

Area: Behavioral & Social Sciences
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Degree: A.A. - Political Science
 A.A. for Transfer - Political Science
 A.A. - International Studies

International Studies (IS)

see [International Studies, page 374](#)

Political Science Degree

Major Code: 011312A01

This degree provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of political science. It stresses the systematic study of politics, political institutions and governmental processes, state and local government, public policy, foreign policy, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- describe the fundamentals of political science and governance.
- compare and contrast contemporary comparative systems and governance.
- evaluate the relationship between the governing process and public policy.
- examine how citizen and interest group participation influence political systems.
- analyze the role of culture and its influence on politics.
- assess how the design of political institutions and processes affect policy and stability.
- analyze politics and diplomacy in the international system.
- apply basic research methods to political science.
- analyze political and public policy making processes, and relate these to current issues and problems, for evaluating political events and their role in the political system.
- compare and contrast various theories of justice and the just state.
- evaluate various theories of the purpose of government and apply to a critical analysis of current political events.

Career Opportunities

This degree is designed to facilitate successful transfer to four-year programs. Career opportunities in political science include, but are not limited to, advocate/organizer, campaign worker, diplomat, educator/teacher, events planner, foreign affairs specialist, lawyer, legislative aide (state and federal), lobbyist, political consultant and public relations specialist.

Requirements for Degree	18 Units
POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States (3)	3
or POLS 481 Introduction to Government: United States - Honors (3)	
POLS 302 Introduction to Government: Foreign	3
POLS 310 Introduction to International Relations (3)	3
or POLS 480 Introduction to International Relations - Honors (3)	
POLS 320 Introduction to Political Theory	3
And a minimum of 6 units from the following:	6
HIST 310 History of the United States (3)	
or HIST 483 History of the United States - Honors (3)	
HIST 311 History of the United States (3)	
or HIST 484 History of the United States - Honors (3)	
IS 301 Introduction to Global Studies (3)	
IS 302 Issues in Global Studies (3)	
POLS 304 Introduction to Government: California (3)	
POLS 330 Constitutional Rights (3)	
POLS 342 Women and Politics from a Global Perspective (3)	

Associate Degree Requirements: The Political Science Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

Political Science A.A. for Transfer Degree

Major Code, CSU GE: 011313A01

Major Code, IGETC: 011313A02

The Associate in Arts degree in Political Science for Transfer provides a clearly articulated curricular track for students who wish to transfer to a CSU campus, while also serving the diverse needs of students interested in the breadth and depth of the field of Political Science. Additionally, this degree exposes students to the core principles and practices of the field in order to build a foundation for their future personal, academic, or vocational paths.

The Associate in Arts degree in Political Science for Transfer provides students with a major that fulfills the general requirements of the California State University for transfer. Students with this degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system. The Associate in Arts degree in Political Science for Transfer (A.A.-T.) may be obtained by the completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program outlined below (earning a C or better in these courses) and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- describe the fundamentals of political science and governance.
- compare and contrast contemporary comparative systems and governance.
- evaluate the relationship between the governing process and public policy.
- examine how citizen and interest group participation influence political systems.
- analyze the role of culture and its influence on politics.
- assess how the design of political institutions and processes affect policy and stability.
- analyze politics and diplomacy in the international system.
- apply basic research methods to political science.
- analyze political and public policy making processes, and relate these to current issues and problems, for evaluating political events and their role in the political system.
- compare and contrast various theories of justice and the just state.
- evaluate various theories of the purpose of government and apply to a critical analysis of current political events.

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(Political Science A.A. for Transfer Degree continued)

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities in political science include, but are not limited to, advocate/organizer, campaign worker, diplomat, educator/teacher, events planner, foreign affairs specialist, lawyer, legislative aide (state and federal), lobbyist, political consultant and public relations specialist.

Requirements for Degree 18 Units

POLS 301	Introduction to Government: United States (3)	3
or POLS 481	Introduction to Government: United States - Honors (3)	

A minimum of 9 units from the following: 9

POLS 302	Introduction to Government: Foreign (3)	
POLS 310	Introduction to International Relations (3)	
POLS 320	Introduction to Political Theory (3)	
STAT 300	Introduction to Probability and Statistics (4)	

A minimum of 6 units from the following: 6

IS 310	Peace and Conflict (3)	
IS 312	Current Global Development Issues (3)	
POLS 304	Introduction to Government: California (3)	
POLS 330	Constitutional Rights (3)	
POLS 342	Women and Politics from a Global Perspective (3)	

Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree Requirements: The Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

International Studies Degree

Major Code: 011237A01

This degree provides an understanding of international issues and the impact of globalization on developed and developing economies. It covers a number of issues, including trade, economic development, war and conflict, and foreign relations and diplomacy.

Career Opportunities

This degree provides career opportunities with local, state, federal agencies, and in the private sector. The core courses provide students with diverse knowledge to work in a variety of fields, including international business, law, government and non-governmental service, social services, natural sciences, health fields, and education.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- evaluate his/her role as a member of a global network of interdependent societies.
- formulate a cohesive understanding of world issues and events and incorporate that knowledge into his/her daily life and career.
- analyze various social-scientific perspectives that explain the causes and consequences of globalization.
- apply various social-scientific perspectives to daily life and work environment.
- recognize people's socio-economic, political, and geographical background.
- analyze local and societal issues and problems within a global context.

Requirements for Degree 29 Units

ANTH 310	Cultural Anthropology (3)	3
or ANTH 481	Honors Cultural Anthropology (3)	
ECON 302	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
HIST 308	History of World Civilizations, 1500 to Present	3
POLS 310	Introduction to International Relations (3)	3
or POLS 480	Introduction to International Relations - Honors (3)	
SOC 300	Introductory Sociology (3)	3
or SOC 480	Introductory Sociology - Honors (3)	

A minimum of 6 units from the following: 6

IS 301	Introduction to Global Studies (3)	
IS 302	Issues in Global Studies (3)	
IS 305	Introduction to Middle East Studies (3)	
IS 310	Peace and Conflict (3)	
IS 312	Current Global Development Issues (3)	

A minimum of 8 units from the following: 8

FREN 401	Elementary French (4)	
FREN 402	Elementary French (4)	
FREN 411	Intermediate French (4)	
FREN 412	Intermediate French (4)	
GERM 401	Elementary German I (4)	
GERM 402	Elementary German II (4)	
GERM 411	Intermediate German (4)	
GERM 412	Intermediate German (4)	
ITAL 401	Elementary Italian (4)	
ITAL 402	Elementary Italian (4)	
ITAL 411	Intermediate Italian (4)	
ITAL 412	Intermediate Italian (4)	
RUSS 401	Elementary Russian (4)	
RUSS 402	Elementary Russian (4)	
SPAN 401	Elementary Spanish (4)	
SPAN 402	Elementary Spanish (4)	
SPAN 411	Intermediate Spanish (4)	
SPAN 412	Intermediate Spanish (4)	

Associate Degree Requirements: The International Studies AA Degree Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

Political Science

POLS 301 Introduction to Government: United States 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340

General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F2;

CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course analyzes the U.S. government's historic origins, philosophical and theoretical justification, federal structure, and constitutional structures. The course studies the rights and liberties of individuals as articulated in the U.S. Constitution and federal court decisions. Further, it examines and describes the procedural aspects of the U.S. and California political systems including amending the U.S. and California constitutions, holding elections, campaigning, legislating, executing and adjudicating law. The course examines individual and group political behavior in voting, interest groups, political parties, and the media. It provides an analysis of contemporary problems and issues and looks at factors that shape politics and policy-making including diversity, political culture, political socialization, political ideologies, and public opinion. Finally, it also describes California state and local governments' constitutional base, structures and functions, political process, problems and issues, and federal-state relations. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 481. (C-ID POLS 110)

**POLS 302 Introduction to Government:
Foreign 3 Units**

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a comparative study and analysis of political systems, ideologies, institutions, policies, cultures, histories, and the development of selected foreign governments. Special emphasis is placed on the cultural and social dimensions of political behavior and attitudes in connection with governmental and political practices typical of particular geographical regions. Coverage includes an examination of selected developed and lesser developed nation-states from a global perspective. (C-ID POLS 130)

**POLS 304 Introduction to Government:
California 3 Units**

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course covers the essential organization, institutions, and processes of California state and local government. It fulfills the California State University requirement for state and local government, but not the requirement for the U.S. Constitution.

**POLS 310 Introduction to
International Relations 3 Units**

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300, OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces the academic field of International Relations. It surveys global issues as they relate to theories of international relations, the nation-state system, the role of state and nonstate actors, globalization, armed conflict and its causes, international law and conflict resolution, and international political economy. It emphasizes comparing global perspectives among developed and developing nations. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 480. (C-ID POLS 140)

POLS 320 Introduction to Political Theory 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a survey of the ideas that have shaped Western political development, covering important thinkers from the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. Topics include theories of just and unjust societies, social contract theory, justifications for government authority, and the rights of citizens versus the responsibilities of citizenship. (C-ID POLS 120)

POLS 330 Constitutional Rights 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D8
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a survey of American constitutional rights and civil liberties. Emphasis is placed on analysis of U.S. Supreme Court decisions and related materials dealing with issues arising under the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**POLS 342 Women and Politics
from a Global Perspective 3 Units**

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D4; CSU Area D8; IGETC Area 4D; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course examines the impact of politics on women's lives and women's impact on politics from a global perspective. It explores past and current influences on the political and legal status of women as well as women's participation in the political process throughout the world.

**POLS 480 Introduction to
International Relations - Honors 3 Units**

Prerequisite: Placement into ENGWR 480 through the assessment process.
Advisory: ENGWR 300 or 480
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course examines global issues as they relate to theories of international relations, the nation-state system, the role of state and non-state actors, globalization, armed conflict and its causes, international law and conflict resolution, and international political economy. Emphasis is placed on the comparison of global perspectives among developed and developing nations. This seminar-style honors course approaches the topical material through class discussion which encourages problem-solving techniques focusing on current international relations issues. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 310. (C-ID POLS 140)

**POLS 481 Introduction to Government:
United States - Honors 3 Units**

Prerequisite: Placement into ENGWR 300.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(a); CSU Area D8; CSU Area F2; CSU Area F3; IGETC Area 4H
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course analyzes the U.S. government's historic origins, philosophical and theoretical justification, constitutional structures and how these institutions work. It examines and describes the procedural aspects of the political system including holding elections, campaigning, voting, lobbying, legislating, executing and adjudicating law. It provides an analysis of contemporary problems and issues. It also describes California state and local governments' constitutional base, structures and functions, political process, problems and issues. Conducted in a seminar format, this course emphasizes participatory classroom styles of learning and the material used is more substantial and sophisticated. In addition, there are extensive research projects on American institutions, political processes, and political behavior designed to challenge and motivate. This course is not open to students who have completed POLS 301.

**POLS 495 Independent Studies
in Political Science 1-3 Units**

Prerequisite: None
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54-162 hours LAB

Independent Study is an opportunity for the student to extend classroom experience in this subject, while working independently of a formal classroom situation. Independent study is an extension of work offered in a specific class in the college catalog. To be eligible for independent study, students must have completed the basic regular catalog course at American River College. They must also discuss the study with a professor in this subject and secure approval. Only one independent study for each catalog course will be allowed.