

Mission Statement

The study of political science is concerned with understanding where political power is, how it operates, whose interests it serves — who gets what, when, where, how. We ask how political institutions work and consider how they should work – what human values they serve or violate and what is the ultimate meaning and purpose of political life.

The Department of Political Science at the City College of New York is dedicated to educating CCNY students around these issues in the sub-fields of political theory, international relations, comparative politics, and American politics and policy studies. The department is committed both to campus-wide and major-specific objectives.

For the general campus, the department serves as a center for political education, debate and discourse, introducing City College students to the workings and structure of the American political system, sponsoring debates and co-curricular events in political and legal affairs of current and scholarly interest, and contributing academic resources to programs such as the International Studies Program, the Women’s Studies Program, the Rosenberg-Humphrey Program, Skadden Arps Honors Program in Legal Studies, and the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies. The Department is the principal anchor for the CCNY MA Program in International Relations, and plays an active role in graduate instruction at the CUNY Graduate Center’s Department of Political Science.

For our majors, the department is dedicated to providing an education in the four major sub-fields of political science, each of which has the purpose of developing a student’s knowledge of the practice of politics and the approaches to studying politics and policy. The department prepares people for careers in politics and in government and for general employment in the nonprofit sector, law, health, business, and private and public planning. Our central vocation however, is to give students the knowledge and awareness they will need to become free men and women, as well as active citizens.

We require that all students take courses from across this curriculum, and that all students are introduced to the American political system and to normative political questions. We encourage students to develop packages of course specialization that will prepare them for one of several main career trajectories: in the field of international affairs, in policy making, government service and public advocacy, and in legal careers. We encourage and support student efforts to pursue practical political experiences, in internship, service learning and study abroad settings. We are committed to deep and substantial public debate among, and interaction with, our students, and to supporting them in co-curricular activities as well as to their efforts to find career, graduate and professional school placements when they leave CCNY.

Learning Outcomes

Student with a B.A. in Political Science will:

1. Differentiate the major subfields of Political Science: American, Comparative, International Relations, Theory, and Public Policy.
2. Compare, contrast, and critique political ideas and philosophies.
3. Differentiate political institutions in the US, cross nationally, and /or at the global level. Analyze reasons for cross national institutional variation.
4. Describe political behavior and processes in specific settings as well as organizational arguments and goals fashioned by political activists to deal with those behaviors and processes.
5. Instruct papers that either a) make in ideological/philosophical argument or b) present data in a research effort to support hypothesis.
6. Identify and explain how ordinary people may become politically involved at the local, national, and global levels.

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 6 as listed above)

Courses	Learning Outcomes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
PSC 101	x	x	x	x	x			
PSC 10101			x			x		
PSC 104	x		x			x		
PSC 124	x	x	x			x		
PSC 126	x	x	x	x				
PSC 202	x	x	x	x	x			
PSC 209		x	x	x	x			
PSC 21002		x	x	x				
PSC 21100		x	x	x				
PSC 21300	x	x	x	x	x			
PSC 216		x	x	x				
PSC 222		x	x	x				
PSC 231		x	x	x				
PSC 245	x	x	x	x				
PSC 254	x	x	x	x	x			
PSC 255	x	x	x	x				
PSC 275	x	x	x	x	x			
PSC 301	x	x	x	x				
PSC 31226	x	x	x	x				
PSC 31303	x	x	x					
PSC 31505		x	x	x	x			
PSC 32300	x	x	x	x	x			