

Political Science (M.A.)

About The Program:

The primary mission of the Political Science Department's graduate program is to prepare students for careers in academia. The department gives equal emphasis to training students for both the research and teaching sides of such a career. Most students in the M.A. program intend to pursue a Ph.D. either at Temple or elsewhere, immediately after graduation or after a few years of employment. Those who wish to pursue a Ph.D. at Temple are strongly encouraged to apply directly to the Ph.D. program at the outset of the admissions process. Some M.A. students use the degree to establish or strengthen credentials in teaching or for private/public sector positions; a few M.A. students want to strengthen their backgrounds for applications to other professional degree programs.

Career Options: Most students in the M.A. program intend to pursue a Ph.D. immediately after graduation or after a few years of employment. Some M.A. students use the degree to establish or strengthen credentials in teaching or for private/public sector positions; a few M.A. students want to strengthen their background for applications to other professional degree programs.

Areas of Specialization: Our particular strengths in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory are reflected in the brief biographical statements of our Graduate Faculty members' research and teaching interests:

- In American Politics, faculty teach and conduct research on political behavior, political economy, political institutions, public policy, and urban politics.
- In Comparative Politics, faculty focus on the issues of democratization; public policymaking; the role of the state in the economy; and identity politics in European and post-communist states, Latin America, China, and other developing nations.
- In International Relations, faculty emphasize the various theoretical approaches to the study of world politics and the testing of such theories in the areas of international security, international political economy, and the study of international organizations.
- In Political Theory, our strengths cluster around the research areas of late modernity; democratic and normative political theories, especially those pertaining to political questions of social and economic inequality, globalization, identity politics, and social movements; and the relationship between politics and religion.

Requirements of Programs:

- **Total Credit Hours:** 30
- **Culminating Events:**

Seminar Paper:

The seminar paper requirement is met by completing the coursework required in POLS 8000 Topics in Research Design. Students must submit the seminar paper, with the instructors' comments and grades, to the Graduate Chair. The Graduate Chair must certify that these papers meet the seminar paper requirement (i.e., contain arguments grounded in extensive reference

to relevant secondary and/or primary sources). Such certification must be granted before the degree is awarded.

Core Courses

Topics in Research Design – Students learn how to formulate and justify research questions, situate their research within the scholarly literature, select cases, and address problems related to making causal inferences. An important focus of the course is on the similarities and differences between quantitative and qualitative research designs and their respective strengths and weaknesses.

Political Statistics I – Required of all M.A. and Ph.D. students. Introductory applied social statistics. Topics covered include descriptive measures, elementary probability theory, hypothesis testing, and correlation and regression analysis. This course explores inductive statistics including: probability and sampling, multivariate contingency tables, analysis of variance, correlation and regression analysis.

Select three of the following four subfield core courses:

Government in American Society – An introduction to key theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of the major areas in American politics.

Comparative Politics – A survey of core theories, methodological approaches and central issues in the comparative study of political systems throughout the world. Issues include state, class, party systems and interest groups, dependency, democracy and autocracy, reform and revolution, ethnic/nationalist conflict, and policymaking in industrial welfare states.

International Politics – A graduate-level introduction to theories of international politics, ranging from classical realism and liberalism through contemporary neorealist, institutionalist, constructivist and other approaches. Core course in the area.

Introduction to Political Theory – Introduction to the major conceptual issues in politics-- power, authority, equality, liberty, democracy, justice-- through the reading of both classics in political thought and contemporary political theory. The course will also consider methodological issues in the social sciences and key topics in the philosophy of science and the philosophy of social science.

Electives

Select two elective courses taken in each of two main fields and one in a third minor field.

Courses:

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the courses below.

- Topics in Research Design
- Political Statistics I
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Political Statistics II
- Government in American Society
- American Presidency
- Legislative Behavior
- Politics of Organized Interests
- Public Law
- Civil Rights and Liberties

- Business Politics and Power
- American Party System
- Campaigns, Elections, and Media
- American Federalism
- Research in State Politics
- Politics of Race and Class in America
- Community Based Research
- Critique of American Government
- Topics in Public Policy
- National Public Policy
- Urban Public Policy
- Public Opinion and Propaganda
- Theories of Policy Making
- Topics in American Politics
- Issues in American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Comparative Politics: Western Europe
- Comparative Politics: Developing Nations
- Latin American Politics
- Russian and Eastern European Civilizations
- Democratic Politics
- Democracy, Dictatorship, and Political Regimes
- Topics in Comparative Politics
- Issues in Comparative Politics
- International Politics
- International Security
- International Political Economy
- International Organizations
- US Foreign Policy
- Foreign Policy Analysis
- Topics in International Politics
- Issues in International Relations
- Introduction to Political Theory
- History of Political Theory I
- Modern Political Philosophy
- 19th and 20th Century Political and Social Thought
- Contemporary Theories of Democracy
- Problems in Political Philosophy
- Special Topics in Political Philosophy
- Symposium in Political Science
- Teaching Methods
- Directed Study and Research I
- Directed Study and Research II
- Directed Study and Research III
- Directed Study and Research IV