

# POLITICAL SCIENCE: CITIZEN POLITICS, BALAS

for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Major in Political Science, Citizen Politics Concentration

Citizen politics is the study of mass politics. Topics include how and why citizens form political attitudes, beliefs, and identities; how people engage in political decision-making; and what political behaviors individuals choose to participate in.

See the Political Science BALAS page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/political-science-balas/>) for departmental distinction information.

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A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor. The plan will consist of the selection of a concentration and 12 hours of supporting coursework approved by an advisor.

Restrictions: Except as otherwise noted, or by petition to the department, PS 191, PS 291, PS 292, PS 490, PS 491, and PS 492 are excluded from all concentration lists maintained by the department. These courses may be used only for requirements of courses "at any level" without respect to concentration. As an exception, these courses may be used toward the General Concentration or the Civic Leadership Concentration.

Students may include in the major no more than nine hours from any combination of PS 291, PS 292, PS 490, PS 491, and PS 492. Of these, only six hours from PS 490, PS 491, and PS 492 within that group can count toward the major.

Students may count a maximum of six (6) hours of credit of any combination of hours from PS 494 toward the advanced hours requirement. Not more than 6 hours of individual study courses in political science (PS 490) or 6 hours of internships (PS 491) or 6 hours of supervised research (PS 492) may be included in the major; a student with any mix of independent study hours and internship hours and supervised research hours may include a maximum of 9 hours of such credit in the major. (PS 496) is reserved for those seniors doing honors theses for distinction in political science and may not be counted in the 45-hour minimum required for the major.

**General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.**

**Minimum required major and supporting course work: Normally equates to 70 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level in the major must be taken on this campus.**

## Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours. Citizen Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PS 100	Intro to Political Science	3
Select at least one course from the following:		3
PS 101	Intro to US Gov & Pol	
PS 240	Intro to Comp Politics	
PS 241	Comparative Politics in the Global South	
Select any additional 100- or 200-level Political Science Courses		6
Select 300- or 400-level Political Science courses, at least nine hours of which comes from the Citizen Politics Concentration list (below). The other six hours may be any 300- or 400-level Political Science course.		15
Select Political Science courses at any level, at least three hours of which comes from the Citizen Politics Concentration list. The other three hours may be any Political Science course.		6
Students will select a second major, or a minor, or a set of courses of at least 12 hours of thematically-related coursework outside political science, developed in conjunction with an academic advisor.		12
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Citizen Politics Course List</b>		
PS 101	Intro to US Gov & Pol	3
PS 201	US Racial & Ethnic Politics	3
PS 202	Religion & Politics in the US	3
PS 230	Intro to Pol Research	3
PS 231	Strategic Models	3
PS 240	Intro to Comp Politics	3
PS 241	Comparative Politics in the Global South	3
PS 300	Special Topics (as appropriate)	3
PS 311	Political Parties in the US	3
PS 312	Politics and the Media	3
PS 314	Political Psychology	3
PS 315	African American Politics	3
PS 316	Latina/Latino Politics	3
PS 317	Asian American Politics	3
PS 318	Interests Grps & Soc Movements	3
PS 319	Campaigns and Elections	3
PS 320	Public Opinion	3
PS 323	Law and Representation	3
PS 328	Introduction to Biology and Politics	3
PS 329	Immigration & Citizenship	3
PS 330	Intro to Political Behavior	3
PS 331	Intro to Electoral Behavior	3

PS 357	Ethnic Conflict	3
PS 358	Comparative Political Behavior	3
PS 411	Campaigning to Win	3 or 4
PS 456	Democracy and Identity	3 or 4
PS 494	Junior Honors Seminar (as appropriate)	3

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**Sample Sequence**

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a fourth level of a language other than English. See the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

**First Year**

First Semester	Hours
Free Elective course	1
PS 100	3
General Education course	3
Language Other Than English (3rd level)	4
Composition I or General Education course	4
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Total Hours 15**

**First Year**

Second Semester	Hours
PS 101, 240, or 241	3
PS 100- or 200-level course	3
Language Other than English (4th level)	4
General Education course or Composition I	3
General Education course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>16</b>

**Total Hours 16**

**Second Year**

First Semester	Hours
PS 100- or 200-level course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3

Free Elective course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Total Hours 15**

**Second Year**

Second Semester	Hours
PS 100-400 level course	3
PS Citizen Politics 100-400 level course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Total Hours 15**

**Third Year**

First Semester	Hours
PS Citizen Politics 300-400 level course	3
PS 300- or 400-level course	3
Thematic related coursework	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Total Hours 15**

**Third Year**

Second Semester	Hours
PS Citizen Politics 300-400 level course	3
PS 300- or 400-level course	3
Thematic related coursework	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	2
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>14</b>

**Total Hours 14**

**Fourth Year**

First Semester	Hours
PS Citizen Politics 300-400 level course	3
Thematic related coursework	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Total Hours 15**

**Fourth Year**

Second Semester	Hours
Thematic related coursework	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3

Free Elective course	3
	<b>15</b>

**Total Hours 15**

**Total Hours: 120**

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1. Students will be able to apply central concepts of the scientific method to the study of politics, and demonstrate an ability to draw inferences from data.
  2. Students will have a foundational knowledge of facts, concepts, and typologies in their chosen subfield in political science.
  3. Students will be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of central theories in their chosen subfield and show how to evaluate those theories.
  4. Students will be able to define political science and its subfields, drawing contrasts with other social sciences.
  5. Students will be able to apply concepts, methods, and theories to research projects, internships, and/or off-campus experiences.

Students completing the concentration will be able to **analyze how citizens form political attitudes, beliefs, and identities, and how these influence participation and decision-making in political processes.**

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department website: <https://www.pol.illinois.edu>  
 department faculty: Political Science Faculty (<https://pol.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/>)  
 advising: Political Science advising (<https://pol.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/academic-advising/>)

overview of college admissions & requirements: Liberal Arts & Sciences (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/academic-units/>)  
 college website: <https://las.illinois.edu/>