

Political Science

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The Master of Arts and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Political Science at Florida International University are designed to provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of the discipline. The department's graduate program builds on faculty strengths and distinguishes itself by stressing a comparative approach to the study of politics. The program is designed to equip its graduates with a solid foundation in the basic theories and methods of Political Science, in conjunction with an in-depth education in selected traditional subfields. The program has a particular focus on Comparative Politics and American Politics.

Admission Procedures

Applicants seeking admission for the Fall semester should have application materials submitted by March 15th. Incomplete applications cannot be considered by the Graduate Admissions Committee. Admission decisions will be announced no later than April 15th. Applicants must apply online using the website of the FIU University Graduate School. In addition, the following items should be submitted to the FIU University Graduate School as well:

1. Official transcripts of all university-level work, including undergraduate or professional school courses.

2. An official report of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

3. For International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English, a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

It is advised to send *copies* of the above items to the Political Science Department's Graduate Admissions Committee at the following address: Department of Political Science, DM 480, University Park Campus, Miami, Florida 33199. Telephone: (305) 348-2226; Fax: (305) 348-3765. In addition, applicants must submit the following directly to the Political Science Department's Graduate Admissions Committee:

1. Two letters of reference from former instructors who are able to evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate

study. Applicants should ensure that each letter is signed by the author along the sealed flap of the envelope.

2. A personal statement of intent, including a discussion of education and career objectives and the specific relationship of a Master's or Doctoral degree in Political Science to the achievement of those objectives. The personal statement should not exceed three typewritten, double-spaced pages.

3. For PhD applicants only, a copy of the Master's thesis or similar major written work.

Master of Arts in Political Science

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Master's program is competitive. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

The minimum requirements for admission to the M.A. program include:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.

2. A minimum 3.2 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the last two years of a student's undergraduate program (students with graduate or professional course work will be evaluated individually).

3. A minimum combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE.

4. Graduates of non-U.S. institutions must be academically eligible for further study in the country where the degree was earned.

5. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.

Degree Requirements

The course of study for the M.A. in Political Science requires 30 credit hours. A final research project and research seminar are required components:

Required Courses (9 credits)

POS 5716	Foundations of Political Science	3
POS 5706	Research Methodology	3
POS 6976	Research Seminar	3

Core Courses (9 credits)

Each student is required to take three of the following four core courses:

POS 5045	Seminar in American Politics	3
CPO 5091	Seminar in Comparative Politics	3
INR 5007	Seminar in International Politics	3
POT 5007	Seminar in Political Theory	3

Electives (12 credits)

Students are required to take four elective courses. A student may take a maximum of six credit hours in a cognate field or in an approved cognate program.

Combined BA/MA Degree Program in Political Science (the "4+1" Program)

Admission Requirements

1. Political Science majors with senior status (i.e. with 90 credit hours) must apply for the master's degree by the end of the first semester of their senior year.

- Students must have been admitted to the College of Arts and Sciences and must have passed or exempted from the CLAST exam.
- A 3.5 GPA overall in college work, and a 3.75 GPA in Political Science courses taken at FIU, are required.
- Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which must be from FIU Political Science faculty, are required.
- Students must meet admissions requirements for the MA in Political Science.
- Finally, a favorable admittance decision into the 4+1 program by the Political Science Department graduate committee is required.
- Students will be awarded the B.A. degree upon completion of the B.A. requirements, prior to completing the requirements for the M.A. degree.

Political Science Graduate/Undergraduate Electives Requirement (5 courses/15 credits)

Students in the 4+1 program will take five 3 credit Political Science courses to satisfy this requirement. **Three of these courses (9 credit hours) must be 5000-level graduate courses.** The other two courses must be 3000 or 4000-level Political Science classes. Students must be advised by the Graduate Program Director before enrolling in these 5000-level courses.

The 9 hours of graduate credit taken to satisfy this undergraduate major requirement will also count as 9 credit hours toward the 30 hours of graduate courses required for the M.A. degree.

M.A. Courses

A total of 30 hours of graduate-level courses is required for the successful completion of the M.A. degree. Nine of these 30 hours will have been completed at the undergraduate level by students in the 4+1 program.

Required Core Graduate Courses

POS 5706	Research Methodology
POS 5716	Foundations of Political Science
POS 6976	Research Seminar (to be taken during last term)

Secondary Core Graduate Courses – Choose three of the following:

CPO 5091	Seminar in Comparative Politics
INR 5007	Seminar in International Politics
POS 5045	Seminar in American Politics
POT 5007	Seminar in Political Theory

Electives – Four courses (12 credit hours)

Any 5000 or 6000 level Political Science courses. Two courses (6 credit hours) may be taken from outside the Department, with prior approval from the Graduate Director.

Research Project

A final research project must be completed in POS 6976 under the supervision of a Political Science faculty. MA candidates are required to formally present the results of their research to faculty and peers at the end of the semester.

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Ph.D. program is competitive. Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

The minimum requirements for admission to the Ph.D. program include:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university;
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.2 and/or a graduate GPA of 3.25;
- A minimum combined score of 1120 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE.
- Graduates of non-U.S. institutions must be academically eligible for further study in the country where the degree was earned.
- International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.

Degree Requirements

The Ph.D. program requires a minimum 76 credit hours beyond the Bachelor's degree.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science is conferred based on satisfactory completion of required course work, a demonstrated mastery of a broad field of knowledge, and successful completion and defense of the dissertation. The degree provides graduates with a solid foundation in the basic theories and methodologies of political science in conjunction with specialization in traditional subfields. Students will, in consultation with their faculty advisors, determine the contents of their course work. Students will specialize in two examination fields drawn from among the four of the principal subfields of Political Science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Politics, and Political Theory. Students are also required to take additional coursework in a third, non-examined field of specialization. The third specialization field will be satisfied by a minimum of 9 credit hours in a regionally or topically defined area.

Students' proposed programs must be approved by their advisors and the Graduate Studies Committee.

Required Courses (10 credits)

POS 5702	Teaching Political Science	1
POS 5706	Research Methodology	3
POS 5716	Foundations of Political Science	3
POS 6918	Seminar in Political Science Methodology	3

Common Core Courses (12 credits)

CPO 5091	Seminar in Comparative Politics	3
INR 5007	Seminar in International Politics	3
POS 5045	Seminar in American Politics	3
POT 5007	Seminar in Political Theory	3

Two Examination Fields (minimum 12 credits)

Third Specialization (minimum 9 credits)

Approved Electives (minimum 9 credits)

Language Requirement

The Political Science Ph.D. Program requires competency in one foreign language or demonstrated competency in computer and methodological techniques when considered more appropriate. Language competency must be demonstrated prior to taking the comprehensive examinations.

Comprehensive Examination

After satisfactory completion of course work, students will take comprehensive exams in their two chosen subfields before being admitted to candidacy and defending a dissertation proposal. The comprehensive exams will cover core courses and broad knowledge of the two examination fields. They will be written and oral.

Comprehensive examinations are given twice yearly, in mid-September and mid-January.

Dissertation (minimum 24 credits)

After passing the comprehensive exams, students are admitted to candidacy and enroll for dissertation credits under the supervision of their dissertation advisors. Candidates will prepare and defend a dissertation proposal. Upon completion of the work, a public defense of the dissertation will be scheduled in accordance with university policy.

Financial Aid

The program has a limited number of graduate assistantships available for qualified students. Assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis only to full-time students. Students applying for full-time status are considered automatically for these awards. Assistantships are renewable each year for up to four years based on satisfactory progress and performance.

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes

CPO-Comparative Politics; INR-International Relations; POS-Political Science; POT-Political Theory; PUP-Public Policy.

CPO 5036 Politics of Development (3). This course examines divergent explanations for development and underdevelopment. Of central importance are the concepts and theories that emphasize the political dimensions of development processes of development, and actors in the development process.

CPO 5091 Seminar in Comparative Politics (3). A foundation in the development of the field of comparative politics and in the major schools of thought that have molded perspectives on comparative political analysis.

CPO 5325 Politics of the Caribbean (3). Examines the structural and institutional aspects of the politics of the Caribbean in both domestic and international contexts. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CPO 5934 Topics in Comparative Politics (3). A rigorous examination of a topic in comparative politics. Subject matter varies according to instructor. Topic will be announced in advance.

CPO 5936 Seminar in Comparative Political Parties (3). Students read and discuss major works on parties by conservative, liberal, and Marxist authors.

CPO 6062 Seminar in Comparative Judicial Politics (3). An examination of judicial structures, legal traditions, judicial behavior and judicial power cross culturally.

CPO 6066 Comparative Constitutional Law (3). An examination of constitutionalism in both established and developing democracies. Particular emphasis on the role of courts, judicial review and judicial remedies using doctrinal, contextual and theoretical analysis.

CPO 6084 War, Peace and the Military (3). Examines theories of the relationship between societies, governments and their militaries. Emphasis on relationship between militaries and a nation's experience with peace and participation in war. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CPO 6092 Seminar in Comparative Political Culture (3). Examines culturalist theories in comparative politics, including postmaterialism, social capital, and civic culture. Students test hypothesis using survey data from prominent cross-national datasets. Prerequisites: POS 5706 or equivalent.

CPO 6105 Politics of the European Union (3). Examines the development and operation of the world's most successful experiment in regional cooperation, the European Union (EU), including political economy, institutions, and policy-making. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

CPO 6106 Seminar on European Politics (3). Advanced discussion of major themes in European politics. Topics include corporatism, post-materialism, democratization, and European integration.

CPO 6206 Seminar in African Politics (3). Studies the crisis of African development. Topics include colonialism, internal cleavages, and impact of the global economy.

CPO 6307 Seminar on South American Politics (3). Explores the realities and myths of the democratization experience of South America.

CPO 6316 Seminar in Latin American Democratic Institutions (3). Reviews the role of institutional design in promoting accountability in Latin American democracy, including presidentialism, party systems, legislatures, electoral laws, and federalism. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CPO 6350 Seminar in Brazilian Politics (3). The political development of Brazil, focusing on alternation between authoritarianism and democracy. Emphasis on clientelism, patrimonialism, civil-military relations, and political institutions.

CPO 6376 Seminar in Central American Politics (3). Central America's socio-political evolution. Attention is given to both the national and international politics of the region.

CPO 6407 Seminar in Politics of the Middle East (3). In depth analysis of comparative theoretical perspectives of political processes in the Middle East.

CPO 6771 Politics of Disaster (3). Examines disaster and other extreme events as political system shocks. Analyzes disasters as crises of values, legitimacy, and agenda control. Evaluates policy alternatives in prevention, mitigation, and response. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

INR 5007 Seminar in International Politics (3). An advanced graduate course designed to give students a specialized knowledge of the classics in international politics. The course traces the development of international politics from Thucydides to the present.

INR 5036 Politics of Globalization (3). Intensive examination of state and global institutions that have shaped the process of economic globalization. Topics

include impact on sovereignty, human rights, labor and agenda-setting of large and small nation-states.

INR 5087 Ethnicity and the Politics of Development (3). This course examines the conceptual and substantive dimensions of ethnicity in the context of world politics and political development. The course will highlight ethnicity and ethnic groups as critical factors in North-South politics.

INR 5105 American Foreign Policy (3). Compares different perspectives in foreign policy analysis. Provides a comprehensive understanding of major issues in U.S. policy.

INR 5934 Topics in International Politics (3). A rigorous examination of a topic in international politics. Subject matter varies according to instructor. Topic to be announced in advance.

INR 6080 Seminar on Non-State Actors (3). Explores the nature of non-state actors in international politics, including cities, interest groups, multi-nationals, and individuals.

INR 6705 Seminar in International Political Economy (3). Theories of economic cooperation and conflict among nation-states. Liberal, economic nationalists and Marxist theoretical paradigms are explored in an examination of the internationalization of capital, trade and investment and the role of the State in the global economy.

INR 6936 Seminar in Inter-American Politics (3). Focus on U.S.-Latin American relations. Attempts to link the theoretical literature on U.S. foreign policy with empirical developments.

POS 5045 Seminar in American Politics (3). The advanced study of U.S. politics. Students read and discuss the major works and theories concerning American politics and government.

POS 5146 Seminar in Urban Politics (3). Examination of processes by which urban areas are governed. Emphasis is on conflicts over structures, power, policy and the politics of ethnicity and class.

POS 5158 Topics in Politics (3). Subject matter varies according to instructor.

POS 5208 Seminar in Political Behavior (3). Analyzes the literature in political behavior. Special emphasis is on voting, socialization, attitudes, partisanship, campaigning, the media, and political participation in the developed democracies. Prerequisite: POS 5706.

POS 5447 Seminar in U.S. Political Parties (3). Students read and discuss the major works and theories on U.S. political parties.

POS 5638 Topics in Public Law (3). A rigorous examination of a topic in public law. Subject matter varies according to instructor. Topic will be announced in advance.

POS 5702 Teaching Political Science (1). Introduces graduate students to the pedagogical and practical aspects of teaching political science. Topics will include selecting books, writing a syllabus, lecturing, running discussion groups, and testing and grading. Covers professional ethics, and student rights and responsibilities.

POS 5706 Research Methodology (3). This course is an introduction to the principal concepts and techniques of

quantitative and non-quantitative methodology in the social sciences. It is designed to familiarize the student with the language and format of quantitative and non-quantitative applications in order to permit students to deal effectively with the literature of their field.

POS 5716 Foundations of Political Science (3). Prepares students for the advanced study of politics. Areas of study include history of political science as a discipline, comparison of classical and modern sciences of politics and realpolitik, epistemological foundations.

POS 5785 Writing Professionally in Political Science (3). Focus on inductive research process. Refines technical skills for effective written communication. Best practice examples for preparing briefing papers, articles, books, and grant applications.

POS 5909 Independent Study (1-6). Designed for advanced students who wish to pursue specialized topics in political science. Arrangements must be made with instructor during prior semester.

POS 5932 Topics in Urban Politics (VAR). An extensive examination of the processes by which social conflicts in American urban areas are represented and regulated. Emphasis is on the ways in which urban problems are identified and proposed solutions formulated, legitimized, and administered by urban policy-making processes. Includes a discussion of urban political culture.

POS 6286 Judicial Research (3). Examination of the methodological approaches used to study courts in a political context. Special attention to seminal works that focus on individual, small group and institutional behavior, and extra-legal influences.

POS 6415 Seminar on the U.S. Presidency (3). Examines the most important works on the U.S. Presidency, and the evolution of the office since 1789.

POS 6427 Seminar on the U.S. Congress (3). Discussion of the scholarly literature on Congress. Students analyze trends in congressional power and possible reforms.

POS 6612 Seminar on U.S. Supreme Court (3). Seminar covers literature, both current and classic, on U.S. Supreme Court. Topics covered typically include the major paradigms, appointment, access, agenda setting, decision making and impact.

POS 6639 Seminar in Public Law (VAR). Graduate seminar on special topic in public law. Topic to be announced in advance.

POS 6725 Formal Political Modeling (3). Introduces students to the foundations of public choice. Particular topics may include decision theory, social choice, spatial voting models, and game theory, among others.

POS 6918 Seminar in Political Science Research Methods (3). Examines the methods used to design, execute, and critique empirical research in political science, addressing a variety of methodological issues. Prerequisites: POS 5706 and POS 5716.

POS 6937 Seminar in Politics (VAR). Subject matter varies according to instructor.

POS 6971 Thesis (1-6). Requires students to enroll for thesis or dissertation research for at least one credit hour every semester in which they are engaged in such research. Prerequisite: All other course work for the Master's.

POS 6976 Research Seminar (3). Required course for all MA candidates during completion of their major research project. Also required for second-year Ph.D. students. The course guides student research while in progress. Prerequisite: POS 5706.

POS 7910 Pre-Dissertation Research (1-9). During the term in which students take Ph.D. comprehensive exams, this course enables them to concentrate on completion of their dissertation prospectus. Prerequisite: Completion of all other Ph.D. coursework.

POS 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation (1-12). Supervised research and writing of an original research project. Prerequisites: Permission of Major Professor and Doctoral Candidacy.

POT 5007 Seminar in Political Theory (3). An examination of writings from a diverse list of some of the major political theorists in the Western tradition from antiquity to the present.

POT 5307 Feminist Political Theory (3). Examines feminist political theory in the second half of the twentieth century with the focus on the work of U.S. scholars.

POT 5934 Topics in Political Theory (3). An intensive examination of selected topics dealing with political theory. Subjects will vary, depending upon the desires of students and faculty. Allows the student to choose topics of particular interest to him or her.

POT 6015 Seminar in Classical Political Thought (3). Examination of key elements of classical political thought from the Hellenic to early Christian periods.

POT 6056 Seminar in Modern Political Thought (3). Examines important works and theories of political thought from the renaissance to the early 19th century.

POT 6067 Seminar in Contemporary Political Thought (3). Examines political theories of the 19th and 20th centuries. Special emphasis on the tension between modern and post-modern theory.

POT 6208 Seminar in American Political Thought (3). Students read and discuss classic and contemporary interpretations of U.S. political thought, and apply those ideas to modern U.S. politics.

POT 6315 Democratic Theory (3). Examines various theories of democracy in modern and contemporary political thought, including liberal, civic republican, deliberative, and cosmopolitan conceptions of democracy. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

POT 6416 Seminar in Marxism (3). Analysis of the evolution of Marxism from Marx to the present. Particular attention is given to contemporary Marxist debates.

POT 6603 Political Theory of the Modern State (3). Analyzes evolution and theories of the modern state from the high middle ages to the present. Pre-state formations, classical states, and social science theories of the state are also discussed.

PUP 5934 Topics in Public Policy (1-6). A rigorous examination of a topic in public policy. Subject matter varies according to instructor. Topic will be announced in advance.

PUP 6007 Seminar in Public Policy (1-6). Graduate seminar on special topic dealing with public policy analysis. Subject matter varies according to instructor. Topic to be announced in advance.