

Major and Minor Requirements Prior to Fall 2014

Only an option for students who entered Northwestern prior to Fall 2014

Major

The Department of Political Science has faculty teaching courses in four substantive subfields: political theory, international relations, comparative politics, and American politics. There are also special courses on political methodology. Students do not usually specialize in any of these subfields. They take a variety of courses, traversing freely across subfields, making intellectual links between them, and meeting many faculty members. Students who wish to concentrate in a particular subfield should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Our department also offers professional linkage seminars, opportunities to undertake independent research projects, and the possibility of integrating advanced foreign language study into the major. Our undergraduate majors often participate in study abroad programs, internships (including the Chicago Field Studies), and interdisciplinary programs (for example, International Studies, Gender Studies, Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, and more). Required coursework for the major includes some introductory work in more than one political science subfield, a political research methods course, a political research seminar, several upper-division courses in political science, and several related courses in other disciplines.

Requirements, in sum: 16 quarter courses total.

*11 quarter-courses in political science. These must include:

- Three introductory or "gateway" courses at the 200-level (choose from 201, 220, 221, 230, 240, 250). Since the introductory courses expose students to a variety of subfields, students may take no more than 2 from the American politics courses 220, 221 and 230 to fulfill this requirement.
- One course in research methods (210, 310, 311, 312, 315 or 316)
- Seven advanced 300 level courses of which one must be a 395

*Five quarter-courses in related disciplines (typically in Asian studies, African-American studies, anthropology, economics, gender studies, global health, history, Latin American, Caribbean studies, international studies, legal studies, philosophy, psychology and sociology). Not more than one such related course can be at the 100-level and at least three must be at the 300 level.

Answers to some Frequently Asked Questions:

- Appropriate AP credit enables a student to place out of one gateway course, not reduce the total number of political science courses to be taken.
- WCAS distribution courses can 'double count' toward the 5 related courses in other departments.
- Credit toward the major for courses taken outside NU must be approved by the DUGS
- Courses taken P/F cannot be counted toward the major.

Minor

The minor offers a student the opportunity to complete an abbreviated yet coherent plan of study in political science. It is also designed to enable a student to enrich his or her studies in various ways, especially by (1) complementing a major in another field (for example, philosophy, economics, history, sociology, math, art, or language) by adding a political science perspective on key subjects, and (2) preparing for certain careers (for example, law, public service, business, or teaching) by taking courses in political science that address relevant topics. The minor is structured to permit students to explore a variety of courses across subfields in political science or to concentrate their studies in one of them. Prospective minors are encouraged to consult with an undergraduate advisor to develop a program of study tailored to their needs.

Requirements, in sum: 6 quarter courses total

These must include:

- 2 introductory or "gateway" courses (from among 201, 220, 221, 230, 240, 250)
- 4 additional courses in political science, at least 3 of which must be at the 300-level
- Consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies or an undergraduate adviser

Note: Appropriate AP credit allows a student to place out of one gateway course, not reduce the total number of political science courses to be taken. No related courses requirement. Courses taken P/F cannot be counted toward the minor.