Students majoring in political science can choose from courses focused on the idea of justice and the nature of power, international government and politics, politics in the United States, political theories, environmental policy, criminal law, and gender politics. The department offers minors in political science and pre-law for students committed to a different academic major.

Pacific’s political science majors are involved in nearly every aspect of the university’s life. In addition to participating in student government and groups like the Black Student Union, the College Democrats and the College Republicans, Political Science majors can be found at the core of Pacific’s nationally ranked speech and debate team and on many of its athletics teams. In 2016, the department launched the Sacramento Governance Summer Program that gives students the opportunity to earn 8 units while studying and interning in Sacramento during the summer.

The skills and experiences developed through our political science department are central to a great variety of career fields, and our majors go on to work as journalists and lawyers, managers and teachers, politicians and administrators. Many students choose to pursue graduate studies at excellent institutions, including Vanderbilt University, the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, McGeorge School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, University of Washington, and more.

“"This past summer I interned with California Forward through the Sacramento Governance Summer Immersion Program. I got to do research and collect data on the economy and campaign finance. I’ve always been interested in local government and public service so having this opportunity will give me insight on what my life will be like after college. Getting to work across the street from the Capitol Building has been really exciting.'"

AMEER OTHMAN
BA Political Science
Political Science seeks to understand, to explain, and - sometimes - to evaluate how humans live and work together in public ways. To do so, political scientists focus on what happens in and around government and politics, how humans cooperate with and how they fight against one another, why some nations succeed and others fail. They study voting and revolutions, the Supreme Court and the United Nations, the idea of justice and the nature of power, environmental policy, criminal law and gender politics - all in the pursuit of clearer knowledge about the characteristic ways humans interact in the public sphere.

Students majoring in Political Science gain a well-grounded liberal education that focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the public realities of their world. They look in depth at the fundamental concepts and values that underlie human decision-making, examine the social and political structures and processes through which such decisions are shaped and carried out, learn to analyze complex organizational and legal phenomena, and survey the inventiveness of cultures in devising a variety of ways to provide government. They also become familiar with the contributions to their understanding that they can gain from related social sciences, such as economics, history, anthropology, and psychology. In acquiring this knowledge, Political Science majors extend their analytical and research skills, polish their talents for written and oral communication, and sharpen their abilities for rigorous and independent judgment.

### FACULTY

Jeffrey Becker, Associate Professor  
Brian E. Klunk, Associate Professor  
Robert B. Benedetti, Professor Emeritus  
Cynthia Ostberg, Professor  
Susan G. Sample, Professor  
Keith W. Smith, Associate Professor  
Dari Tran, Associate Professor

### POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSES

- **POLS 011.** Introduction to Comparative Politics. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 021.** Introduction to Political Theory. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 031.** Introduction to Law and Policy in the American Political System. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 041.** U.S. Government and Politics. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 051.** Introduction to International Relations. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 060.** Legal Study Seminar. 1 Unit.  
- **POLS 062.** Legal Practice Seminar. 1 Unit.  
- **POLS 081.** Career and Internship Preparation. 2 Units.  
- **POLS 093.** Special Topics. 1-4 Units.  
- **POLS 104.** Urban Government. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 106.** California Government and Politics. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 112.** Congress and the Presidency. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 114.** Political Parties and Interest Groups. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 116.** Campaigns and Elections. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 119.** Government in Action; Public Policy Analysis. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 120.** Courts and Judicial Behavior. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 122.** Constitutional Law. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 124.** Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 126.** Criminal Law. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 128.** Introduction to Public Administration. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 130.** Ancient to Medieval Political Theory. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 132.** Modern to Contemporary Political Theory. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 133.** Political Science Research. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 134.** American Political Thought. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 136.** Jurisprudence. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 141.** Western European Comparative Politics. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 146.** Latin American Politics. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 148.** Politics of the Middle East. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 150.** Political Development. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 151.** Principles of Comparative Politics. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 152.** Politics of Asia. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 160.** Theories of International Politics. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 162.** International Organization. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 164.** International Political Economy. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 166.** International Conflict and Conflict Management. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 168.** Comparative Foreign Policy. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 170.** U.S. Foreign Policy. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 172.** Inter-American Relations. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 175.** Legal Writing and Research Seminar. 1 Unit.  
- **POLS 187C.** Pre-Law Internship. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 189.** Capstone Seminar. 4 Units.  
- **POLS 191.** Independent Study. 2-4 Units.  
- **POLS 197.** Undergraduate Research. 2-4 Units.  
- **BUSI 031.** Principles of Financial Accounting. 4 Units.  
- **BUSI 053.** Introductory Microeconomics. 4 Units.  
- **BUSI 157.** Commercial Law. 4 Units.  
- **BUSI 159.** Employment Law. 4 Units.  
- **COMM 027.** Public Speaking. 3 Units.  
- **COMM 114.** Argumentation and Advocacy. 4 Units.  
- **ECON 053.** Introductory Microeconomics. 4 Units.  
- **ECON 161.** Empirical Methods. 4 Units.  
- **ECON 190.** Econometrics. 4 Units.  
- **ENGL 245.** Legal Aspects of Health, Exercise and Sport. 4 Units.  
- **HESP 165.** Social Science Research Methods. 4 Units.  
- **INTL 101.** Advanced Model United Nations [MUN II]. 1-2 Units.  
- **MATH 105.** Elementary Statistical Inference. 4 Units.  
- **MATH 107.** Introduction to Statistics and Probability. 4 Units.  
- **MMGT 153.** Entertainment Law. 4 Units.  
- **PHIL 101.** Moral Problems. 4 Units.  
- **PHIL 102.** Fundamentals of Ethics. 4 Units.  
- **PHIL 103.** Introduction to Logic. 4 Units.  
- **PHIL 106.** Philosophy of Law. 4 Units.  
- **PSYC 101.** Introduction to Psychology. 4 Units.  
- **PSYC 111.** Abnormal Psychology. 4 Units.  
- **PSYC 133.** Criminal Psychology. 4 Units.  
- **PSYC 139.** Corrections. 4 Units.  
- **PSYC 171.** Social Research Methods. 4 Units.