



Political Science

Total Credits: **33**

Department Chair: Dr. Joseph Luders
luders@yu.edu

Find the Website [here](#)

There are three parts to the Political Science major:

1. Introductory courses that provide a foundation to the different subfields of discipline
2. Elective course distribution that provides greater breadth and deeper understanding of each subfield
3. Free electives that allow students to pursue the area(s) that they find most interesting

INTRODUCTORY COURSES (9 credits)

Students must take **three (3)** of the **five (5)** following courses:

Course #	Course Name	Credits
POLI 1101	Introduction to American Politics (Spring)	3
POLI 1201	Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring)	3
POLI 1301	Introduction to International Relations (Fall)	3
POLI 1401	Great Political Figures (Spring)	3
POLI 1501	Fundamentals of Political Science (Fall)	3

It is advised to take the introductory courses by the end of the first semester of the junior year.

ELECTIVES (24 credits)

Students must take at least **one (1)** elective course in **each** of the subfields of political science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory) for a total of 12 credits.

Note: One of these courses may be a 4th introductory level course (with the exception of Fundamentals of Political Science)

The remaining four courses (12 credits) may be taken in any subfield of political science.

Since introductory courses are meant to provide a foundation in a subfield, it is strongly recommended that students take a field introductory course before they take an elective course in that subfield.

Students may use up to two courses cross-listed with other departments toward their elective requirements.

Students may also take one internship to count towards the elective requirement.

Before students register for internship credit, they need to consult with the department and with the Academic Advisement Center to learn of specific requirements and restrictions of the this option.

EXIT REQUIREMENT:

Parts I and II Required

- I. A departmental exit examination that demonstrates competence in the four major disciplinary subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory).
- II. Submission of two political science papers which are representative of the student's writing at the beginning and end of her studies (such as the first and last paper written for a political science course). The inclusion of copies of the instructor's original comments is desirable, but not required.

Political Science Minor

Total Credits: 18

INTRODUCTORY COURSES (6 credits)

Students must take **two (2)** of the **five (5)** following courses:

Course #	Course Name	Credits
POLI 1101	Introduction to American Politics (Spring)	3
POLI 1201	Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring)	3
POLI 1301	Introduction to International Relations (Fall)	3
POLI 1401	Great Political Figures (Spring)	2
POLI 1501	Fundamentals of Political Science (Fall)	3

ELECTIVES (12 credits)

Students must take at least one (1) elective course in three (3) of the four subfields of political science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory) for a total of 9 credits.

The remaining one course (3 credits) may be taken in any subfield of political science.

Since introductory courses are meant to provide a foundation in a subfield, it is strongly recommended that students take a field introductory course before they take an elective course in that subfield.

Political Science Concentrations

In addition to the general Poli Sci Major the department offers the option of focusing on a specific concentration in Political Science. Students may focus on:

- American Politics and Policy
- Comparative Political Studies
- Law and Justice
- International Affairs and Security Studies

Your concentration may be mentioned in professional resumes and cover letters and may be useful in pursuing your professional aspirations as a signal to prospective employers about your unique qualifications.

To have a concentration, students need only to complete four courses specified for the various tracks. All courses may be counted toward this total, including introductory courses as well as those used to fulfill the subfield distribution. Thus, it is likely that students will need only two additional electives to complete the requirements for a concentration. Taking additional courses within the concentration is recommended.

The different concentrations are associated with a range of career paths. See below for a set of sample career options. Of course, students may choose to have no concentrations and strive for breadth.

Political Science Concentration and Sample Career Options

American Politics and Policy	Comparative Politics Studies	International Affairs and Security Studies	Law and Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position in government (public sector) • Consulting • Business/finance • Public Policy • Non-profit sector • Advocacy • Urban Planning • Health Care Management • Journalism • Teaching • Research/Think Tank • Public relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position in Israeli government • Development economics • International Business • Research • Journalism • Non-governmental organization (NGO) • Consulting • Risk analysis • Teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International security • Diplomacy (United Nations, Foreign Service, State Department) • International Business • Research/Think Tank • Non-governmental organization (NGO) • Journalism • Teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law • Business • Criminal justice • Paralegal • Positions in government (public sector) • Non-profit sector • Advocacy • Journalism

Courses and Concentrations in Political Science (sample courses)

America Politics and Policy

- Introduction to American Politics
- American Presidency
- Issues in American Public Policy (Health Care Policy; Education Policy, etc.)
- Public Opinion and Political Behavior
- Race and Religion in American Politics
- American Social Movements
- Voting and Elections
- Political Parties and Interest Groups
- Media and Politics
- American Constitutional Law
- Public Administration and Bureaucratic Politics
- American Political Thought
- Women and Politics
- Women and Law
- Law and Politics
- Democracy and Inequality
- American Foreign Policy

Comparative Political Studies

- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Politics of Advanced Democracies
- African Politics
- European Political Development
- Israeli Politics
- Latin American Politics
- Middle East Politics
- Escaping Poverty, Oppression, and Violence: Problems of Development
- Ethnic Conflict and Genocide
- Globalization

Law and Justice

- Introduction to American Politics
- American Constitutional Law
- Civil Rights
- Civil Liberties
- Criminal Justice
- International Law and Organization
- Comparative Law: American and Talmudic
- Woman and the Law
- Law and Politics
- American Political Thought
- Just and Unjust Wars (Philosophy)
- Philosophy of Law (Philosophy)
- Logic (Philosophy)

International Affairs and Security Studies

- Introduction to International Politics
- American Foreign Policy
- International Law and Organizations
- Civil War
- Security Seminar
- Grand Strategy
- Intelligence and National Security
- War and Interstate Conflict
- Ethnic Conflict and Genocide
- Arab-Israeli Conflict
- Game Theory
- Money and Power in International Politics (International Political Economy)
- Seminar on Globalization
- Just and Unjust Wars (Philosophy)