

Major Requirements Catalog Year 2008 and Later

Political Science

(Note: These requirements are for students entering GVSU in catalog year 2008 or later. Students in previous catalog years should consult a prior catalog or [click here](#). We strongly recommend study abroad and internship.)

Students seeking the B.A. or B.S. degree are required to take at least 36 credits in political science, including:

- ___ PLS 102 American Government and Politics
- ___ PLS 103 Issues in World Politics
- ___ PLS 211 International Relations
- ___ PLS 231 Classical Political Thought or ___ 232 Modern Political Thought
- ___ PLS 495 Capstone

and seven additional courses, two of which must be in American politics, one in comparative politics, one in political thought, and one in international relations. Please see the list of elective courses by category below. At least four of these courses must be at the 300 level; independent studies, internships, PLS 495 and the B.S. cognate courses do not count toward the 300 level requirement. A total of no more than nine credits of internship and independent study may count toward the major, with no more than six credits in either category.

Students seeking a B.A. degree must demonstrate third-semester proficiency in a foreign language. Students seeking a B.S. degree must complete the following degree cognate sequence: STA 215, PLS 300, and PLS 315 or 341. When taken as part of the B.S. cognate, PLS 300, 315 and 341 do not count toward the 36 required credits for the major.

Political Science Elective Courses by Category:

American Politics

- ___ PLS 202 American Election Campaigns
- ___ PLS 203 State Politics
- ___ PLS 205 The Policy Process
- ___ PLS 206 American Constitutional Foundations
- ___ PLS 207 Environmental Policy
- ___ PLS 304 Political Parties & Interest Groups
- ___ PLS 305 Congress & The Presidency
- ___ PLS 306 American Constitutional Law I
- ___ PLS 307 American Constitutional Law II
- ___ PLS 308 American Judicial Politics
- ___ PLS 310 Politics & Health Policy
- ___ PLS 330 Religion & Politics
- ___ PLS 340 Mass Media and American Politics
- ___ PLS 341 Elections & Voting Behavior
- ___ PA 307 Local Politics and Administration

International Relations

- ___ PLS 212 Great Decisions
- ___ PLS 311 International Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- ___ PLS 312 U.S. Foreign Policy
- ___ PLS 313 International Organization
- ___ PLS 314 International Law
- ___ PLS 315 International Political Economy

- _____ PLS 316 Human Rights in International Politics
- _____ PLS 321 The European Union

Comparative Politics

- _____ PLS 221 Government and Politics of Western Europe
- _____ PLS 240 The Holocaust
- _____ PLS 281 Comparative Political Systems: Canada
- _____ PLS 283 Chinese Politics and US-Chinese Relations
- _____ PLS 284 Latin American Politics
- _____ PLS 319 African Politics
- _____ PLS 327 Politics of Developing Countries
- _____ PLS 339 Comparative Democratization
- _____ PLS 382 Politics of Post-Communist Europe
- _____ PLS 385 Russian and Post-Soviet Politics

Political Thought

- _____ PLS 231 Classical Political Thought (elective if not taken as part of core requirements)
- _____ PLS 232 Modern Political Thought (elective if not taken as part of core requirements)
- _____ PLS 333 Contemporary Political Thought (Renumbered from PLS 233)
- _____ PLS 337 U.S. Political Thought
- _____ PLS 338 Citizenship

Special Topics, Independent Study, Internship

- _____ PLS 300 Political Analysis (elective if not taken for B.S. cognate requirement)
- _____ PLS 380 Special Topics in Politics
- _____ PLS 399 Readings in Political Science
- _____ PLS 490 Internship
- _____ PLS 499 Independent Research

NOTE: Transfer students must complete at least 12 credits in the major at GVSU.