   - **POSC 425:** Legislative Process
   - **POSC 427:** Black Politics in the American Political System
   - **POSC 428:** Latino Politics
   - **POSC 437:** Mass Media and Politics
   - **POSC 439:** Critical Issues in American Politics
   - **POSC 449:** Political Psychology

   *(continued on the next page)*
LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

POSC 333: Stigma and Society: Physical Disability in America
POSC 340: Constitutional Law
POSC 345: International Law
POSC 347: Environmental Law
POSC 426: The United States Supreme Court
POSC 432: The Politics of Local Criminal Justice
POSC 435: Politics and the Economy
POSC 436: Environmental Politics
POSC 440: Comparative Law and the Judicial Process

POSC 441m: Cultural Diversity and the Law
POSC 442m: The Politics of Human Differences: Diversity and Discrimination
POSC 443: Law in Film
POSC 444: Civil and Political Rights and Liberties
POSC 448a: The Politics of Peace - Human Rights
POSC 448b: The Politics of Peace - Arms Limitation, Control, and Disarmament
POSC 452: Critical Issues in Law and Public Policy

POLITICAL THOUGHT

POSC 370: European Political Thought I
POSC 371: European Political Thought II
POSC 374: The American Founders: Visions, Values, and Legacy
POSC 375: American Political Thought
POSC 377: Asian Political Thought

POSC 380: Political Theories and Social Reform
POSC 381: Sex, Power, and Politics
POSC 476: Contemporary Political Thought
POSC 479: Critical Issues in Political Thought

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

POSC 350: Politics of Latin America
POSC 351: Middle East Politics
POSC 352: Politics of Southeast Asia
POSC 354: Japanese Politics
POSC 355: Politics of East Asia
POSC 356: Politics in the People’s Republic of China
POSC 358: Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa
POSC 360: Comparative Political Institutions
POSC 363: Cities and Regions in World Politics
POSC 365: World Political Leadership

POSC 366: Terrorism and Genocide
POSC 430: Political Economy of Mexico
POSC 431: Political Economy of Central America
POSC 450: Political Development
POSC 451: Politics of Resources and Development
POSC 453: Political Change in Asia
POSC 456: Women in International Development
POSC 463: European Politics
POSC 464: Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe
POSC 469: Critical Issues in Comparative Politics

3. Concentration Requirements (12 units)† → Three courses within one of the following 8 concentrations‡:

Applied Politics

POSC 300: Principles, Institutions, and Great Issues of American Democracy
POSC 315: Regulations of Elections and Political Finance
POSC 323: Applied Politics: Civic Engagement and Leadership
POSC 323: Applied Politics: Values-Based Political Leadership and Public Policy
POSC 323: Applied Politics: Great Races: From City Hall to the White House
POSC 335: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

POSC 395: Directed Governmental and Political Internship Program
POSC 398: Trial Advocacy Program (Mock Trial)
POSC 418: Environmental Sustainability and Public Participation
POSC 420: Practicum in the American Political Process
POSC 425: Legislative Process
POSC 437: Mass Media and Politics
POSC 449: Political Psychology

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Cross-national and Regional Politics
POSC 350: Politics of Latin America
POSC 351: Middle East Politics
POSC 352: Politics of Southeast Asia
POSC 354: Japanese Politics
POSC 355: Politics of East Asia
POSC 356: Politics in the People’s Republic of China
POSC 358: Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa
POSC 360: Comparative Political Institutions
POSC 363: Cities and Regions in World Politics
POSC 365: World Political Leadership

Environmental Politics
POSC 265g: Environment Challenges
POSC 270: Introduction to Environmental Law and Politics
POSC 321: Urban Political Problems
POSC 347: Environmental Law
POSC 363: Cities and Regions in World Politics

Law and Human Rights
POSC 248gw: Human Rights
POSC 321: Urban Political Problems
POSC 340: Constitutional Law
POSC 345: International Law
POSC 347: Environmental Law
POSC 366: Terrorism and Genocide
POSC 421: Ethnic Politics
POSC 425: Legislative Process
POSC 426: The United States Supreme Court
POSC 427: Black Politics in the American Political System

Parties, Interest Groups, and Institutions
POSC 300: Principles, Institutions, and Great Issues of American Democracy
POSC 311: Political Analysis
POSC 315: Regulations of Elections and Political Finance
POSC 325: State Politics
POSC 334: Interest Groups and Elite Behavior
POSC 335: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

Political Thought and Philosophy
POSC 370: European Political Thought I
POSC 371: European Political Thought II
POSC 374: The American Founders: Visions, Values, and Legacy
POSC 375: American Political Thought
POSC 377: Asian Political Thought

POSC 366: Terrorism and Genocide
POSC 340: Political Economy of Mexico
POSC 341: Political Economy of Central America
POSC 450: Political Development
POSC 451: Politics of Resources and Development
POSC 453: Political Change in Asia
POSC 456: Women in International Development
POSC 463: European Politics
POSC 464: Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe
POSC 469: Critical Issues in Comparative Politics

POSC 418: Environmental Sustainability and Public Participation
POSC 436: Environmental Politics
POSC 456: Women in International Development

POSC 432: The Politics of Local Criminal Justice
POSC 440: Comparative Law and the Judicial Process
POSC 441m: Cultural Diversity and the Law
POSC 442m: The Politics of Human Differences: Diversity and Discrimination
POSC 443: Law in Film
POSC 444: Civil and Political Rights and Liberties
POSC 448a: The Politics of Peace - Human Rights
POSC 448b: The Politics of Peace - Arms Limitation, Control, and Disarmament
POSC 452: Critical Issues in Law and Public Policy

POSC 360: Comparative Political Institutions
POSC 420: Practicum in the American Political Process
POSC 423: Presidents and the Presidency
POSC 425: Legislative Process
POSC 428: Latino Politics
POSC 435: Politics and the Economy
POSC 436: Environmental Politics

POSC 380: Political Theories and Social Reform
POSC 381: Sex, Power, and Politics
POSC 476: Contemporary Political Thought
POSC 479: Critical Issues in Political Thought

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Public Opinion, Communication, and Decision Making

- POSC 311: Political Analysis
- POSC 334: Interest Groups and Elite Behavior
- POSC 335: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections
- POSC 422: Political Attitudes and Behavior
- POSC 423: Presidents and the Presidency

Race, Gender, and Politics of Justice

- POSC 320: Urban Politics
- POSC 321: Urban Political Problems
- POSC 328: Asian American Politics
- POSC 381: Sex, Power, and Politics
- POSC 421: Ethnic Politics
- POSC 424m: Political Participation and American Diversity
- POSC 427: Black Politics in the American Political System
- POSC 428: Latino Politics

- POSC 426: The United States Supreme Court
- POSC 435: Politics and the Economy
- POSC 437: Mass Media and Politics
- POSC 449: Political Psychology

4. Elective Requirements (8 units)

- Upper Division Electives (8 units)
  - Two 300- or 400-level courses
  - Specialty courses that may be counted toward the elective requirement (up to 4 units) include:
    - POSC 395: Directed Governmental and Political Internship Program
    - POSC 398: Trial Advocacy Program (Mock Trial)
    - POSC 490: Directed Research
    - POSC 391/2: Honors I and II.
  (These courses require program-specific applications. Please visit the Advising Office or dornsife.usc.edu/politicalscience/academic-advising for more details.)

Questions?

Contact a POSC Academic Advisor:

Paul Kovich: (213) 740-3621; kovich@usc.edu
Kiki Miller: (213) 740-3445; kcm@usc.edu

VKC, Room 214
Monday - Friday
9:30am-12pm; 1:30pm-4:30pm

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*New POSC major curriculum requirements apply to all Fall 2017 incoming freshmen. Continuing and transfer students may declare this new curriculum or the previous curriculum. Please contact the POSC Undergraduate Advising Department for more details.

† Students may take no more than one 200-level course per concentration. Students may not double-count any courses taken in the Distribution (Field) Requirement and the Concentration Requirement. No more than a total of four units of POSC 395 and POSC 398 can count for the Concentration Requirement. Four units of the Honors Seminars (POSC 391/392) can count toward a concentration if the topic of the honors thesis is in the area of the concentration. Critical Issues courses may count for a concentration area, but must receive department approval in advance.

‡ Concentrations within POSC Major:

**Applied Politics**: Allows students to take the theories learned in the classroom and see how they are carried out in real-world politics. In doing so, students gain a unique understanding of the American political system.

**Cross-national and Regional Politics**: Offers courses in democratization, political economy, law, sub-national politics, state-society relations and women in development. Classes are offered in a multitude of regional context, including North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, Europe, Russia, and the Middle East and Africa.

**Environmental Politics**: Examines political problems and opportunities involved in key environmental problems such as climate change, sustainability, and air pollution. The courses explore international, national, state, and local environmental politics looking at interest groups, government, and the courts.

**Law and Human Rights**: Explores the role of politics in a variety of legal context, such as civil rights and liberties, environmental law, and criminal justice. It further examines the complex issue of human rights, both domestically and abroad.

**Parties, Interest Groups, and Institutions**: Focuses on key decision-makers in Washington such as the president, Congress, interest groups, and political parties. Students also learn the role of elections and campaigns in shaping government policy-making.

**Political Thought and Philosophy**: Students who choose to study Political Thought and Philosophy will learn to think about power. The intent and goal of this concentration, is not merely to inform students of this grand political complexity, but also to prepare them to analyze and transform their world.

**Public Opinion, Communication, and Decision Making**: Explores the core institutions of American Politics, including the Presidency, Congress, judiciary, and mass media. Students come to understand the holistic nature of American government.

**Race, Gender, and Politics of Justice**: Emphasizes the sustained and systematic study of the intersection of categories of political marginalization in politics. Spanning political theory to U.S. and comparative politics to research methodology, this concentration focuses on the relationship between gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality and public policy within the context of the pursuit of political equality.