

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 (<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/>)

Contact Information

Chair: John Phillips
Dean: Michael Fino
<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/political-science/index.html>
[\(https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/political-science/\)](https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/political-science/)

Department: Social Science
Office: Building OC4800,
 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 in the major with a "C" or "P" or better.
- ▶ Complete the Cal-GETC (<https://catalog.miracosta.edu/degree/certificate-transfer/info/general-education-plans/planc/>) general education pattern.
- ▶ Obtain a minimum CSU-transferable grade point average of 2.0.
- ▶ Complete a minimum of 12 semester units in residence at MiraCosta College.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

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

- ▶ Transfer to a California State University baccalaureate program in American studies, public administration, or a related major.

Course Requirements

Required Core (26 units):

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Understanding the Law (choose one course; 3 units) | | 3 |
| ADM 100 | Introduction to the Administration of Justice * | |
| ADM 200 | Concepts of Criminal Law * | |
| BUS 140 | Legal Environment of Business | |
| Ethics (one course; 3 units) | | 3 |
| PHIL 102 | Ethical Problems * | |
| Oral Communication (choose one course; 3 units) | | 3 |
| COMM C1000 | Introduction to Public Speaking * | |
| COMM 106 | Group Communication | |
| Written Communication (one course; 4 units) | | 4 |
| ENGL C1000 | Academic Reading and Writing * | |
| Critical Thinking (choose one course; 3-4 units) | | 3-4 |
| COMM 212 | Argumentation | |
| ENGL C1001 | Critical Thinking and Writing * | |
| ENGL C1001H | Critical Thinking and Writing (Honors) * | |
| PHIL 110 | Introduction to Logic | |
| Quantitative Reasoning (choose one course; 3-5 units) | | 3-5 |
| BTEC 180 | Biostatistics * | |
| BUS 204 | Business Statistics * | |
| PSYC 104 | Statistics for Behavioral Science * | |
| PSYC 104H | Statistics for Behavioral Science (Honors) * | |
| SOC 125 | Introduction to Statistics in Sociology * | |
| STAT C1000 | Introduction to Statistics * | |
| STAT C1000E | Introduction to Statistics (Embedded Support) * | |
| STAT C1000H | Introduction to Statistics (Honors) | |
| U.S. History (choose one course; 3 units) | | 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) * | |
| American Government and Politics (one course; 4 units) | | 4 |
| POLS C1000 | American Government and Politics * | |
| List A: Select two courses from two of the areas listed below (6 units). | | 6 |
| Courses must not have been used above. | | |
| Area 1: Administration of Justice/Criminal Justice/Criminology | | |
| ADM 270 | Crime and Delinquency | |
| Area 2: Business | | |
| BUS 140 | Legal Environment of Business | |
| Area 3: Economics | | |
| ECON 101 | Principles of Economics: MACRO * | |
| ECON 102 | Principles of Economics: MICRO * | |
| Area 4: Political Science | | |
| POLS 101 | Introduction to Political Science * | |
| or POLS 101H | Introduction to Political Science (Honors) | |
| POLS 103 | Comparative Government * | |
| POLS 150 | Introduction to International Relations * | |
| Area 5: Public Policy | | |
| SOC 102 | Contemporary Social Problems * | |
| Area 6: Diversity | | |
| ANTH 102 | Cultural Anthropology * | |
| COMM 215 | Intercultural Communication * | |
| GEOG 102 | People, Place, and Time: Introduction to Human Geography * | |
| SOC 130 | Introduction to Gender Studies * | |
| ETHN 207 | Race and Ethnic Relations * | |
| or SOC 207 | Race and Ethnic Relations | |
| Area 7: College Success | | |
| COUN 100 | College and Career Success | |
| Total Units | | 32-35 |

* Course satisfies a general education requirement on the Cal-GETC 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 in the major with a "C" or "P" or better.
- ▶ Complete the Cal-GETC (<https://catalog.miracosta.edu/degreecertificatetransferinfo/generaleducationplans/planc/>) general education pattern.
- ▶ Obtain a minimum CSU-transferable grade point average of 2.0.
- ▶ Complete a minimum of 12 semester units in residence at MiraCosta College.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

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

- ▶ Explain and assess the American legislative system of checks and balances.

Course Requirements

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Required courses: | | |
| Required Core | | |
| POLS C1000 | American Government and Politics * | 4 |
| List A: Select three courses (9 units) | | 9 |
| POLS 101 | Introduction to Political Science * | |
| or POLS 101H | Introduction to Political Science (Honors) | |
| POLS 103 | Comparative Government * | |
| POLS 150 | Introduction to International Relations * | |
| List B: Select one statistics course and one other course (6-8 units) | | 6-8 |
| Select one statistics course from the following (3-5 units): | | |
| BTEC 180 | Biostatistics * | |
| BUS 204 | Business Statistics * | |
| PSYC 104 | Statistics for Behavioral Science * | |
| PSYC 104H | Statistics for Behavioral Science (Honors) * | |
| SOC 125 | Introduction to Statistics in Sociology * | |
| STAT C1000 | Introduction to Statistics * | |
| STAT C1000E | Introduction to Statistics (Embedded Support) * | |
| STAT C1000H | Introduction to Statistics (Honors) * | |
| 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 * | |
| BUS 140 | Legal Environment of Business | |
| ECON 101 | Principles of Economics: MACRO * | |
| ECON 102 | Principles of Economics: MICRO * | |
| PHIL 102 | Ethical Problems * | |
| Total Units | | 19-21 |

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

Courses

POLS C1000: American Government and Politics

Units: 4

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in PLSC 102.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 4 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course is an introduction to government and politics in the United States and California. Students examine the constitutions, structure, and operation of governing institutions, civil liberties and civil rights, political behaviors, political issues, and public policy using political science theory and methodology. 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. (Formerly PLSC 102.) C-ID POLS-110.

POLS 101: Introduction to Political Science

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

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

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall

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 POLS 101 or POLS 101H. C-ID POLS-150. (Formerly PLSC 101)

POLS 101H: Introduction to Political Science (Honors)

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

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

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: 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 POLS 101 or POLS 101H. C-ID POLS-150. (Formerly PLSC 101H)

POLS 103: Comparative Government

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in PLSC 103.

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. (Formerly PLSC 103.)

POLS 150: Introduction to International Relations

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in PLSC 150.

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. (Formerly PLSC 150.)