Political Science Minor

The Minor program offers students a strong foundation in one of the four sub-fields of political science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, Law and Public Policy, or Political Thought. Students may also develop their own area of concentration, with the approval of the political science department. This minor is NOT available to POSC majors.

Students must complete five courses (20 units) in political science, including one lower division class and four upper division classes.

**IMPORTANT:** As with all minors at USC, at least four courses must be unique to the POSC minor and cannot fulfill any other department major or minor requirements. These four courses also cannot fulfill any Dornsife general education requirements, but they may overlap with the Diversity requirement.

**Requirements**

1. **Lower Division Requirement:** One 100-level course in chosen sub-field (4 Units).
2. **Upper Division Requirement:** Three 300- or 400-level courses in chosen sub-field (12 Units).
3. **Elective Requirement:** One 300- or 400-level course from any subfield (4 Units). This can include an Internship (POSC 395) or Directed Research (POSC 490).

**American Politics**

1. **Lower Division Requirement:** POSC 100: Theory and Practice of American Democracy
2. **Upper Division Requirement:** Three courses from the following list:
   - 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
   - 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
3. **Elective Requirement:** One 300- or 400-level POSC course

**Comparative Politics**

1. **Lower Division Requirement:** POSC 120: Comparative Politics
2. **Upper Division Requirement:** Three courses from the following list:
   - 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 455: Women in International Development
   - POSC 463: European Politics
   - POSC 464: Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe
   - POSC 469: Critical Issues in Comparative Politics
3. **Elective Requirement:** One 300- or 400-level POSC course

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

1. **Lower Division Requirement:** **POSC 130g:** Law, Politics, and Public Policy

2. **Upper Division Requirement:** **Three** courses from the following list:
   - POCS 333: Stigma and Society: Physical Disability in America
   - POCS 340: Constitutional Law
   - POCS 345: International Law
   - POCS 347: Environmental Law
   - POCS 426: The United States Supreme Court
   - POCS 432: Politics of Local Criminal Justice
   - POCS 435: Politics and the Economy
   - POCS 436: Environmental Politics
   - POCS 440: Comparative Law and the Judicial Process

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

3. **Elective Requirement:** One 300- or 400-level POCS course

**POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. **Lower Division Requirement:** **POSC 110:** Ideology and Political Conflict

2. **Upper Division Requirement:** **Three** courses from the following list:
   - POCS 370: European Political Thought I
   - POCS 371: European Political Thought II
   - POCS 374: The American Founders: Visions, Values, and Legacy
   - POCS 375: American Political Thought
   - POCS 377: Asian Political Thought
   - POCS 380: Political Theories and Social Reform
   - POCS 381: Sex, Power, and Politics
   - POCS 476: Contemporary Political Thought
   - POCS 479: Critical Issues in Political Thought

3. **Elective Requirement:** One 300- or 400-level POCS course

**STUDENT-DESIGNED CONCENTRATION**

1. **Lower Division Requirement:** **POSC 120:** Comparative Politics

2. **Upper Division Requirement:** **Four** 4-unit POCS courses in consultation with a departmental advisor to match the designed concentration.

For course descriptions, please see the [USC Course Catalogue](#) or the [USC Schedule of Classes](#).

---

**Questions?**

Contact a **POSC Academic Advisor:**

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

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