

Program Overview

Graduate students find exceptional resources at their fingertips. With a large full-time faculty, students have the opportunity for a close intellectual exchange with professors. Texas State is also a depository for federal and state government documents as well as a member of the Council of Research and Academic Libraries. Current master's students have been successful in pursuing doctoral education, teaching careers or professional careers ranging from federal, state and local government to nonprofit organizations.

Application Requirements

The items listed below are required for admission consideration for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu>). International students should review the International Admission Documents page (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international/>) for additional requirements.

- completed online application
- \$55 nonrefundable application fee
- or
- \$90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international credentials
- baccalaureate degree in political science from a regionally accredited university (Non-U.S. degrees must be equivalent to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree. In most cases, three-year degrees are not considered. Visit our International FAQs (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/international/faqs.html>) for more information.)
- official transcripts from **each institution** where course credit was granted
- a 3.0 overall GPA or a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)*
- background course work: political science undergraduate minor or at least nine hours of upper-level course work in political science or related field*
- GRE not required*
- resume/CV
- statement of purpose (minimum 500 words)
- three letters of recommendation
- writing sample (minimum five pages, double-spaced) from a political science course or social science/humanities course

Approved English Proficiency Exam Scores

Applicants are required to submit an approved English proficiency exam score that meets the minimum program requirements below unless they have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a country on our exempt countries list (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/international/language.html#wave>).

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official PTE scores required with a 52

- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0
- official Duolingo Scores required with a 110 overall
- official TOEFL Essentials scores required with an 8.5 overall

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

*Additional Information

If the last-60-hours GPA does not meet the minimum requirement, or the student does not have the undergraduate degree, minor, or upper-level course work, the student must submit the following:

- official GRE (general test only) with competitive scores in the verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing sections to be considered for conditional admission. Conditional admission is not available to applicants who require "F" or "J" visas.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree with a major in Political Science requires 36 semester credit hours. Students who do not have the appropriate background course work may be required to complete leveling courses.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Course		
PS 5301	Approaches to the Study of Political Science	3
Prescribed Electives		
Choose 33 hours from the following:		33
PS 5302	Political Research and Methodology	
PS 5310	Studies in Ancient and Medieval Political Thought	
PS 5311	Social Contract Theory	
PS 5312	Roots of American Constitutionalism	
PS 5313	Justice and Liberty in American Thought	
PS 5315	Contemporary Perspectives in Modern Liberalism	
PS 5316	The Crisis of Liberalism and The Future of Democracy	
PS 5317	Theological Perspectives in Modern Democracy	
PS 5318	The Problem of Power and the Crisis of Modernity	
PS 5330B	Tocqueville and American Democracy	
PS 5330D	Problems in Political Science: International Humanitarian Affairs	
PS 5330E	Religion and American Political Culture	
PS 5330F	Topics in Comparative Politics of European and Developing Countries	
PS 5330H	Topics in Political Science: Seminar on Freedom of Speech and Thought	
PS 5330J	Authoritarian Regimes	
PS 5332	Problems in American Foreign Relations	
PS 5334	Texas Politics	
PS 5335	The Role of Interests in America	
PS 5337	American Political Culture	
PS 5338	American Political Discourse	
PS 5339	The American Presidency	
PS 5340	Congress and the Legislative Process	
PS 5341	Seminar in Constitutional Law and Theory	
PS 5359	Comparative Democratization	

PS 5360	Economic Development in Developing Nations
PS 5361	Government and Politics of African States
PS 5362	Problems of Democracy in Latin America
PS 5363	Party Systems in Latin America
PS 5371	American Grand Strategy
PS 5375	Seminar in International Relations Theory
PS 5377	Problems in International Organizations
PS 5378	Problems in International Law
PS 5379	Problems in International Political Economy
PS 5380	International Conflict and Security
PS 5381	The International Politics of Nuclear Weapons
PS 5389	Internship in Government
PS 5390	Political Science Curriculum Development
PS 5391	Political Science Teaching Practicum
PS 5398	Directed Reading and Research
May choose 9 hours of advisor-approved electives from outside the department	
Total Hours	36

Comprehensive Examination Requirement

The Non-thesis Track comprehensive exam is a written exam administered in the student's final semester in the program (in April of the spring semester or November of the fall semester). The written exam focuses on the student's program coursework. Students who perform unacceptably on the exam may take the exam a second time in a subsequent semester.

Students who do not successfully complete the requirements for the degree within the timelines specified will be dismissed from the program.

Master's level courses in Political Science: PS

Courses Offered

Political Science (PS)

PS 5100. Instructional Methods Practicum for Graduate Assistants.

This course introduces key concepts and practices in the teaching of college introductory political science courses. It provides regular in-service training and planned periodic evaluations of instructional responsibilities. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. It is repeatable 3 times with different emphases and with a maximum of 4 credit hours.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA

Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

PS 5199B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in a Thesis B course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PS 5299B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in a Thesis B course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PS 5300. Foundation Studies in Political Science.

Students develop knowledge and skills required for success in graduate-level coursework in Political Science. Course content varies depending on academic preparation. This course does not earn graduate degree credit.

The approval of the graduate program director is required. It is repeatable 3 times with different emphases and with a maximum of 12 credit hours.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Exclude from Graduate GPA|Leveling

Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

PS 5301. Approaches to the Study of Political Science.

This course provides an intensive introduction to the advanced study of political science. It focuses on the key concepts, variables, and approaches used to describe, explain, and predict political phenomena. It also discusses key normative theories and the variety of methodologies used in political science.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5302. Political Research and Methodology.

This course is a topical seminar for the exploration of problems in the scope and the methods of political science and public administration. The course emphasizes quantitative methods.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5310. Studies in Ancient and Medieval Political Thought.

This course covers selected topics in Greek and Roman political theory, patristic understanding of politics, and the political theory of the Middle and High Middle Ages. This course includes study of the writings and thought of Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Al-Farabi, John of Salisbury, Aquinas, and others.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5311. Social Contract Theory.

This course is an examination of the social contract, consent, and popular sovereignty in early modern thought. Attention is given to the work of Thomas Hobbs, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, and Immanuel Kant (as well as others) and to their critics both then and now.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5312. Roots of American Constitutionalism.

This course examines the origins and evolution of the ideas which inform the American constitutional system, includes an examination of classical, Christian, medieval, Renaissance, and Enlightenment thought that, combined with the British liberal tradition, laid the groundwork for the American experiment.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5313. Justice and Liberty in American Thought.

This course examines the concepts of justice and liberty in American thought from the seventeenth century to the present. Attention is given both to the nature of liberty and justice and to their practical requirement as understood by various American thinkers, including statesmen, reformers, social scientists, and philosophers.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5315. Contemporary Perspectives in Modern Liberalism.

This course is a brief review of the history and development of modern liberalism and the ensuing response and contemporary alternatives.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5316. The Crisis of Liberalism and The Future of Democracy.

This course is an examination of the nature and intellectual foundations of the liberal tradition and the implications of the crisis besetting contemporary theory for the future of democratic government.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5317. Theological Perspectives in Modern Democracy.

This course explores the influence of religion on the rise of modern democracy and the efforts of various religious thinkers to explore the nature and foundations of democratic government.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5318. The Problem of Power and the Crisis of Modernity.

This course is an examination of the crisis of modernity and its implications for humanity's future.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5330B. Tocqueville and American Democracy.

This course considers Tocqueville's Democracy in America. Topics include the relationship between aristocracy and democracy; the instability of democracy; the antidotes to these instabilities; the significance of habit in Tocqueville's thought; the case for American Exceptionalism; and the importance of religion for democracy.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5330D. Problems in Political Science: International Humanitarian Affairs.

This course inquires into the intellectual legacy of international humanitarian issues, including forced migration, refugee problems, moral issues related to humanitarian intervention and emergency aid issues. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Multicultural Content|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5330E. Religion and American Political Culture.

An examination of the ways in which religious beliefs and institutions have shaped American political culture; the ways in which American culture has influenced these beliefs and institutions; and the ongoing debates regarding the proper role of religion in American public life.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5330F. Topics in Comparative Politics of European and Developing Countries.

This course explores the recent political history, institutions, party systems, and economic policies of some of the major countries in the globe. The course is devoted to the study of individual advanced European democracies as well as important developing nations, including China, Iran, Russia, Mexico, India and South Africa.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5330H. Topics in Political Science: Seminar on Freedom of Speech and Thought.

This course considers freedom of speech and thought as foundational conditions in liberal conceptions of human flourishing. The course will combine a close reading of modern and contemporary authors with an analysis of recent controversies implicating these freedoms, such as debates about hate speech and political correctness.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5330J. Authoritarian Regimes.

While democracy became the most common political regime type around the world in the 1990s, many authoritarian regimes continue to persist or have emerged in countries such as China, Cameroon, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Venezuela. How do these regimes emerge and function in the presence of popular demands for democratization and leadership challenges from authoritarian regime elites? How do authoritarian regimes collapse and what are the prospects for democracy in current authoritarian regimes? How do authoritarian regimes act in international relations? This course surveys the existing literature on these questions.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5332. Problems in American Foreign Relations.

This course is a seminar based on selected topics in American foreign policy and United States involvement in international relations. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5334. Texas Politics.

This course examines some of the traditional debates over federalism, intergovernmental relations, and different ways people compare the states. It introduces Texas political institutions and its political history as well as examines some of the current Texas public policy questions such as education, criminal justice, and economic development.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5335. The Role of Interests in America.

This course examines the role of interest groups and other organizations in the United States. Students learn about the range of social and economic interests presently active in our country and what observers from a variety of perspectives believe this activity implies for the health of our political system.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5337. American Political Culture.

This course explores selected problems related to American political culture with particular emphasis on the question of the cultural preconditions of free government. Beginning with Alexis de Tocqueville's classic study of American political culture, the course explores different Tocquevillian themes in a contemporary American context.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5338. American Political Discourse.

This class identifies the way political discourse and social and political cultures connect within Americans' minds. Diverse theoretical perspectives will be used to explore the phenomena involved in social and political issues regarding values, meanings, norms, and prejudices and methods of improving political discourse within American political culture.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5339. The American Presidency.

The course entails an historical analysis of presidential elections from 1789 to the present day. In addition, students examine and engage in reasonable speculations about the upcoming elections.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5340. Congress and the Legislative Process.

This course examines the American legislative process with a focus on Congress. The framework for the course is based on three themes: 1) the "dual Congress," i.e., the notions of deliberation versus representation; 2) the distribution of power in Congress and its consequences; and 3) the bicameral nature of Congress.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5341. Seminar in Constitutional Law and Theory.

This course examines selected issues in constitutional theory, including the theory of judicial review, and constitutional interpretation. It examines the debate on constitutional interpretation in light of cases dealing with the First Amendment freedom of speech, press, and religion, and with substantive due process and the equal protection clause.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5359. Comparative Democratization.

This course examines the inner workings of autocracies and democracies in the developing world, as well as processes of regime transitions.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5360. Economic Development in Developing Nations.

This course examines some of the factors that account for economic development/underdevelopment in developing nations. The factors examined include political, economic and institutional variables. These underlying variables reveal the multi-causal nature of socio-economic development. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5361. Government and Politics of African States.

This course examines governments and politics of African states. It examines the nature of domestic and international politics, the precolonial politics and political culture, the impact of the colonial period on politics, several cases of post-colonial successes and failures, the critical nature of external involvement in the politics, and the settings of civil war. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5362. Problems of Democracy in Latin America.

This course examines the main structural and institutional obstacles that stand in the way of high quality democracy in Latin America. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5363. Party Systems in Latin America.

The course examines some key insights in party and party system theory and practice. Latin America is the regional referent for examining these themes, and country examples are studied in considerable depth to illustrate the theory. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5371. American Grand Strategy.

This course examines the making of American grand strategy and the scholarly debates surrounding the various strategic options to best advance the long-term national interest. The class examines theories of grand strategy, as well as historical and modern examples, and focuses on drawing parallels and lessons for the present and the future.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5375. Seminar in International Relations Theory.

This course is designed to engage students in the major theoretical and conceptual traditions of international relations in order to assess the complex issues, developments and events constituting international politics. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5377. Problems in International Organizations.

This course analyzes the structure, functions, and role of the international organizations in the international system. The course addresses the role of international regions, regional organizations, functional agencies, and bilateral organizations. The procedures and processes on international argument and policy-making are studied through participation in a model security council. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5378. Problems in International Law.

This course examines the nature, functions, and scope, of international law. It addresses several major areas including legal sources, diplomatic practice, territorial jurisdiction, legal personality, the law of state responsibility, asylum law, human rights, and the law of war. The course is heavily research oriented and includes moot court arbitration. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5379. Problems in International Political Economy.

This course examines theories and issues in international political economy. The course emphasizes the political and economic conditions conducive to the development of cooperative international economic behavior among countries. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5380. International Conflict and Security.

This course deals with the field of security studies. Security studies focuses on what Clausewitz famously called "politics by other means": war. This course centers on three enduring topics: the causes of war, the use of force, and the future of warfare. (MULT).

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5381. The International Politics of Nuclear Weapons.

This course examines the domestic and international politics of nuclear weapons as instruments of national and international security. Topics covered include the causes and effects of nuclear proliferation and non-proliferation efforts, as well as efforts to achieve nuclear arms control and disarmament agreements.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Graduate Assistantship

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5389. Internship in Government.

This course offers students practical experience in the on-going work of a selected governmental unit. The student is evaluated on the basis of a research paper, work journal, and work performance. The approval of the graduate program director is required. It may be repeated once with different emphasis and with a maximum of 6 credit hours.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 20 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5390. Political Science Curriculum Development.

This course is designed for graduate students with a social science teacher emphasis who are interested in teaching dual credit courses on federal or state government. The course focuses on practical teaching matters including, construction of syllabi, delivering effective lectures, teaching formats, test construction, and grading practices Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5391. Political Science Teaching Practicum.

This course is designed for graduate students with a social science teacher emphasis who are interested in teaching dual credit courses.

Prerequisite: PS 5390 with a grade of "B" or better and instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5398. Directed Reading and Research.

This course is an advanced reading and/or research on various topics in political science under the direction of a graduate faculty member. It may be repeated once with different emphasis and professor for a maximum of 6 credit hours. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PS 5399A. Thesis.

This course represents a student's initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until a student has completed the thesis under a Political Science Thesis B course.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PS 5399B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in a Thesis B course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PS 5599B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in a Thesis B course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PS 5999B. Thesis.

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in a Thesis B course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit