

POLITICAL SCIENCE (POSCI)

Politics rules over everything you do as a human being and gives you an understanding that enables you to have more control over your own life. John Adams argued that the reason to study politics is so our children may have the liberty to engage in commerce in order to give their children a right to pursue painting, poetry, and music.

Political Science inquiry is the study of how power in its myriad forms is used in human affairs and interrelationships and the structures operating in human societies; and the consequences of these for people as individuals, in groups, and in society. We study the unfolding human story on Planet Earth and just who it is we humans are going to become. This discipline of inquiry is an integrated field of study drawing upon all the social & behavioral sciences perspectives including most notably: sociology, anthropology, geography, philosophy, psychology, economics, urban & organizational studies, and futures studies. At College of Alameda we seek to prepare students to be effective global citizens in a 21st century knowledge economy guided by the democratic ideal, an ethic of service & the principles of sustainable life, and these framed within the context of futures consciousness. We offer support in pathways to career success through our partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and relationships with Bay Area universities.

In addition to the Political Science degrees and certificates explained in this section, POSCI courses are core components of several Pathways. See the Specialized Learning Opportunities section in this Catalog for more information on:

- Community Change and Urban Leadership (CCUL) Pathway
- Pathway to Law School
- Pathway to Public Administration
- Violence Prevention Certificate Pathway

POSCI 1

Government and Politics in the United States

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Introduction to principles and the political process of national, state, and local government: Emphasis on national government and the Constitution. 2207.00

AA/AS area 2; CSU area D, CSU American Institutions; IGETC area 4

C-ID POLS 110

POSCI 2

Comparative Government

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Comparative analysis in government and politics: Political leadership, citizenship participation, centers of power, and political problems of selected governments. 2207.00

AA/AS area 2; CSU area D; IGETC area 4

C-ID POLS 130

POSCI 3

International Relations

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Nature of relations among nation-states: Analysis of basic forces affecting the formulation of foreign policy, dynamics of international politics, survey of rise and development of the nation-state system, problems of nationalism and imperialism with emphasis on development since World War II, and evolution and operation of the United Nations. 2207.00

AA/AS area 2; CSU area D; IGETC area 4

C-ID POLS 140

POSCI 4

Political Theory

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Examination of various theoretical approaches that explore basic political problems and proposed solutions: Analysis of selected theories and their relevance to contemporary socio-political concerns. 2207.00

AA/AS area 2; CSU area D; IGETC area 4

C-ID POLS 120

POSCI 6

The U.S. Constitution and Criminal Due Process

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Survey and analysis of people's rights under criminal and civil law: Procedural civil liberties and rights (defendants, court personnel, and police), concepts of due process and equal protection, search and seizure, and applications of principles and practices to everyday life. 2207.00

AA/AS area 2; CSU area D; IGETC area 4

POSCI 8**Law and Democracy**

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Introduction to legal concepts in American democracy and contemporary issues: Theories of historical social injustice and movements; examination of law, social justice, democracy, government, civil rights, civil liberties, and citizenship. 2207.00

AA/AS area 2; CSU area D; IGETC area 4

POSCI 26**U.S. and California Constitution**

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Introductory survey of philosophy, theory, and application of constitutional principles: Role of major institutions of the American Republic, historical background and concepts underlying public law and due process, civil liberties and rights, applications of principles and practices in Constitutional interpretation, structure of the California Constitution, comparative analysis and concepts of U.S. and California Constitutions, and impact upon the lives of citizens. 2207.00

AA/AS area 2; CSU area D; CSU American Institutions; IGETC area 4

POSCI 31**Introduction to Public Administration**

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Introduction to the field of public administration: The role of the public sector in American society, the historic development of the public service, issues related to management and leadership in modern governance, issues in human resources and personnel administration, public sector budgeting, and strategies and apparatus of administrative responsibility; survey of the essential competencies, values, and issues which are central to the theory and practice of public administration and policy at the local, state, national and international levels. 2102.00

AA/AS area 2, CSU area D, IGETC area 4

POSCI 32**Learning Organization Governance**

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU

Examination of various theories and practices of shared governance in social/civil sector learning organizations: management, administration, and leadership. Service learning format involving the following areas: Planning, Organizing, Staffing, Directing, Coordinating, Reporting, and Budgeting within an organizational setting. 2102.00

AA/AS area 2

POSCI 35**Introduction to Community Violence Prevention**

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU

Overview of social history and political consciousness around the conditions that create and perpetuate violence in urban communities: Examination of the psycho-social theories of causality in the emergence of violence in individuals, families, and communities; review of historical and contemporary issues around violence and the variety of impacts it has on society; exploration of public and social sector partnership approaches toward healing and revitalizing communities that are affected by violence. 2102.00

CSU area E

POSCI 36**Applied Peacebuilding and Violence Prevention**

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU

Introduction to theories and various intervention strategies to prevent violence and build healthy communities: Identification of methods to prevent violence and develop the capacity of impacted people in urban centers to take a leadership role in community development. 2102.00

POSCI 37**Transformative Social Change and Futures Studies**

3 Units, 3 Hours Lecture, (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU, UC

Introduction to alternative futures studies: Scientific and humanities approaches to studying how past and present images of the future influence human action; exploration of contemporary socio-political dilemmas faced by political communities and individuals with respect to war, peace, and international conflicts; Includes questions of human nature, political economy, morality, genocide, terrorism, ethnic/religious violence, and alternatives to conflicts.

AA/AS area 2, CSU area D

POSCI 41**Service Learning: Law, Democracy, and Public Administration**

3 units, 3 hours lecture (GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU

Service learning in community, civic or legal settings: Focus upon specific problems in the community; Conceptualization, design and application of projects in real world placements in public and social sector organizations; Civic engagement related to coursework utilizing practical applications of course concepts; Application of skills and knowledge for public service careers. 2102.00

AA/AS Area 2

POSCI 48AA-FZ

Selected Topics in Political Science

.5-5 units, 0-5 hours lecture, 0-15 hours laboratory
(GR or P/NP)

Acceptable for credit: CSU

See section on Selected Topics. 2207.00

POSCI 49

Independent Study in Political Science

.5-5 units, .5-5 hours lecture (GR)

Acceptable for credit: CSU

See section on Independent Study. 2207.00

POSCI 248AA-FZ

Selected Topics in Political Science

.5-5 units, 0-5 hours lecture, 0-15 hours laboratory
(GR or P/NP)

See section on Selected Topics. 2207.00

POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

The **AA degree in Political Science** will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the major course requirements listed below and the General Education requirements for the Associate in Arts Degree listed in the Degrees and Programs section of this Catalog.

Career Opportunities

Careers in Political Science: Careers often pursued by persons with training and degrees in political science include (but are not limited to): multiple levels of public service and leadership, attorney, diplomat, FBI/ CIA Agent, foreign-service officer, labor organizer/ union representative, legislative aide, politician, public intellectual, research specialist, and teacher.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program a student will be able to:

- **Demonstrate a degree of knowledge mastery** representing the state of the discipline of political science {theoretical and practical knowledge of the historical background and the foundational principles of government and governance (utilizing: description, definition, summarization & explanation)}; and a working knowledge of these in use; with respect to inter-relatedness of humans in the environment, engaging with people from diverse backgrounds, and in understanding and acknowledging the significance of daily individual and social actions relative to global issues and the emergence of our shared future.
- **Demonstrate a degree of critical political thinking proficiency;** as a set of at the life skills applied knowledge of the political grounded in futures consciousness; thus enabling one to better access, evaluate, and interpret ideas found in political philosophy and theory and information enabling people so disciplined to communicate effectively, reach conclusions, and solve problems as citizens – part of the governance structure of a political world – such that they may apply these in their professional pursuits should they choose a path of public service or community leadership, of simply community participants.
- **Demonstrate a degree of capacity to assume personal & political efficacy and responsibility** consistent with democratic republican values – in the application of socio-political concepts explored in this learning experience (class, classes, program) in a meaningful manner to a person’s own self defined reality in the public, private and social sectors; as part of their everyday life as engaged citizens in the modern world system; and in the context of global environmental (and other) challenges.

Degree Major Requirements:

| Dept/No. | Title | Units | Dept/No. | Title | Units |
|----------|--|-------|---|--|----------------|
| POSCI 1 | Government and Politics in the United States | 3 | Select two courses (6 units) from the following: | | |
| POSCI 2 | Comparative Government | 3 | ANTHR 3 | Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (3) | |
| POSCI 4 | Political Theory | 3 | GEOG 2 | Cultural Geography (3) | |
| POSCI 6 | The U.S. Constitution and Criminal Due Process (3) | | HIST 7A | History of the United States to 1877 (3) | |
| | or | | HIST 7B | History of the United States Since 1865 (3) | |
| POSCI 26 | U.S. and California Constitution (3) | 3 | HIST 32 | The United States Since 1945 (3) | |
| | | | HUMAN 3 | Future Studies (3) | |
| | | | PHIL 2 | Social and Political Philosophy (3) | |
| | | | POSCI 3 | International Relations (3) | |
| | | | POSCI 8 | Law and Democracy (3) | |
| | | | POSCI 16 | State and Local Government (3) | |
| | | | SOC 1 | Introduction to Sociology (3) | |
| | | | SOC 2 | Social Problems (3) | |
| | | | SOC 3 | Sociology of Women (3) | |
| | | | SOC 5 | Minority Groups (3) | |
| | | | | Total Required Units: | <u>6</u> 18 |

POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS FOR TRANSFER

The Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer Degree (AA-T) is designed for students planning to transfer into the political science major. Political Science is the study of politics using the skills of social scientific inquiry. Political inquiry examines the human use of power in relationships creating the structures operating human society. Inquiry into politics explores power in its myriad forms and consequences for people as individuals, in groups, and in society. This realm of psycho-socio-political inquiry is an integrated field of study drawing upon all the disciplines of the Social and Behavioral Sciences as well as in the Arts and Humanities. Upon completion of an AA-T in Political Science, persons have an increased capacity to: demonstrate an overall working knowledge of the principles of governance; demonstrably be able to utilize critical political thinking; and articulate an appreciation of how to apply what is learned in a manner useful in day to day life. This set of outcomes of learning enables students to become more effective citizens in the context of challenges faced by humans in the Modern World System. Successful completion of the program with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0 affords students specific guarantees for transfer to the CSU system such as admission to a CSU with junior status, priority admission to their local CSU campus and to a program or major in political science or similar major. Students interested in the AA for transfer degree in political science should consult with the departmental faculty chair.

Career Opportunities

Careers in Political Science Careers often pursued by persons with training and degrees in political scientists include (but are not limited to): multiple levels of public service and leadership, attorney, diplomat, FBI/ CIA Agent, foreign-service officer, labor organizer/ union representative, legislative aide, politician, public intellectual, research specialist, and teacher. Other career options in Public Administration include: government management (City, County, Regional, State or Federal Levels); administrative and policy analysis; policy analysis; non-profit administration; and planning and resources development.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program a student will be able to:

- **Demonstrate a degree of knowledge mastery** representing the state of the discipline of political science {theoretical and practical knowledge of the historical background and the foundational principles of government and governance (utilizing: description, definition, summarization & explanation)}; and a working knowledge of these in use; with respect to inter-relatedness of humans in the environment, engaging with people from diverse backgrounds, and in understanding and acknowledging the significance of daily individual and social actions relative to global issues and the emergence of our shared future.
- **Demonstrate a degree of critical political thinking proficiency**; as a set of at the life skills applied knowledge of the political grounded in futures consciousness; thus enabling one to better access, evaluate, and interpret ideas found in political philosophy and theory and information enabling people so disciplined to communicate effectively, reach conclusions, and solve problems as citizens – part of the governance structure of a political world – such that they may apply these in their professional pursuits should they choose a path of public service or community leadership, of simply community participants.
- **Demonstrate a degree of capacity to assume personal & political efficacy and responsibility** consistent with democratic republican values – in the application of socio-political concepts explored in this learning experience (class, classes, program) in a meaningful manner to a person's own self defined reality in the public, private and social sectors; as part of their everyday life as engaged citizens in the modern world system; and in the context of global environmental (and other) challenges.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS FOR TRANSFER -- Continued

Degree Major Requirements:

| Dept/No. | Title | Units |
|---|---|-----------|
| Required Core Course (3 units): | | |
| POSCI 1 | Government and Politics in the United States | 3 |
| List A: Three courses (9 units): | | |
| POSCI 2 | Comparative Government | 3 |
| POSCI 3 | International Relations | 3 |
| POSCI 4 | Political Theory | 3 |
| List B: Select two (2) courses (6 units) from the following: | | |
| POSCI 6 * | The U.S. Constitution and Criminal Due Process (3) | |
| POSCI 26 * | U.S. and California Constitution (3) | |
| POSCI 35 | Introduction to Community Violence Prevention (3) | |
| HIST 18 | 20 TH Century American Protest Movements (3) | |
| POSCI 31 | Introduction to Public Administration (3) | |
| POSCI 37 | Transformative Social Change and Futures Studies (3) | |
| SOC 1 | Introduction to Sociology (3) | |
| SOC 2 | Social Problems (3) | <u>6</u> |
| Total Required Units: | | 18 |

*Credit is only allowed for either POSCI 6 or POSCI 26, but not both.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

The **Certificate of Proficiency** is an exploration of leadership, prevention and intervention knowledge and skills relative to the field of violence prevention and local community peace building; classroom and field based learning through peer group and individual projects, community based action research, and internships; curriculum contextualized to student career goals; designed for college ready individuals who are interested in working in the field of violence prevention; completion of two 3 unit courses in addition to 2-4 units of internship and/or employment experience in the field. The program includes training in conflict resolution and mediation, self-care, theories and methods for social change as well as coaching through professional development areas identified through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis completed every semester.

Career Opportunities

For individuals interested in careers and leadership opportunities in the field of violence prevention. Bloomberg Business, Idealist.org and Cal Jobs (State of California) all show an increasing need for skilled employees that have the knowledge and skills to navigate through systems and communities to prevent violence. A variety of positions can be acquired by someone with a Certificate in Violence Prevention Strategies. According to the labor market data for the State of California, there is a 6.9% projected increase for Child, Family and School Social Workers, an 11.8% increase for Clergy members, a 13% increase among Counselors, Social Workers and other Specialists. Some other potential careers that see an increase, that we also know are directly related to preventing violence in our communities are Health Educators, with a projected 16% increase and Police and Sheriff Patrol Officers at a 7.7% increase. This certificate program will help prepare individuals in the job market to meet the growing needs of social support and care giving that professions listed above provide.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate the skills of critical evaluation and application of these ideas (of violence prevention) in various contexts, which you'll have learned about – and in your role in building healthy community.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the theory (an overall working knowledge of historical background and foundational principles) and practice of the field of violence prevention and healthy community
- Articulate how to effectively apply these principles and skills in violence prevention and healthy community building in your own life as professionals and as people living in your own community.

Certificate of Proficiency Requirements:

| Dept/No. | Title | Units |
|-----------|---|-------------|
| POSCI 35 | Introduction to Community Violence Prevention | 3 |
| POSCI 36 | Applied Peacebuilding and Violence Prevention | 3 |
| COPEd 451 | Occupational Work Experience | <u>2-4</u> |
| | Total Required Units: | 8-10 |