POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Sciences offers students a personalized education within a distinctive graduate program. Graduate courses are taught by full time faculty and conducted in a seminar form, with specific attention to the individual interests of students. All graduate students receive extensive methodological training, a well-rounded exposure to political science- including courses in comparative politics and international relations- as well as courses in American politics and political theory.

Graduate Programs

- International Affairs (MA) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/political-science/international-affairs_ma/)
- Political Science (JD/MA) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/dual-degree-programs/political-science-jd-ma/)
- Political Science (MA) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-ma/)
- Political Science (PhD) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-phd/)

POLITICAL SCIENCE (plsc)

PLSC 400 Scope and Methods of Pol Sci (3 Credit Hours)
This is a broad course that lays out the main approaches to political science.

PLSC 401 Intro to Research Design & Method (3 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to principles of research design in political science. The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the social scientific approach to studying politics.
Outcomes:
Students will learn how to ask empirical questions about the political world, how to develop theories and generate testable hypotheses, how to collect appropriate types of evidence, how to answer research questions scientifically using such evidence, and how to clearly convey their evidence and argument to others

PLSC 402 Seminar on Empirical Analysis (3 Credit Hours)
The course allows students to develop additional methods to empirical analysis.

PLSC 404 Selected Problems in American Politics (3 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on selected problems in the study of American politics and the American Political system. Outcome: Gain an in-depth understanding of selected problems in American politics and the American Political system.

PLSC 405 American Executive Branch (3 Credit Hours)
This course relies on historical and contemporary scholarly literature on the American presidency to analyze the development and scope of rhetorical and party leadership, legislative relations, the commander-in-chief and diplomatic roles as well as the growth of the institutionalized presidency. Outcome: Students will master the key literature on the American presidency as well as conduct research on a particular aspect of the US presidency.

PLSC 406 American Legislative Branch (3 Credit Hours)
This course focuses on the organization of and decision-making in the US legislative branch. Outcome: Students will fully understand how the US Congress is structured and legislates, as well as its interactions with other US institutions and with American society.

PLSC 407 Pub Pol-Making & Implementation (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the process and dynamics of US policy-making systems. Outcome: Students will understand the development of the public sector agenda, the policy formation and legitimation processes, and the role of implementation functions, as these relate to substantive issues or policy arenas.

PLSC 409 Organizational Theory (3 Credit Hours)
The course offers a broad approach to the various theoretical and practical approaches to the study of organizations.

PLSC 410 Urban Politics (3 Credit Hours)
This course addresses the major theories, studies and issues of urban politics. Outcome: Students will understand "political machines", parties, interest groups, voting, protests, minority and ethnic groups, city councils, mayors, bureaucrats and community power structures.

PLSC 411 Amer Pol Parties/Elect Process (3 Credit Hours)
This course analyzes the roles and functions of the party system and voting behavior in the United States. Outcome: Students will understand the role of mass communication and issues in elections, the impact of party identification, and the impact of the electoral system on behavior of party and voter

PLSC 412 Constitutional Politics (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines constitutional policy-making in the United States. Outcome: Students will understand the political role of the Supreme Court, judicial values in constitutional adjudication, and the impact of court decisions.

PLSC 417 The American Legal System (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the structure, functions, interrelationships, dynamics, and decision-making processes of the US legal system. Outcome: Students will understand the major components of the American legal system - legislatures, administrative agencies, and courts.

PLSC 418 Political Psyc & Socialization (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines psychological, social and environmental influences on political attitudes and behavior. Outcome: Students will understand the psychodynamics of political development and socialization as they interact with opinion formation and political participation.

PLSC 419 Managing Urban Government (3 Credit Hours)
This course studies the politics of urban government management. Outcome: Students will understand the environments in which the urban manager functions.

PLSC 420 Compar Political Systems (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines political institutions and political behavior in various political systems. Outcome: Students will master the literature on comparative politics, including the methodology of comparative analysis. Course equivalencies: X-INTA 420/PLSC 420

PLSC 421 Democratic Political Systems (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines selected democratic political systems. Outcome: Students will understand how selected democratic systems operate, focusing on their similarities and differences.
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**Outcomes**:

Students will understand the decision-making institutions and their interaction in the formulation and execution of political, military and economic foreign policy.
PLSC 470 Fieldwork in PLSC-Internship (1-3 Credit Hours)
This is a graduate level course that allows students to get experience through internships. Restricted to Graduate School students.
Course equivalencies: X-PLSC 470/INTA 470
Outcomes:
Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of models of leadership and public service by working with supervisors who are normally leaders in their fields.

PLSC 475 Political Analysis I (3 Credit Hours)
This course provides an introduction to the use of inferential statistics in political science. Outcome: Students will master the basic statistical techniques used in political science.
Course equivalencies: X-INTA 475/PLSC 475

PLSC 476 Political Analysis II (3 Credit Hours)
This is an intermediate course in data analysis methods in political science. Outcome: Students will master intermediate research and quantitative methods in political science.

PLSC 499 Directed Readings (3-6 Credit Hours)
This course involves specialized study under the supervision of a faculty member. Outcome: Students will master a particular segment of academic literature or conduct in-depth research on a specific topic.

PLSC 502 Seminar in Political Behavior (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines selected topics in the development and shaping of political behavior. Outcome: Students will master the political behavior literature and conduct research in specific areas of the discipline.

PLSC 503 Sem:Law & Political Behavior (3 Credit Hours)
This course analyzes selected topics concerning the relationship between legal processes, policies, and politics. Outcome: Students will understand a particular topic in law and political behavior.

PLSC 504 Sem: American Public Policy (3 Credit Hours)
This seminar analyzes the American public policy. Outcome: Students will understand the formation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies in the United States.

PLSC 505 Seminar in Urban Problems (3 Credit Hours)
This course analyzes selected policies in urban and state politics. Outcome: Students will understand the politics of specific urban and state policies.

PLSC 506 Sem State & Urban Policy Anal (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines contemporary policies in the analysis of state and urban policies. Outcome: Students will understand contemporary policy analysis perspective and techniques as well as methods in policy analysis.

PLSC 515 Seminar-Public Administration (3 Credit Hours)
This is an upper-level seminar on complex questions related to public administration.

PLSC 520 Seminar: Comparative Politics (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines an important, contemporary area of research in comparative politics. Outcome: Students will master a specific body of literature and conduct research in a specific area in comparative politics.

PLSC 521 Sem Western European Politics (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines contemporary politics in Western European countries. Outcome: Students will understand political and policy developments in Western Europe, as well as the structures of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

PLSC 531 Sem: International Politics (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines various research topics in international politics. Outcome: Students will master a particular body of work or conduct research in a specific area of international politics.

PLSC 532 Soviet/Post-Soviet Foreign Pol (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the foreign policies of the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet states. Outcome: Students will understand the formulation and application Soviet and post-Soviet foreign policies.

PLSC 533 U.S. National Security (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines the U.S. security establishment and the national security process. Outcome: Students will understand how US security policy is made, including the defense budget, US force structure, intelligence, covert operations, and the role of Congress.

PLSC 543 Liberalism (3 Credit Hours)
This course analyzes liberal political thought. Outcome: Students will master key works and theorists focusing on equality, liberty, natural rights, utilitarianism, and idealistic bases of modern liberal society.

PLSC 546 Polit Philosophy Sel Prblms (3 Credit Hours)
This course examines a selected theoretical issue in the history of political thought. Outcome: Students will master the writings and theories in a particular theme of political theory.

PLSC 595 Thesis Supervision (0 Credit Hours)
The is the first course in a two-course sequence for researching a thesis towards earning a Master's degree.

PLSC 596 Thesis Research (3 Credit Hours)
The is the second course in a two-course sequence for researching a thesis towards earning a Master's degree.

PLSC 597 Dissertation Research (3-6 Credit Hours)
The course is for students researching a thesis topic towards writing a dissertation prospectus.

PLSC 598 Teaching Internship (3 Credit Hours)
The course allows students to complete an internship focused on teaching.

PLSC 600 Dissertation Supervision (0 Credit Hours)
The course is for students researching a dissertation towards earning a PhD.

PLSC 605 Master's Study (0 Credit Hours)
The course is for students researching a thesis towards earning a Master’s degree.

PLSC 610 Doctoral Study (0 Credit Hours)
The course is for students researching a dissertation towards earning a PhD.