Goals and Objectives

The Political Science program is designed to provide majors with exposure to a broad range of topics within the field of political science as well as to serve the General Education needs of non-majors through selected lower division courses.

All of the major sub-fields of political science are represented in the courses offered by the Department, so that the political science major will, upon graduation, have been exposed to theoretical, empirical, and methodological approaches to the discipline. They will, therefore, be well-prepared for entry into the job market in a wide variety of fields and for admission to law or other graduate programs. The Department covers the sub-fields of the discipline, but because it is virtually impossible with a permanent faculty of four to offer courses covering all geo-political areas of the globe, it focuses on Asia and the Pacific within the field of comparative politics, consistent with the mission statement of the University of Hawai`i at Hilo. The six core courses, in addition to covering most of the sub-fields of the discipline, are intended to prepare majors for seminar and other upper division elective courses the are required to take. Students are encouraged, but not required, to emphasize one sub-field in their selection of electives. The minor is intended to expose students to at least three sub-fields of the discipline.

The Political Science major underwent substantial revision in 1997-98. Some courses were deleted from the curriculum while new courses were added. Among those added were six seminars covering the major sub-fields, all of seminars being writing-intensive. In addition, a number of courses were modified and several certificate programs and emphases within the major were deleted.

Political Science does not have admissions requirements unique to the major, nor does it have screening for progressing into upper division coursework or a capstone experience. A senior thesis is offered and our best students are encouraged into this experience. In addition, the Department gives awards annually to the most outstanding graduating senior, to the student (major or not) who has written the best research paper, and to the best applicant for the Willard Keim award.
Outcomes

International Relations

Proto-realism
    Thucydides (the Melian Dialogue)
    Sun Tsu
    Machiavelli
    Hobbes
Realists vs. Idealists
Geopolitics (Mahan)
    Containment and Domino Theories
General Systems Theory
Hegemonic Stability Theory
Interdependence theory
The notion of “power”
The Nation-State
Nationalism
Sovereignty
Causes of war
Types of political violence
Foreign Policy:
    Decision making (Allison)
Deterrence and Arms Control
Security vs. Defense
International Political Economy:
    North/South Debate since 1964
    Role of Multinationals
    Environmental issues
    International Law
    Sources, Functions and Issues
International Organizations (UN, EU, NATO)
Political Ideologies

Liberalism:
- Enlightenment
- Social Contract Theory
- Outlook and argument of “The Declaration of Independence”
- Jefferson on Revolution
- Lincoln’s interpretation of the Declaration
- Madison’s 10th and 51st Federalist Papers pluralism
  checks and balances

Rousseau:
- French Revolution
- Totalitarianism

Communism:
- Marx & Engels
- historical materialism
- dialectical materialism
- bourgeoisie and proletarians revolution

Fascism:
- Nietzsche
  “the last man”
  transvaluation of values
  slave morality and master morality Mussolini
  fascist conception of the “state”
- Hitler
Law

Criminal law vs. civil law
Statute law vs. common law
Constitutional law
Bill of Rights
Equal protection
Due process
State courts
Federal courts
Recruitment of judges
Appeals process
Trials - bench and jury
Role of the judge
Role of the prosecutor
Role of the defense attorney
Role of the plaintiff’s attorney
Search and seizure
Probable cause
Grand jury
Precedent
Corrections
First Amendment freedoms
Self-incrimination
Right to counsel
Burden of proof
Federalism
Majority, concurring, and dissenting opinions
Substantive law vs. procedural law
Judicial review
Certiorari
Be able to brief cases
Comparative Politics

Political systems
Economic systems
Political and economic development
“North-South” debate
Pluralism/authoritarianism/totalitarianism
Liberalism/soft-authoritarianism/communism
Sovereignty
Types of constitutions
Unitary/federal/confederal systems
Parliamentary/presidential systems
Governmental institutions
Political culture
Political socialization
Political participation
Political party systems
Electoral systems
Public policy outcome
Comparative politics as a field