

Political Science

Political science is the study of the processes, principles, and structure of government and political institutions. Students take courses to prepare for a political science major or to fulfill general education requirements.

Graduates with a bachelor's degree in political science pursue careers in education; federal, state, and local government (in areas such as intelligence, foreign affairs, environmental protection); national, state, and local legislation; law; and marketing research.

Academic and Career Pathway

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Contact Information

Chair: Lynne Miller
Dean: Michael Fino
<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/political-science/index.html>

Department: Social Science
Office: Building OC3600,
 760.757.2121 x6924

Full-Time Faculty

John Phillips

Associate Degrees

Associate in Arts Degree

Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer

Students completing this associate degree will have completed lower-division major preparation requirements for an American Studies degree, an emphasis or option within an American Studies degree, or a degree considered similar, such as Public Administration, at a participating California State University (CSU) campus.

Following transfer to a participating CSU campus, students will be required to complete no more than 60 units to obtain a bachelor's degree; however, some CSU campuses accepting this degree may require additional lower-division major preparation. This degree may not be appropriate preparation for students transferring to a CSU campus not accepting this degree or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system. Students should consult with a MiraCosta counselor for further information regarding the most efficient pathway to transfer as an American Studies or Public Administration major and to determine which CSU campuses are participating in this program.

Graduation Requirements

- ▶ Complete a minimum of 60 CSU-transferable semester units.
- ▶ Complete all courses required in the major with a "C" or "P" or better.
- ▶ Complete the CSU-GE (Plan B) or IGETC (Plan C)* general education pattern. *Students completing IGETC may be awarded the degree, but they must complete a course from Area 1C: Oral Communication to meet CSU admission requirements.

- ▶ Obtain a minimum CSU-transferable GPA of 2.0.
- ▶ Complete a minimum of 12 units in residence at MiraCosta College.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to do the following:

- ▶ Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts of American law and connect them to contemporary societal issues.
- ▶ Transfer to a California State University baccalaureate program in American Studies, Public Administration or a related major.

Course Requirements

Required Core (26-28 units):

Understanding the Law (select one course)		3
ADM 100	Introduction to the Administration of Justice **	
ADM 200	Concepts of Criminal Law **	
BUS 140	Legal Environment of Business	
BUS 140H	Legal Environment of Business (Honors)	
Ethics (choose one course)		3
PHIL 102	Contemporary Moral Problems **	
Oral Communication (choose one course)		3
COMM 101	Public Speaking **	
COMM 106	Group Communication **	
Written Communication (choose one course)		4
ENGL 100	Composition and Reading **	
ENGL 100H	Composition and Reading (Honors) **	
Critical Thinking (choose one course)		3-4
COMM 212	Argumentation **	
ENGL 202	Critical Thinking and Composition **	
ENGL 202H	Critical Thinking and Composition (Honors) **	
PHIL 110	Introduction to Logic **	
PHIL 110H	Introduction to Logic (Honors) **	
Quantitative Reasoning (choose one course)		3-4
BTEC 180	Biostatistics **	
BUS 204	Business Statistics **	
BUS 204H	Business Statistics (Honors) **	
MATH 103	Statistics **	
PSYC 104	Statistics for Behavioral Science **	
PSYC 104H	Statistics for Behavioral Science (Honors) **	
SOC 125	Introduction to Statistics in Sociology **	
U.S. History (choose one course)		3
HIST 110	United States History to 1877 **	
HIST 110H	United States History to 1877 (Honors) **	
HIST 111	United States History Since 1877 **	
HIST 111H	United States History Since 1877 (Honors) **	
Intro to American Government (choose one course)		4

Political Science

PLSC 102	American Institutions and History **	
List A: Select two courses.*		6-7
ACCT 201	Financial Accounting	
	or ACCT 201H Financial Accounting (Honors)	
CSIT 120	Fundamentals of Computer Information Systems	
ECON 101	Principles of Economics: MACRO **	
ECON 102	Principles of Economics: MICRO **	
Total Units		32-35

* Students intending to transfer to San Diego State University in the Public Administration major should complete all courses in List A.

**Course satisfies a general education requirement on the CSU-GE or IGETC general education (GE) pattern. To ensure this degree is completed with no more than 60 units, students should select courses that will also satisfy a GE requirement.

Associate in Arts Degree

Political Science for Transfer

Students completing this associate degree will have completed lower-division major preparation requirements for a political science degree or a degree considered similar to political science at a participating California State University (CSU) campus.

Following transfer to a participating CSU campus, students will be required to complete no more than 60 units to obtain a bachelor's degree; however, some CSU campuses may require additional lower-division major preparation. This degree may not be appropriate preparation for students transferring to a CSU campus not accepting this degree or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system. Students should consult with a MiraCosta counselor for further information regarding the most efficient pathway to transfer as a political science major and to determine which CSU campuses are participating in this program.

Graduation Requirements

- ▶ Complete a minimum of 60 CSU-transferable semester units.
- ▶ Complete all courses required in the major with a "C" or "P" or better.
- ▶ Complete the CSU-GE (Plan B) or IGETC (Plan C)* general education pattern. *Students completing IGETC may be awarded the degree, but they must complete a course from Area IC: Oral Communication to meet CSU admission requirements.
- ▶ Obtain a minimum CSU-transferable GPA of 2.0.
- ▶ Complete a minimum of 12 units in residence at MiraCosta College.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to do the following:

- ▶ Articulate the fundamental concepts of major political ideologies such as Democracy, Anarchism, Nationalism, Marxism and Fascism, and assess the underlying social, cultural and economic factors.
- ▶ Explain and assess the American legislative system of checks and balances.

- ▶ Identify various instruments of foreign policy and evaluate their application to contemporary political issues.

Course Requirements

Required courses:

Required Core

PLSC 102	American Institutions and History *	4
List A: Select three courses (9 units)		9
PLSC 101	Introduction to Political Science *	
	or PLSC 101H Introduction to Political Science (Honors)	
PLSC 103	Comparative Government *	
PLSC 150	Introduction to International Relations *	

List B: Select one statistics course and one other course (6-7 units)

Select one statistics course from the following (3-4 units):

BUS 204	Business Statistics *	
	or BUS 204H Business Statistics (Honors)	
BTEC 180	Biostatistics *	
MATH 103	Statistics *	
PSYC 104	Statistics for Behavioral Science *	
	or PSYC 104H Statistics for Behavioral Science (Honors)	
SOC 125	Introduction to Statistics in Sociology *	

Select one course from the following (3 units):

ADM 100	Introduction to the Administration of Justice *	
ADM 200	Concepts of Criminal Law *	
ADM 270	Crime and Delinquency	
ANTH 102	Cultural Anthropology *	
	or ANTH 102H Cultural Anthropology (Honors)	
BUS 140	Legal Environment of Business	
	or BUS 140H Legal Environment of Business (Honors)	
ECON 101	Principles of Economics: MACRO *	
ECON 102	Principles of Economics: MICRO *	
PHIL 102	Contemporary Moral Problems *	

Total Units **19-20**

* Course satisfies a general education requirement on the CSU-GE or IGETC general education (GE) pattern. To ensure this degree is completed with no more than 60 units, students should select courses that will also satisfy a GE requirement. Note: The honors version of identified GE courses also satisfy a GE requirement.

Courses

PLSC 101: Introduction to Political Science

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in PLSC 101H.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course introduces students to the field of political science and to politics itself. It covers government, the nation-state, and political ideologies that affect modern politics and society. In particular, this course examines the following ideologies from historical, social, and economic perspectives: Conservatism, Liberalism, Anarchism, Democracy, Capitalism, Marxism/Communism, and Fascism. UC CREDIT LIMITATION: Credit for PLSC 101 or PLSC 101H. C-ID POLS-150.

PLSC 101H: Introduction to Political Science (Honors)

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in PLSC 101.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall or Spring

This honors course offers students an advanced introduction to the field of political science and to politics itself. It covers government, the nation-state, and political ideologies that affect modern politics and society. In particular, this course examines the following ideologies from historical, social, and economic perspectives: Conservatism, Liberalism, Anarchism, Democracy, Capitalism, Marxism/Communism, and Fascism. As an honors course, it offers expanded analysis of lecture materials, increased dependence upon student participation on a daily basis, and the opportunity for students to conduct research in relevant areas of interest, and thus targets highly motivated students who are looking for a more challenging academic experience. UC CREDIT LIMITATION: Credit for PLSC 101 or PLSC 101H. C-ID POLS-150.

PLSC 102: American Institutions and History

Units: 4

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 4 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

Students study basic concepts in the political and historical traditions of America and California by analyzing national, state, and local political institutions from colonial times to the present. The course examines the evolution of concepts and ideas that are fundamental to our political culture. It emphasizes the concepts citizens should understand in order to vote intelligently and otherwise effectively participate in the political process. This course is designed specifically to satisfy the CSU History, Constitution and American Ideals requirement. C-ID POLS-110.

PLSC 103: Comparative Government

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course provides a comparative survey of selected foreign governments, including their political institutions, theories of government, and economic and social development. Countries surveyed include western and non-western democracies and communist nations or dictatorships. C-ID POLS-130.

PLSC 150: Introduction to International Relations

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course introduces students to the major explanations for international conflict, cooperation, and other important dynamics of global affairs. It also examines the relationships between selected countries and the resulting political, economic, and social consequences. The course emphasizes the analytical skills and techniques used by practitioners in this field. C-ID POLS-140.

PLSC 292: Internship Studies

Units: 0.5-14

Prerequisites: None

Corequisite: Complete 54 hours of work per unit, paid or unpaid.

Enrollment Limitation: Instructor, dept chair, and Career Center approval. Fourteen unit maximum in any combination of work experience education and/or internship studies per semester.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course provides students the opportunity to apply the theories and techniques of their discipline in an internship position in a professional setting under the instruction of a faculty-mentor and site supervisor. It introduces students to aspects of the roles and responsibilities of professionals employed in the field of study. Topics include goal-setting, employability skills development, and examination of the world of work as it relates to the student's career plans. Students must develop new learning objectives and/or work/intern at a new site upon each enrollment.