Political Science Majors
Tips on crafting your class schedule

Core PSCI Curriculum: The following are core courses required for the Political Science Major:

Lower division course:
*PSCI 100 United States Government and Politics

Upper division gateway courses:
*PSCI 301 Practice of Political Research (research methods)
*PSCI 331 World Political Systems
*PSCI 350 Global Governance
*PSCI 370 Foundations of Political Thought

Capstone seminar:
*PSCI 494 Senior Seminar in Political Science

PSCI 100, 301, 331, 350, and 370 are meant to be among the first courses you take for the major. Why? These courses provide foundational information that other courses will build upon. It is to your advantage to have this core information under your belt before taking other upper-division elective courses in Political Science. Each of these courses is offered every semester. Multiple sections of PSCI 100 are offered throughout the week. Also, some upper-division courses in the major (including PSCI 494) require or recommend that a particular core course is completed before enrolling in the course.

PSCI 494: Beginning with the Fall 2007 Catalog, all PSCI majors must complete PSCI 494, Senior Seminar in Political Science. This is a capstone course to be taken at the end of a student's academic program. Note: The prerequisites for this course are the upper-division gateway courses listed above (PSCI 301, PSCI 331, PSCI 350, PSCI 370).

Electives: In addition to core courses, a variety of upper-division electives are offered that fulfill each of our sub-fields, United States Politics and Government (USPG), Comparative Politics (CP), International Politics (IP), and Political Theory (PT). Most of our upper-division electives are offered once every three to four semesters. Therefore, a student who plans to complete his/her degree in four years might expect to see each upper-division elective offered 1-2 times. Currently the majority of our upper-division courses are offered on M/W or T/Th schedule between 8:30am-5:30 pm. In fewer numbers, upper-division courses are scheduled to meet once a week and/or in the late afternoon or early evening, or online. We generally do NOT offer upper-division courses during the summer.
Because some courses may be taught from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, they carry a “General” (GP) designation. Your faculty advisor will determine for which subfield the class is to be counted.

If you are a **Global Concentration** major, you are required to take one upper-division class outside the major that deals with global issues. This course needs to be approved by your faculty advisor. The following is a partial list of courses that the department's faculty have agreed to in advance as meeting this requirement; other courses you may want to explore (including Special Topics courses that are offered by other departments on a rotating basis) must be personally approved by your advisor.

ANTH 370  Environment, Population, and Culture

BRS 300  Borders and Regions: Interdisciplinary Perspectives
BRS 330  Introduction to Migration Studies
BRS 400  Comparative Border and Regional Studies
BRS 453  Border Water Conflicts

BUS 444  Strategic Management in Global Environments

ECON 311  Comparative Economic Systems
ECON 441  International Economics: Trade
ECON 442  Economics of Development
ECON 443  International Economics: Money
ECON 445  Gender and Development

FREN 350  Civilization and Culture of French and Francophone World (conducted in French)

GBST 300  Global Studies

GRMN 350  Civilization and Culture of German Speaking Countries (conducted in German)

HIST 306  History of Internationalism and Human Rights
HIST 307  The Politics of Irish Nationalism
HIST 308  National Cinema and National History in 20th Century Europe
HIST 316  Gender and Authority in Medieval and Early Modern Europe
HIST 322  Interwar Europe, 1919-1939
HIST 323  Society and Culture in Modern Europe
HIST 324  The Enlightenment and European Society
HIST 325  Revolutionary Europe
HIST 326  Europe Since 1945
HIST 327  Women in Modern Europe
HIST 352  Mexico, Past and Present
HIST 355  Women in Latin America
HIST 356  Culture and Identity in Latin America
HIST 359  A History of Brazil
HIST 360  Classical Asia
HIST 361  Modern East Asia
HIST 362  China and the West
HIST 363  China in Revolution
HIST 364  Image and Reality—Film and Modern Chinese History
HIST 365  Tradition and Change in Japan
HIST 370  Early African History
HIST 371  Modern African History
HIST 374  Africa Under European Imperialism 1880-1975
HIST 375  African Nationalism and Independence
HIST 379  Africa and the World in the 20th Century
HIST 380  The Middle East, 600 to 1700 C.E.
HIST 381  Comparative French Colonialism: From the Caribbean to Indochina
HIST 383  Woman and Jewish History
HIST 384  Women and Gender in the Middle East
HIST 385  Middle East, 1700-Present
HIST 388  History of War in Modern Society
HIST 389  Historical Transformation of Money and Power

ID 301  Latin America in the 21st Century
ID 406  Dilemmas of Modern Mexico
ID 410  Militants and Activists: Movement for Social Change

LTWR 320  Sacred Texts
LTWR 410  Global Literature I
LTWR 420  Global Literature II

SOC 353  Social Change and Social Movements
SOC 403  Children’s Human Rights in a Global Society
SOC 469  Colonial and Post-Colonial Theory

SPA 350B  Spanish American Civilization (conducted in Spanish)

WMST 375  Women Changing Our World
WMST 445  Gender and Development

Internships: Internships are generally offered in the Spring semester, though it may be possible to complete one in Fall. Internships are generally unpaid but provide useful experience that may give you a competitive edge for graduate school or in your career search. You must be a junior or senior in good standing and have the endorsement of a CSUSM Political Science faculty member. Each 3 unit internship requires students to work 120 hours over the course of the semester at their agency and to write a 10 page journal on their experience. Internships are graded credit/no credit. For internships related to comparative or international politics, contact Professor Metoyer at
cmetoyer@csusm.edu for further information. For internships related to US politics, contact Professor Bass at sbass@csusm.edu.

Note: Courses that are taken for the Political Science major do not count toward your upper-division general education (DD) requirement.