Majoring in Political Science (PRIOR TO FALL 2017)

The political science (POSC) major program offers students an in-depth study of political institutions, processes, and behavior. Department majors must complete nine courses (36 units) in political science. Majors can focus on one of four sub-fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, Law and Public Policy, and Political Theory. Students may also develop their own area of concentration, with the approval of the political science department.

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.

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 120: Comparative Politics
   POSC 110: Ideology and Political Conflict   POSC 130: Law, Politics, and Public Policy

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

2. Elective Requirements (12 units)
   → Upper Division Electives (8 units)
   • Two 300- or 400-level courses from the sub-field you chose for your major
   → Additional Elective Requirement (4 units)
   • One 4-unit POSC course (upper or lower division). Upper division courses from another social science field can be used for this requirement, with prior POSC department approval.
   • 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: Mock Trial, POSC 490: Directed Research, and 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.

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

(continued on the next page)
3. Distribution Requirement (16 units) ➔ one upper-level course from each of the following sub-fields

**American Government**
- POSC 300: Principles, Institutions, and Great Issues of American Democracy
- POSC 311: Political Analysis
- POSC 315: 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 418: 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 424m: 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

**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-Sahara 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

**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

**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

**Questions?**

Contact a **POSC Academic Advisor:**

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**VKC, Room 214**

Monday - Friday  
9:30am-12pm; 1:30pm-4:30pm