

# POLITICAL SCIENCE: LAW & POWER, BALAS

for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Major in Political Science, Law and Power Concentration

The Law and Power concentration teaches students about how power, law, and ideas about justice shape political life. Courses cover questions concerning the procedures for social and legal change, the status of citizens in social and political institutions in society, and the ways that ideology and identity categories shape the pursuit of equality and justice.

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

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

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. Law and Power Concentration Requirements**

Code	Title	Hours
PS 100	Intro to Political Science	3
PS 270	Intro to Political Theory	3
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 come from the Law and Power Concentration list (below), which must include at least one course from Law/Judicial Politics and one course from Political Theory. 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 Law and Power Concentration list maintained by the department. The other three hours may come from any Political Science course at any level. 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

**Total Hours 45**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Law &amp; Power Course List</b>		
PS 170	Power, Politics, and Protest	3
PS 230	Intro to Pol Research	3
PS 231	Strategic Models	3
Law/Judicial Politics		
PS 300	Special Topics (as appropriate)	3
PS 301	The US Constitution I	3
PS 302	The US Constitution II	3
PS 305	The US Supreme Court	3
PS 306	Judicial Politics	3
PS 322	Law and Public Policy	3
PS 323	Law and Representation	3
PS 386	International Law	3
PS 494	Junior Honors Seminar (as appropriate)	3
Political Theory		
PS 370	Justice in the Law	3
PS 371	Classical Political Theory	3
PS 372	Modern Political Theory	3
PS 373	Democratic Theory	3
PS 374	Future Politics	3
PS 375	Feminist Political Theory	3
PS 376	American Political Theory	3
PS 377	Topics Contemp Pol Theory	3
PS 413	Sex, Power and Politics	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>

First Year	
Second Semester	Hours
PS 270	3
PS 100- or 200- level course	3
Language Other Than English (4th level)	4
General Education course or Composition I	3
Free Elective course	2
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

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>

Second Year	
Second Semester	Hours
PS 100-400 level course from Law & Power course list	3
PS 100- or 400-level course	3
Thematic related course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Third Year	
First Semester	Hours
PS Law/Judicial 300- or 400-level course	3
PS 300- or 400-level course from Law & Power course list	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3

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

Third Year	
Second Semester	Hours
Thematic related course	3
PS 300- or 400-level course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

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

Fourth Year	
Second Semester	Hours
PS Political Theory 300- or 400-level course	3
Thematic related course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>Total Hours: 120</b>
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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 law, power, and conceptions of justice shape political life**, including the roles

of social and legal institutions, processes of change, and the impact of ideology and identity on equality and citizenship.

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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/>