

IMPORTANT: This document is meant to serve as an example and a planning tool. It is *not* a substitute for meeting with your academic advisor. Be sure to review your course plans with your advisor and check DegreeWorks regularly to keep track of your progress toward graduation.

The course scheduling details shared here are for planning purposes only. They do not guarantee when or how often specific courses will be offered. Course offerings can change depending on faculty availability and student demand. For the most up-to-date and accurate information, always check the online course schedule and consult with your academic advisor.

Keep in mind that there are many different ways to complete a major or program of study, including opportunities like study away or other special options. Your advisor can help you design an academic pathway that best fits your goals and interests.

Political Science Major Pathway

Year	Fall Semester Spring Semester	Important Notes
First	FYE Political Theory course	100 level courses: POLS 101 (Introduction to American Politics), POLS 109 (Introduction to International Relations), POLS 115 (Introduction to Comparative Politics) 200 level courses in Political Theory: POLS 207 (Classical Political Theory), POLS 217 (Medieval Political Thought), POLS 227 (Modern Political Theory), POLS 247 (Law and Crisis)
	100 level course	
Second	POLS 200 (Introduction to Research Methods) 200 level area requirement OR SOC 202 (Research Methods in Sociology)	100/200 level courses in American Politics: POLS 101 (Introduction to American Politics), POLS 241 (Political Parties), POLS 251 (Mass Media and American Politics), POLS 291 (Judicial Politics) 100/200 level courses in Comparative Western Societies: POLS 115 (Introduction to Comparative Politics), POLS 215 (Contemporary European Governments and Politics), POLS 245 (Policing as Governance), POLS 285 (Women and Politics) 200 level courses in Comparative Non-Western Societies: POLS 203 (African Politics), POLS 223 (Contemporary Chinese Politics), POLS 233 (The Politics of Latin America), POLS 243 (Nation and State in Modern Southeast Asia), POLS 253 (Politics of Asia), POLS 263 (Politics of the Middle East) 100/200 level courses in International Relations: POLS 109 (Introduction to International Relations), POLS 209 (Chinese Foreign Policy), POLS 229 (United States Foreign Policy), POLS 239 (International Relations of East Asia), POLS 269 (Popular Culture and World Politics)
	200 level area requirement 200 level elective	
Third	Semester abroad? 200 level elective	300 level courses in American Politics: POLS 311 (Public Opinion and Elections), POLS 326 (Political Psychology), POLS 341 (Constitutional Law: The Supreme Court), POLS 351 (Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties), POLS 381
	300 level area requirement	

	MATH 141 (Introductory Statistics) (Optional but highly recommended)	(Environmental Politics in the United States) • 300 level courses in Comparative Western Societies: POLS 325 (European Integration)

1

		• 300 level courses in Comparative Non-Western Societies: POLS 323 (Comparative Political Development) • 300 level courses in International Relations: POLS 309 (International Law and Organization), POLS 339 (Theories of International Relations), POLS 379 (International Security Policy) • 300 level courses in Political Theory: POLS 307 (Freedom and Justice), POLS 337 (Power and the State), POLS 347 (Islamic Political Thought), POLS 357 (Violence and Revolution), POLS 367 (Politics and Religion), POLS 377 (God and the Sovereign)
Fourth	200 level elective POLS 401: Senior Seminar	• If you are interested in writing an Honors Thesis, more information is available here: departments.wheatoncollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2019-20-Political-Science-and-IR-Honors-Thesis-Guidelines-FINAL.pdf
	300 level elective	