Politics (as conflict or struggle over decisions of leadership and policy) happens between nations, within nations, and within the minds of people within nations. It affects almost every aspect of our lives, from the warming of our environment, to the cost of education and health care, to our attitudes toward each other. In the discipline of Political Science, we investigate the nature, causes and consequences of politics. Students will acquire skills to think critically, communicate political ideas, and become more active, informed citizens.

Contact Information

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Associate Degree

• Associate in Arts in Law, Public Policy, and Society for Transfer (AA-T) (https://catalog.cos.edu/areas-study/political-science/associate-arts-law-public-policy-society-transfer-aa-t)
• Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T) (https://catalog.cos.edu/areas-study/political-science/associate-arts-political-science-transfer-aa-t)

For a complete list of courses and descriptions visit: COURSES (https://catalog.cos.edu/course-descriptions)
POLS 005 Federal, State and Local Government
Hours: 3 Lecture/Discussion
POLS 005 is an introduction to the principles and problems of national, state, and local government with particular emphasis on the Constitution of the United States and the state and local government of California. (C-ID POLS110)
Prerequisites: ENGL 261 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C or eligibility for ENGL 001 as determined by COS Placement Procedures (https://catalog.cos.edu/placement-procedures).

POLS 006 Comparative Politics
Hours: 3 Lecture/Discussion
A comparative analysis of different kinds of political systems, including their history, political institutions, processes and policies, the environments in which they occur, and their consequences. Also included in this course is an analysis of the dynamics of political change and its relationship to economic and social development. (C-ID POLS130)
Prerequisites: ENGL 261 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C or eligibility for ENGL 001 as determined by COS Placement Procedures (https://catalog.cos.edu/placement-procedures).

POLS 008 International Relations
Hours: 3 Lecture/Discussion
This course is a study of relations among nations including the function of power, diplomacy, international law and organizations and economic factors. Special emphasis will be placed on such concepts as war, nationalism, imperialism, ideological conflict and collective security and how these concepts affect American foreign policy. (C-ID POLS140)
Prerequisites: ENGL 261 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C or eligibility for ENGL 001 as determined by COS Placement Procedures (https://catalog.cos.edu/placement-procedures).

POLS 009 Social Media, Technology & Politics
Hours: 3 Lecture/Discussion
Equivalent Course: POLS 109
This course is a study of the role social media and technology play in politics and society. Particular attention will be paid to the use of social media to affect interactions between citizens and governments, examining the prevalence of citizens engaging in politics through social media. The course will also examine which populations have the most access to technology-based information sources (the digital divide), and how individual and group identities are being forged online. This course allows students to understand the political and power structure implications of social media domestically as well as internationally.
Prerequisites: ENGL 251 or ENGL 261 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C or eligibility for ENGL 001 as determined by COS Placement Procedures (https://catalog.cos.edu/placement-procedures).

POLS 010 California Government and Politics
Hours: 1 Lecture/Discussion
Equivalent Courses: GOVT 110, POLS 110
Introduction to the structure and function of California state government. Satisfies California state and local government requirement for students who have taken Federal, State, and Local Government without a California component or who receive Advanced Placement credit for American Government.
Prerequisites: ENGL 261 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C or eligibility for ENGL 001 as determined by COS Placement Procedures (https://catalog.cos.edu/placement-procedures).

POLS 011 Political Theory and Thought
Hours: 3 Lecture/Discussion
Equivalent Course: POLS 107
This course provides for an examination of various theoretical approaches to politics and of basic political problems and proposed solutions. Additionally, the course includes an analysis of selected political theories and of the relevance of theory to contemporary problems.
Advisory on Recommended Preparation: ENGL 251 or ENGL 261 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C or eligibility for ENGL 001 as determined by COS Placement Procedures (https://catalog.cos.edu/placement-procedures).

Political Science
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